



# La Flèche

The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Fletchers

## MASTER ARRESTED AND TAKEN TO THE TOWER

An extract from the Master's Diary tells of his ordeal and the fine he had to pay to regain his liberty.

"The next day saw me back in London for a reception and coffee at 11 o'clock in the Mansion House. There were some 20 of us including Masters of 13 Livery Companies, Aldermen and other city dignitaries and the Lord Mayor greeted us warmly. But it was a well-planned trap. No sooner had we gathered than the City of London police, circa 1930, arrived to the sound



of police whistles and barred our exit from the room. Then the Town Crier appeared and informed us that we should consider ourselves under arrest. He then informed the Lord Mayor of our individual crimes. Mine was for masquerading as Robin Lord in Sherwood Forest with Sue Martin as my Maid Marian but unknown to me her husband Richard was disguised as Friar Tuck and had reported my dastardly deeds. Guilty as charged, this felon, along with all the others was chained and sent to the Tower of London under armed (with swords!) escort in a security vehicle of the same era as the police themselves. Our "officers" were of immense value, soon accustoming themselves to the 21st century, to stop the roar of London's traffic at a gesture so as not to delay our incarceration in the Tower.

At the Tower the Yeoman Warders were waiting for us and cleared a way through the cheering peasants - it was half term - to offload the felons into the charge of an axeman Warder and we were marched in single



file, still manacled with chain and ball into the Tower itself. To our great relief our vitals of bread and water were to be served at the table in the mess of the Royal Fusiliers. The sparkling "water" was provided by Pol Roger in silver goblets and the "bread" by the chef of the regiment. All we prisoners ate a hearty meal in the knowledge that it might be our last but, blessed relief, my bail provided by liverymen, all the members of the court plus my family arrived just after



my mugshot and fingerprints had been taken. So another glass of Pol Roger to celebrate and I was on my way a free man knowing that the funds of the British Red Cross had benefited by more than £30,000."

## ST KATHERINE KREE

One of the first outings of the Fletchers under Master Des Clark was to the church of St Katherine Kree in Leadenhall Street on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April.

We, some 30 Fletchers and friends, met in the church, which is most interesting in its own right, to hear a talk by the Bishop of London, the RR Dr Richard Chartres. As might be expected from such a renowned speaker, the talk was most interesting.

The Bishop spoke on the theme of "Where are we now in terms of Religion" .

Moving away from the image of vicarage teas and cucumber sandwiches, he showed how we are now a secular state in which puritans, papists and prelates had all failed to make a lasting impact. This might have stemmed in part from the comfortable fusion of state and religion unlike France and Italy where the State and Religion were sometimes in conflict. Overall there is hope. Many people are

now turning to the new churches and candidates for ordination in London are rising. Our challenge in the future, especially after the tragic events of July 2005, is to live together with believers of other faiths and this can only be achieved by having a knowledge and respect for other faiths together with their environment. Following the talk, a splendid buffet supper was consumed in the church hall.



JLD



watch. The Keys were allowed to pass using a password so obvious that no hacker would think of trying it. This was followed, to everyone's surprise, by a splendid firework display across the river and downstream of Tower Bridge which was illuminated in silhouette. Even the vanquished went home content.

John Leatherdale

## JOINT SHOOT WITH THE BOWYERS AT THE TOWER

When it comes to the annual shoot at the Tower of London, neither Fletchers nor Bowyers are deterred by the weather. Despite the experience of downpours on several previous occasions and a diabolical weather forecast of successive thunderstorms on the day, a full complement of contestants and supporters turned out on both sides. Michael Johnson demonstrated his expertise at mixing Pimm's (did he add a secret ingredient such as rum we wondered) and kept the supply flowing until everyone could drink no more. The storms never materialised, the clouds moved away and the sun came out.

Our Master presented the Master's Prize Arrow to Cadet Sgt Pugh of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers,



watched by his proud parents and brother.



David Stringer and Russell Hunt organized the shoot and passers-by on Tower Bridge Road may have been surprised at the wide diversity in the standard of archery on display. The scores were added up and the result remained a closely guarded secret as we moved into the Fusiliers' mess deep inside the Tower itself for supper. Only during the speeches by both Masters

and the Deputy Governor was it revealed that the Bowyers had won by a significant but not embarrassingly large margin. In the convivial atmosphere all agreed that Bowyers would be nowhere without Fletchers and Fletchers would be nowhere without Bowyers.

An entertaining Yeoman Warder described the history behind the Ceremony of the Keys and led us out to

## THE MASTER'S NOTES

In the Master's year there are "Company" events and "City" events. These were combined on the 26 June when Luncheon at our Hall was preceded by the Election of Sheriffs. From where I sat at the front of the Guildhall with all the other 106 Masters it might just as well have been a Fletcher's Company event because both successful candidates had connections with the Company that ran like a thread through their acceptance speeches.

David Lewis, the Aldermanic Sheriff, is a solicitor by profession and the Worshipful Company of Solicitors is his mother company. David is also a Fletcher and I am proud that he has invited me to serve on the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs Committee. Richard Regan is a Common Councilman and a Cutler. His wife, Anne, is a Fletcher and Anne and Richard together are strong supporters of the Company. Congratulations from the Fletchers to both David and Richard.

Another City event was the Livery Briefing when we were told that the Court of Aldermen has looked at the succession of Aldermen progressing towards the Mayoralty and names have now been listed for a few years to come. David Lewis will follow the example of John Stuttard and, following his own year as Aldermanic Sheriff, will be supported for the Mayoralty in 2007/08. My Deputy Master was elected to the Court of Aldermen during his Mastership of the Company last year and I am very pleased indeed that David Wootton will be supported by the Court of Aldermen as Sheriff in 2008/09. We Fletchers have yet another connection with the succession, albeit through another lady Fletcher because Ian Luder, husband of Lin, will be supported by the Aldermanic Court as Sheriff in 2007/08. More congratulations on behalf of the Fletchers to David and Ian.

Our Company makes a significant contribution to the governance of the City of London and we have two more Aldermen – Bob Hall and Simon Walsh – and no fewer than nine Common Councilmen amongst our number – Penny Cenci di Bello, Michael Cassidy, Robert Duffield, Kevin Everett, Martin Farr, Stuart Fraser, Edward Lord, John Owen-Ward, and David Shalit. Well done, all.

As we all appreciate, the Lord Mayor leads an extremely busy life with huge pressures on his diary through commitments at home and overseas. The Clerk has been advised that John Stuttard will be out of the country at the time of our Ladies Banquet next February. Disappointing, yes, but we have taken the opportunity to invite David Lewis to be our principal speaker at the Banquet and we will celebrate his Shrievalty and look ahead to his Mayoralty.

That is for us to look forward to next year but, in the meantime, there are many Company events at which I hope to see as many Liverymen as possible.

*Des Clark  
Master*



### The Old Operating Theatre

On Wednesday 27th September, the Master had arranged a visit to the Old Operating Theatre in St Thomas Street next to London Bridge. Some 40 members of the Livery assembled at 6.15 and were ushered up the bell tower stairs - 32 steps of a very narrow spiral staircase - into a museum which showed a grisly array of old surgical instruments and medicines. The distillation of snails was a good example!

After a refreshing glass of wine, we assembled in the theatre itself. This dates from 1820 and was in use until 1860 when St Thomas's Hospital

moved, because the site was too cramped, with the building of London Bridge Station. As the theatre was in the roof space above the church, it was completely forgotten until rediscovered in the 1950s by Lord Brock - a medical historian and surgeon.

We were entertained by stories of surgery with no anaesthesia and no disinfectant, with 2 out of three patients dying from their treatment and Gilli Stephens volunteered to have her arm "amputated". We were shown how the amputation took about 30 seconds with more time being taken to sew up the stump afterwards by the helpers. After thanking our guide we repaired to the George, a few hundred yards down Borough High St for an excellent dinner.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the visit and the dinner and the evening was a great success.

*JLD*



# BOWYERS *versus* FLETCHERS

Long gone are the days when members of the Fletchers' Company and the Bowyers' Company fought each other in the streets of the City, so that the Court of Aldermen had to intervene, more than six centuries ago, to prevent yet more bloodshed!

Praise be, in recent times contacts between ourselves and the Bowyers' have been far more harmonious, with our joint Livery Dinners, and occasional shared instruction in the ancient art of archery, for neophyte archers of the two Companies. But that ancient ambience of conflict continues to be sustained (though no longer with fatal consequences) at the Companies' annual shoots; and Past-Master Jeremy Garnett has suggested that I share with readers of *La Flèche*, the gory details of these more recent contests.

In his Report on his Master's Year (1986/1987) in our Fletchers' *Newsletter*, number 18 (1987/1988), Joe Brown notes that "the Joint Bowyers/Fletchers Shoot at Armoury House followed by Dinner ...is now becoming a regular social occasion for the two Companies ...". Interestingly, the very first issue of our *Newsletter*, (1971/1972) refers to a "Visit to the H.A.C. 21st July 1971", and to a "Joint Dinner with the Court of the Bowyers'



Company - 22nd July 1971", but there is no mention of an actual archery contest. The *Newsletters* for 1972/1973, 1973/1974, and 1974/1975, all refer to tuition in the art of archery, for Members of the two Companies at the Honourable Artillery Company ground, followed by socializing, but not to any actual contest. However, at last, in the *Newsletter* for 1976/1977 there is explicit reference to a "Joint Shoot with the Bowyers' Company -19th July 1977".

The contests are reported intermittently in the annual *Newsletter* through the late '70s and '80s, but in the issue for 1988/1989 a change of venue is reported: "1988, 6th July, Evening Joint Shoot with Bowyers Tower of London". (It may be no coincidence that Past-Master Pat MacLellan first joined the Fletchers' in October 1986, and was at that time Governor of H M Tower of London).

Some Company Members have suggested to me that our archery contests with the Bowyers' started long before the 1970s. However, the Fletchers' Company's financial records for earlier periods (deposited at Guildhall Library) are extremely detailed, but contain no explicit reference to transactions relating to joint meetings of any kind with the Bowyers, so one can only conclude that any earlier battles between the Companies were entirely informal! In the meantime, the year 2007 could be the thirtieth anniversary of the "official" archery contests between Bowyers and Fletchers.

*M. V. Roberts*  
Honorary Archivist.

## Fletchers British Blind Sports National Indoor Archery Championship

This competition was held at Lilleshall National Sports Centre from 31<sup>st</sup> March to the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2006. Past Masters David Wootton and Chris Brown went along on April 1<sup>st</sup> and saw a remarkable demonstration of archery by the Visually Impaired. One photo shows them examining a tactile sight and the other shows



one of the competitors complete with his blindfold – the blindfold ensures that those declared totally blind shoot under the same conditions.

These are the championships which the Charity Committee agreed to sponsor at an expenditure of £3,000. The full title of the event was the Fletchers Visually Impaired National Indoor Archery Championships, organised by the archery section of British Blind Sports and took the form of two Portsmouth Rounds (five dozen arrows each), one before and one after lunch. V.I. archers are categorised by reference to the amount of sight they have, from B1 (totally blind) upwards. There were classifications for B1, B2 and open, and archers within each classification have a choice of sighting,

between Tactile and Bowsight. Chris and I were shown how the Tactile equipment works, and how archers have designed for them frames into which they fit their feet to give them the correct stance.

7 of the competitors were using equipment provided by the Fletchers Trust ; Wayne Thompson, Terry Ottewell, David Poyner, David Schofield, Roger Rees-Evans, Melissa Bubb and Dorothy Cooper. In addition, and overlapping with those names, there were quite a number who had been to Burnham.

Our congratulations go not only to the winners of the various categories but also to the following who set new National Records in their respective categories: Single Portsmouth Harry Docherty (294) and David Poyner (401): Double Portsmouth Melissa Bubb (905) and Wayne Thompson (1078).



The Fletchers Trust was thanked for its support and our two representatives came away with several ideas for future support which will be discussed by the Charity Committee.

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## Fletchers Day at Burnham

“ Once again the weather at Archer’s Lodge for the Prize Day left a lot to be desired, throughout the day it was damp and windy. Indeed just before lunch the gusty wind blew over the canvas gazebos that normally give shelter to the archers for their pre-lunch drinks and later serves as a our usual venue for the tea and cakes.



This was the first Prize Day to which archers using the Compound Bow had been invited, and this change, to keep up-to-date with modern developments in archery, was welcomed and worked well.

The Master presented the arrow brooches to the first and second lady in the Recurve Bow section to Christine

Malyon and Jill Newland respectively, and to Andrea Gales shooting the Compound Bow. Awards of engraved glassware were made to Mark Spruce and Paul Titterington for Recurve Bow and to Robin Jarvis for the Compound Bow.”



*Ray Gallop*

## A TASTE OF CALVADOS

Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> October witnessed the arrival of a band of Fletchers and their wives/ partners to retrace the steps of William the Conqueror, enjoy a historical journey through Normandy and sample the regional delicacies of this delightful part of rural France.

Those arriving by air via Paris stopped at Giverny en route for Caen and spent a very pleasant couple of hours visiting the house and gardens of Claude Monet where they were joined by other members of the party travelling by car. There are two contrasting gardens where Monet and his family settled in 1883, Clos Normand, comprising the original orchard enclosed by high stone walls which has subsequently been divided into a blaze of colourful beds reflecting Monet's preference for unconstrained gardens, allowing flowers and colours to grow freely and the Water Garden separated from Clos Normand by a narrow lane. Although the lilies were not in bloom at this time of the year the famous Japanese Bridge covered in wisteria together with the weeping willow and bamboo wood surrounding the pond replicated Monet's most well known painting.

Monet's house reflects an authentic home and a number of his most notable paintings in reproduction together with a large collection of Japanese prints are on show, the inspiration for the creation of the water garden.



Caen, the birthplace of William the Conqueror, provided our base for the next three days and the party checked into Hotel Mercure conveniently situated in the heart of the City overlooking the marina. To conclude the day the Master and his wife, 'Tric, invited everybody to an informal reception at the hotel and this was followed by a convivial dinner.

An early start the following day commenced with a coach trip around Caen with our guide, Matthieu Blin, visiting places of historical interest before travelling to Bayeux, a medieval town located on

the River L'aure, saved from war damage by an astute clergyman who forewarned the British Army the Germans had already vacated the town. It was in fact the first town to be liberated by the Allied Forces in June 1944. As a result, the architectural heritage has been exceptionally well preserved around a majestic cathedral together with the ancient back streets and timber framed buildings. The highlight was undoubtedly the visit to the Museum where the famous Bayeux tapestry is housed. Completed in the 11<sup>th</sup> Century, the tapestry is a unique document narrating the overseas expeditions of William the Conqueror, Duke of Normandy and his army in 1066 and comprises thousands of characters embroidered with coloured wool on a band of linen 70 metres long by 0.5 metres.

Following lunch the party moved on to Arromanches to the famous Gold, Junot and Sword beaches associated with the D Day landings on June 6<sup>th</sup> 1944. The visit included a tour of the museum with a commentary on the construction of the Mulberry Harbour which provided essential support for the D Day landings. The logistics of the operation are difficult to comprehend but undoubtedly this was one of the most exceptional feats of organisation ever accomplished. A tour of the Battle of Normandy museum featured a film and displays designed to make it easier to understand the huge war effort undertaken by the allies between the 6<sup>th</sup> June and the 29<sup>th</sup> August 1944, ultimately restoring freedom to mainland Europe. The tour concluded with a unique experience in a "cinema circular", a film projected in 360° from nine synchronised cameras mounted on a tank, helicopter and boat which plunged the audience into the heart of the action among the fighters on D Day with all the intensity of the battle, a truly emotional and unforgettable experience embellished by the weather outside which gave some indication of the appalling conditions the allied troops faced on arrival.

A short journey then took us to Pegasus Bridge during which the scene had been set by one of our own, Colonel John Power, who provided a fascinating report on the Parachute Regiment's drop to capture the bridge, the original of which now forms part of a museum together with one of the gliders that landed nearby. The Learned Clerk also provided an insight into the D Day Memorial Service that took place in

1994 to celebrate 50 years since the landings. As a naval attaché in Paris he was involved in the arrangements and security to accommodate the Royal Family, Heads of State and other dignitaries attending the celebrations.

Dinner at Le Carlotta Restaurant, a short walk from the hotel overlooking the marina, completed a truly memorable day covering a historical period of nearly 900 years from the Battle of Hastings in 1066 to the Battle for Normandy in June 1944.

Saturday morning meant an early departure for Honfleur, another medieval town with its picturesque yacht and fishing harbour where we had the benefit of a conducted tour by Matthieu Blin, including the Church of St Catherine, the largest wooden church in France erected by shipbuilders during the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. Unfortunately the Eugene Boudin Gallery devoted to Boudin, Monet's mentor and other local marine artists was closed at lunchtime, but this provided the Fletchers' party with time to enjoy a leisurely



lunch and visit the bustling market around St Catherine's church where the Master concluded his first purchase of the day – a large jar of Normandy honey which was immediately dropped on the way back to the coach.

The return journey to Caen included a stop at a cider farm where we were instructed on the conversion of the apple to liquor of graduating alcoholic content followed by tastings of cider, pommade and calvados accompanied by ice cream, honey bread (a favourite of the Master) and apple. A brief visit to the shop

followed with bottles of cider/ calvados and associated products purchased for the home trip. The coastal route back to Caen included Deauville/Tourville and other holiday resorts patronised by the French but clearly the lunch together with the farm visit proved too much for some of the party who missed another of Matthieu Blin's anecdotal commentaries.

Dinner on the final evening had been arranged at Ferme de la Ranconniere, a fortified Normandy farmhouse where everybody enjoyed a "menu gastronomique" with musical accompaniment. After a sumptuous meal Senior Past Master, Rainer Vogt, threatened to render a version of the "Ciderman from Somerset" but fortunately discretion prevailed and a sincere vote of thanks was proposed to the Master for a truly memorable three days coupled with the name of the Learned Clerk and those assisting in the organisation. The journey back to Caen after midnight was somewhat subdued.

Sunday morning provided a short time for visiting the market located around the marina before setting off for home, via Paris (CDG), Calais and other channel ports.

Without doubt a superb three days covering an historical tour from William the Conqueror to the Second World War, including an illuminating journey through the lovely Normandy region with its medieval towns and villages ably and amusingly described by our delightful guide, Matthieu Blin, whose interpretation of the English language on occasions was little short of an initiative test. All in all a perfectly balanced and well-organised trip which also provided a "getting to know" opportunity for Fletchers and their wives/ partners.

*Paul and Susan Knight*

#### *Master's Footnote - Fletchers' links with their history*

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October the party of 48 Fletchers and their guests began their 'taste of calvados' with a tour of Caen, the birthplace of William the Conqueror and continued from there to Bayeux to see the Tapestry. One week later the Fletchers held their inspiring Thanksgiving Service in the parish church of St. Bartholomew the Great, founded by Rahere, a courtier of William's son, Henry the First.

Rahere had contracted a fever in Rome and was nursed back to health at a hospital where the relics of Apostle Bartholomew were held. He vowed that if he recovered he would build a hospital. Restored to health, he had a vision of the Apostle who commanded him to build a church in Smithfield, London, to the glory of God and in the name of St. Bartholomew.

## The Stapleton Silver

Most of us will have admired the beautiful Victorian silver pieces that graced our table at the Ladies' Banquet and some other formal occasions. The seven épergnes, originally designed to hold fruit or flowers, comprise a centrepiece with two oak trees and stags and six smaller side pieces, also with oak trees and stags standing erect, browsing or simply lying down. Collectively they are known as "The Stapleton Silver". How it comes to be on our table is an interesting story.

In the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century large parts of Epping Forest and other areas were being enclosed for development, with scant regard for recreational needs or conservation.



However, in 1871 the City, to its lasting credit, embarked upon a lengthy legal battle against such enclosures. This culminated in two ground-breaking Acts of Parliament in 1878, one of which entrusted the ownership and care of what remained of Epping Forest to the City and the second of which made similar provisions for other open spaces under threat.

Robert Stapleton was a key figure in this achievement. A Common Councilman from 1858-1889 and Deputy for Bishopsgate Without Ward for the final ten years, his mother Company was the Loriners and he sat upon their Court, although never became Master. However, he was also a Fletcher, as were his son-in law and grandson, and the records indicate that all three became Masters of our Company. He was passionately interested in the fight to retain Epping Forest as an open space, and played a leading role from the

very first meeting in July 1871. The great contribution he made was justifiably appreciated, and a testimonial fund was launched by the Bishopsgate Ward Club, which was well supported by the Loriners and the Fletchers as well as other Ward Clubs. Resulting from this, a specially commissioned silver dessert service was presented to him in October 1880, the inscription on the centre piece recording that the presentation was "in recognition of upwards of 21 years valued public service and of his unceasing labours in the freeing of Epping Forest and other open spaces for the people".

Stapleton left this silver in trust for the use of his daughter and his eldest grandson, the intention being that it might become a family heirloom. Sadly this was frustrated since the grandson had no boy to inherit, and after his death his wife told her daughter (Stapleton's great-granddaughter) that she wished the silver to be given back to the City.

Unfortunately, at that time the Bishopsgate Ward Club had no suitable accommodation to display or store it and neither the Loriners nor Fletchers had Halls. Accordingly an alternative home had to be found and, eventually, in June 1948, the Deputy Clerk of the Fletchers, on Stapleton's great-granddaughter's behalf, presented the set to the City Livery Club for display and safe keeping, on the specific understanding that the Loriners, the

Fletchers and the Bishopsgate Ward Club might have the use of the silver for their functions.



Thereafter its history becomes more obscure. It is clear, however, that the original provisions of the gift were gradually forgotten and The City Livery Club became unaware of anyone else's interest in the silver. The Club itself did not use it and it appears that for some thirty years after 1963 the six side pieces were simply kept on display, whilst the centre piece disappeared. It was not until 1994 that the right of others to use the Stapleton Silver was re-opened by (now) Alderman John Hughesdon, then vice-President of the Bishopsgate

Ward Club, who wished to use it on special Ward occasions. His indefatigable pursuit of the subject was only sharpened by the revelation that thirty years earlier the then President of the Livery Club had ruled unilaterally that the silver should never be allowed to leave the Club's premises because of the risk of damage or loss. This edict became known only at a later date, after the Bishopsgate Ward Club, the Loriners and the Fletchers had been asked to contribute to the restoration of the silver and the making of a special carrying case! John Hughesdon's interventions also resulted in the happy discovery by the City Livery Club's Clerk of the splendid centrepiece, long forgotten and found still locked away in its original oak chest in the basement of Sion House.

Perhaps inevitably after such a long time in the City Livery Club's sole possession certain sensitivities became apparent, but delicate negotiations continued for some time whilst the conditions upon which the silver had been given into the care of the City Livery Club were researched and clarified. Finally, the Club handsomely arranged for the restoration work and carrying case to be done at their expense. Thereafter, thanks primarily to Alderman Hughesdon's persistence we have once again been able to see this magnificent display on our table as a memorial to the outstanding achievements of one of our own eminent Liverymen more than 130 years ago. Look for it the next time you come!

*Past Master Fred Neal*

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# Fletchers Visit to the Whitechapel Bell Foundry

A group of 40 Fletchers descended on Whitechapel Bell Foundry on the evening of Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June for a private tour hosted by Alan and Kathryn Hughes, owners and directors of the company.

We were firstly given a brief introduction on the history of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, which we learned was Britain's oldest manufacturing company dating back to 1570. The Foundry has been located on two previous sites, before moving to Whitechapel Road in 1670.

Our guide Alan Hughes then explained the various steps involved in making a bell, taking us into different parts of the workshop. We discovered that some of the more obscure raw materials involved in bell making include goat hair and horse manure, and we saw the furnaces used by the bell makers. Our guide explained the very skilled art of tuning a bell, whereby the inside of the bell is cut using a lathe until the perfect note is obtained by reference to the relevant tuning fork. We then learned about the final step in the process – hanging the bell.

Having learned how to make big bells, we then turned our attention to hand bells, which we discovered was equally fascinating. Our guide took us around the workshops where the hand bells are made and showed us a set of hand bells that were currently in for repair which were made some 40 years ago when our guide first started working at the Foundry. Hand bells have leather handles to ensure comfort for the user and we discovered that a special type of hard leather is required. It is becoming increasingly difficult to source this leather as there is only one tannery remaining in the UK, which also supplies Church's shoes!

Our final stop was in the courtyard, to hear one of the large bells being rung! We then retired to the Foundry House for a delicious finger buffet with wine. This was a chance to mingle with fellow Fletchers, as well as to chat to our hosts Alan and Kathryn Hughes. All in all, a most interesting and enjoyable evening.

*Nigel James*

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## *A note by the Clerk in response to the article on the Stapleton Silver*

Thank you for your informative article. Display is an ongoing subject. We are currently negotiating to have the silver for 3-4 months of the year, ideally to cover Jan Feb and Apr Dinners or at least Feb and Apr. Other claimants would also have it for a period. How to account for it and book it out from one venue to another during a loan period is one issue, The vulnerability of the pieces and their insurance another. The pieces are very delicate and have some damage. New stowage and transportation containers need to be made, ideally one for each piece. The current box is too heavy, cumbersome and ill padded. We would have to bear a proportion of the annual insurance cost and help buy the new containers. I am not holding my breath. *MJ.*

# CHARITY MATTERS

Since my last report, I am happy to mention one or two items. Firstly, I had made an appeal to the Livery to make an extra contribution to the Trust funds. The response has been magnificent and your Charity Committee is now able to work together with so much more confidence. Thank you. Secondly, I am able to report on the European Paralympic Championships held in August in Prague. 21 nations took part and the GB team returned with two gold medals, two silver and four bronze. Those archers who had received support from our Trust did particularly well.

Danielle Brown won gold in the FITA and broke two world records in the process. In the same competition, Kathy Smith won silver and Kate Lucas, the bronze. The latter also took bronze in the Head-to-Head competition. Terry Ottewell took gold in the Visually Impaired competition and Dorothy Cooper, shooting against men, won bronze. Blindfolds were used for the first time.

These achievements make a good omen for the future; Beijing is under two years away. My colleagues are already in discussions with the various Team leaders to ensure that what little we have can be put to good use.

*CJBrown  
Chairman*

## Installation of a new Court Assistant

Captain David Goodall, Royal Navy, having been duly elected to the Court of Assistants of our Worshipful Company was duly installed at the July meeting of the Court.

At the October Court, Liveryman Lesley Agutter was elected to the Court in a vacancy and will be installed at the next meeting.



## Golf Notes

### The Prince Arthur Cup

We qualified again for this year's Prince Arthur Cup held at Walton Heath Golf Club on 18<sup>th</sup> May. Fifty-two Livery Companies competed and the Fletchers finished in 28<sup>th</sup> position in difficult playing conditions with a score of -18 over 36 holes. We were largely helped by an excellent morning score of all square by Rainer Vogt and Roger Straker who, with Jeremy Garnett and Bryn Aldridge, made up the Fletchers' team. Our score is likely to be good enough to qualify for next year's competition which will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> May.

### Fletchers Golf Day

This year's golf day was held at East Herts Golf Club on the 27<sup>th</sup> July, by kind arrangement of the Master. Eighteen Liverymen and their guests participated supported by a strong team of spectators. The supporters were perhaps glad that they were there in that role as the long, dry, hot summer was temporarily brought to an end by heavy rain, thunder and lightning – so serious, in fact, that the club siren summoned everyone off the course and back into the clubhouse.

The competition was curtailed to the best score over nine holes and Nigel Hopkins duly won the MacLellan Cup with an excellent score in the circumstances of 18 points. Jeremy Garnett was runner-up with 17. The ladies' prize was fiercely contested and went to Anne Prout.

Our Master is to be thanked for presenting and donating the prizes and for arranging such a pleasurable day despite weather that made gardeners rub their hands with joy.

Next year's golf day is being held at Worplesdon on Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> July.

*JG*

## THE DISABLED ARCHERS DAY AT THE ROYAL TOXOPHILY SOCIETY IN BURNHAM, BUCKS, MAY 21<sup>ST</sup> 2006

Along with other archers who had been fortunate enough to receive an invitation from the Worshipful Company of Fletchers, I was invited to shoot a Burntwood National round run for them by the Royal Toxophily Society in Burnham, Buckinghamshire. This was my first tournament since my stroke, and I felt very honoured and privileged to be invited to shoot at such a grand venue!

My friend was kind enough to drive me down, and we went down to Stoke Mandeville the previous day, and stayed at Olympic Lodge for an early start on Sunday. Sally Satnav, my friend's navigator, was very well behaved, and helped us find the way without any difficulty at all!

Earlier in the year, the Worshipful Company of Fletchers had generously awarded a grant, enabling me to purchase a very special carbon riser developed by Keith Gascoigne of KG Archery. I was looking forward to shooting this bow in anger for the first time very much. I christened the bow "Darstardly Spybow" because of its beautiful smooth and quiet draw and shot.



We arrived at Archers Lodge, a country house owned by the Royal Toxophily Society at 10.10am for 10.30am, but the gates were open. Registration was accompanied by coffee and a chat, and we met the Secretary of the Royal Tox, who was running the shoot. There were many disabled archers there, including some VI archers looked after by their coach Harry. St Swithen must have been VERY ANGRY that day, because it bucketed it down to the extent that the round was almost changed to a shorter one. The bosses had been out overnight and got wet, so it took no less than three people to pull the arrows!

I was on target 1, and all I did in the morning was shoot a few arrows to get the feel of the venue.

Then it was LUNCHTIME! Those of you who have had the pleasure of shooting at the Royal Tox will doubtless remember

the food, which was SUPERB. A three course lunch, cooked on the premises, preceded by sherry, and accompanied by beer or wine (not at all good for the aim!). Unfortunately, only archers are invited because of the size of the dining room. Following this we went back to the field in our wet weather gear to shoot the round. It was STILL raining so hard that the Secretary told us that the round would be curtailed.

We sat in our wet weather gear, everything damp except our mood, and prepared to shoot the round. There were loads of people round the target. Every archer had a helper, and some even a coach (the shoot was not formal). After three dozen the weather improved, and we ACTUALLY SAW THE SUN! A vote was taken, and we decided to finish the round. When the round was over, it was time for the Almoner of the Worshipful Company of Fletchers to present the prizes – **after tea, of course! ALL VERY CIVILISED!**

I did not win a prize, but that did not matter at all, because I came third in very exalted company.

I had a WONDERFUL day. I think the best moment of the day was meeting the Almoner, a lovely gentleman, and showed him the bow his organization had helped me buy. The memories I shall take away of this day are of friendliness, helpfulness and co-operation. I **really** value the new friends I made that day!



*Barbara Lucas*

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