



La Flèche

email edition

November 2018 issue

The Master Fletcher's Holiday

Split 10-13 October 2018

At lunchtime in Split on Wednesday, 13th October, The Master, Upper Warden and Clerk welcomed those who had arrived that morning after a very early start and the advance parties who had arrived in a more leisurely fashion by land, sea and air the day before, or even before then.



We embarked on an orientation, induction tour around the City with our very knowledgeable Aussie Croat Guide called Ante. Split has a long seafront harbour, clearly marking one edge of its bustling centre. Three periods of development were explored in chronological order. Hence, we started at the Diocletian Palace, built by the Romans in the 3rd Century, followed by the Venetian quarter which is mainly 14th/15th Century and the Baroque period sector built in 18th century. All seemed to blend it seamlessly with a myriad of narrow

streets and we enjoyed the real flavour of this very attractive, clean City.

In the evening, following the Master's welcome drink on the roof top bar with a fantastic view of Split and the mountains behind the City, we repaired to the Luxor restaurant located in the centre of Diocletian's Palace. An excellent meal was followed by an entertainer playing guitar in the Roman columned precincts, in his repertoire was John Lennon's 'Imagine' which demonstrated the remarkable acoustics of his surroundings.



Thursday began with the Fletchers let loose on the streets of Split, one group heading for the beach whilst others meandered through the inter-

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esting markets and narrow streets. Some visited the mausoleum, converted into a cathedral, where the more adventurous climbed the bell tower for a spectacular view of the old town.

In the afternoon we assembled en masse for the coach trip. On the way to the coastal town of Trogir (of UNESCO fame), we stopped at Salona (an abandoned roman town) to view the ruined Roman Amphitheatre. Opinions were mixed as to whether it was impressive as many of the original components had been recycled into other buildings.

With continuing stunning weather, Trogir was at its best. It boasts narrow alleyways and small piazzas with period limestone buildings, all beautifully maintained. The town is very compact being built on a small island. Following our tour around the town, many Fletchers poured into one or more of the many lovely bars with fine views of the water and boats. We remained in Trogir for dinner in a splendid restaurant where we enjoyed typical Dalmatian dishes, such as cuttlefish risotto, whilst being serenaded by a five-man choir and mandolin.



The early start on Friday (8.30am) was too much for some however, the majority walked to the Ferry Terminal for the boat trip to Brac. With beautiful blue sea and sky, the crossing passed quickly, and we disembarked on the island for a coach trip around the perimeter. Our first stop was at a school for stone masons, where we had an interesting talk about working with the local limestone. The young apprentices displayed great skill with hand tools, working on pillars, coats of arms etc. On to lunch at a mountain restaurant. This had memorable views across the sea to the mainland with Split clearly visible some 15 miles away against a backdrop

of mountains. The entertainment was provided by a two man band whose repertoire included O Sole Mio, Que será, será, and Stand by Me. As a result of the Fletcher participation with the band, consideration is being given to the creation of a Fletchers' Choir – working name 'Cat's Chorus'!

And so, to the 'last supper', which was a Japanese feast of many courses where the gluttonous Diocletian would have felt at home! The meal was followed by a heartfelt address from Chris Brown, who has attended all 23 of The Masters' Holidays, and spoke warmly of his experiences and thanked those who had made such a success of this tour.

The final day dawned, glorious again, and the party set out by coach for the part of Croatia most affected in the 'Balkans' War' of the 90s. We visited the front-line village, Čavoglave,

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where the Serb attack was halted. This was marked by an old Serb tank that had been captured by the Croats. Our next stop was a panoramic view of a 15th century Franciscan Monastery located in the middle of

Visovac Lake, itself part of Krka national park. By then, it was time for lunch at 'Drago's Camp', a small family home, dating back to the 15th Century. Drago's mother had steadfastly refused to leave during the Serbian occupation and endured three years of house arrest. She remarked that not all the Serbian soldiers were bad, some even gave her food to eat!! Drago's main occupation is the production of Prosciutto Ham of award-winning quality where the product is dried naturally by the Bura and Yugo winds that sweep through the area. Drago does not speak any English but, nonetheless, entertained us for a memorable and delicious lunch assist-



ed by many members of his family. All the ingredients came from his small holding, including some rather good cherry and walnut brandy. The prosciutto was outstanding. The hastily arranged Fletchers' Choir joined the regular entertainers in a rendering of John Denver's 'Take me home country roads' before serenading the family with Laudi Spirituali. Much fun was had by all before, all too soon, the party had to head for home via the airport and the charming town of Sibenik.

Split was a perfect destination for a Master's Holiday. The hotel was located at the very edge of the old town in a traffic free zone within easy reach of all principal attractions, sea views, port and restaurants. The narrow streets and historic buildings contributed to the stress free atmosphere. The light management touch permitted much free time and flexibility for those who preferred to 'cherry pick' their outings. The guide was articulate, well informed and cheerful. So, all in all, a triumph for the Master, June and Clerk. A memorable few days, which they also appeared to enjoy.

Pictures John Leatherdale

Peter Beard

The Fletcher's Disability Championship

Lilleshall

23rd – 24th June 2018



On a very hot weekend in June, Fletchers and their wives supported the second Fletcher's Disability Championship at Lilleshall, the home of AGB and where all elite or "on the pathway" train. The Worshipful Company of Fletchers sponsor this unique event which is now a world record status competition whereby the archers can gain scores to be used in part of the selection process for international competitions.

After last year's success it was not surprising that there were 25% more athletes taking part this year including a large novice competition for any archer with a physical impairment who has been shooting for less than two years and, particularly gratifying, a large contingent of visually impaired archers. The Trust is aware that VI archers have found it difficult to establish themselves in archery not just in terms of logistics but also the cost involved in includ-



ing spotters/helpers.

The main competition took place on the Saturday with medals being awarded by the Master and Trish Lovell, a Liveryman and President of AGB. Afterwards, Fletchers and their wives held a dinner at their hotel to which they invited AGB members and athletes as their guests.

On Sunday morning the finals for the para classified archers took place with medals being presented by Chris Brown and Trish. At this point the winner of the Fletcher's Disability Cup

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The Lapel Pin

Our lapel pins in the shape of the Fletchers' shield are selling well. They measure 2cm across and 2.5cm long (3/4"x1") and come in a presentation box. Our picture shows three of them. They are nicely executed in enamel and make a suitable gift for partners or can be worn to show you are a member of our livery. They cost £5 each including post and packing and any profits will go to the Fletchers' Trust.

Some enterprising Fletchers have made them into cuff links. We still have a limited number available, please order by post from the Clerk enclosing a cheque for £5 made out to the Worshipful Company of Fletchers.



was announced – Ken Hargreaves and , of course, Fred the Dog. This was well deserved and the pair will no doubt feature in more future issues of La Fleche. After lunch, the keenly anticipated shoot of mixed teams of Fletchers and Paralympians took place. It was a great weekend and again we are grateful to AGB for their hospitality and friendship. Special thanks to Katy Cumming and her team who so ably organised the event.

Michael Holden

Pro-Am

Following the Championship finals, and inspired by the quality of the morning's shooting, six Fletchers each paired with one of six finalists in a "friendly" target competition. This was shot at the unique distance of 31 metres - because that was where there were suitable floor markings without having to move any targets!

After the difficult initial task of deciding upon team names, all 12 archers stepped up to the line and battle commenced in front of an enthusiastic audience.



Team Victri (Trish Lovell and Victoria Rumary) proved the strongest team, supporting the rest of the field with their score. However Trish was somewhat handicapped by having forgotten to bring her own bow.

The Bookworms (Melanie Trapnell and Jess Stretton)

perhaps adopted too studious an approach, and came fifth.

The Three-legged Archers (Andrew Trapnell and Hazel Chaisty) spent much of their time discussing cosmetics for Andrew (to improve his technique, of course).

Team Arrow (David Goodall and John Cavanagh) were the bookies' favourites, on previous form, but this year took third place.

Tom's Pals (Gordon Sharp and Phil Spink) shot their way into second place with their re-curve bows, quietly pointing out that a review of the handicap system for compound bows might be in order.

But the winners were Team Walker (who were also awarded the prize for the least imaginative team name) -Tim Eltringham and John Walker, with a convincing score of 203 out of 240.

All agreed that it had been a fun and an instructive shoot, and thanked the organisers and the finalists for making it possible.



Gordon Sharp

Fletchers' Ladies Lunch 25th September 2018

On a beautiful sunny day the Ladies' Lunch was held in a private room at the Beaufort House on the King's Road. There were 18 of us.

This lunch was originally thought up by Nicky Scott Knight when Mistress Fletcher and was organised today by her and our Clerk, Kate.

The venue was splendid, the atmosphere electric, the food delicious and the staff friendly. It was a really delightful and happy occasion - lots of noise, laughter and friendship - long may it continue!

Anni Gale



Ann Spain at the Ladies Lunch

Can we help?

One of the provisions of the Fletcher's Trust is to provide help for those Liverymen in need, which has been extended to spouses/partners where appropriate. If you know of any Liveryman who might appreciate such help then please contact the Hon Almoner, Michael Holden. michaelholden@hotmail.com or 07989 564477

St Crispin's Day Lunch 25th October 2018



PM Adrian Scott-Knight had arranged a lunch for the Past Masters to commemorate St Crispin's Day. The Fletchers have 25 PMs still living, with the oldest, RSG Hewitt, who was Master in 1973. He was unable to attend. Of the 25, half were able to make the lunch; the current Master, Roger Watson, the Senior Warden and the Clerk were also invited and, after a welcoming drink, we sat down to lunch in the Court Room of the Farmers' and Fletchers' Hall.

The Master opened the lunch with a special grace with particular mention of the Fletchers and this was followed by the Senior Warden reading an excerpt from Juliet Barker's book

"Agincourt" which referred in detail to the procurement of arrows for the war in France.

Lunch started with Rosary Goat's Cheese which was followed by Slow Braised Beef with Parsnip Mash and a trio of Carrots. We finished up with a Lemon Tart and Berry Compote, followed by coffee and Petit Fours. Tony Taylor, the senior Past Master present proposed the toast to the Fletchers and, after more reminiscences, we departed for home about 3pm.

JLD

Melanie Clarke – Freeman Archer

Mel has been a friend of the Fletchers for some time and is a Freeman Archer. She is a medal winning Paralympian and has won more golds, silver and bronzes in the World and European Championships. She and her partner Richard Hennahane were our guests at our dinner following last years Fletcher's Disability Championships - an evening of great fun. It must take incredible dedication and guts to go through Mel's surgery but it has obviously worked. Here is Mel's story in her own words.

Michael Holden

What a difference a year can make! On 24th June 2018, I became the 'Ladies Compound Champion' at the Worshipful Company of Fletchers Disability Championships. I was so proud to sit on the podium - and even more so as only one year before that - at the 2017 Championships I was recovering from major surgery and wasn't sure if I would be able to compete again!

I began having issues with the wrist in 2015, and over the next 2 years had 5 surgeries to try to fix the pain and inflammation I was having. Unfortunately, these didn't do the trick, and so in June of 2017 I took a huge risk, and had a major operation as my 'last chance solution'. At this point, despite much research and consideration, the surgeon, myself and the GB team at Lilleshall were unsure whether this would work - let alone allow me to shoot again in the future. In my mind it was definitely worth the risk and so I (luckily under anaesthetic!) had 16 fractures put into my arm, 4 ligaments and tendons cut and moved, and a 8 inch metal bar screwed into my arm to permanently fuse it solid and straight.... and yes - it was as painful as that sounds!

That pretty much 'took me out' for the next 6 months recovering, but I had great fun watching and supporting the Disability Championships in August 2017. Watching from the balcony with team mates gave us an amazing view of the finals day, and it was great to catch up once more with team mates and fellow Fletchers too!

Sunday afternoon hosted a 'Fletchers Friendly Shoot', and I had been asked to compete as a Fletcher in this event. Unfortunately, still being in a plaster cast didn't make this possible, and so my partner (and Paralympian from 2012) Richard Hennahane was volunteered to take my place -after coming out of his 3 year competitive retirement! For the competition, there were some warm up shots in Sutherland Hall, then teams were chosen - with a Fletcher and a GB Archer on each team, to compete over 18 meters, in 'head to head style' matches. After the Fletchers had selected their partners, John Cavanagh and Richard were remaining, and so were paired up. After the first round however, and with a near perfect score between them, this team was disqualified by the judges for having "Too much Paralympic experience between them!!" - to much amusement of all the spectators and other competitors! The tournament continued, and crowned the worthy winners, though not before a single arrow sudden death' type tournament was hosted, between the leaders and JC and Rich took place. Even with 6 Paralympic Games between them, JC and Rich were beaten!!



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FLETCHER ARCHERY DATES TO DECEMBER 2019

The Fletchers Trust sponsor a number of events for Archers and members of the Company are welcome to attend these to spectate and support.

Saturday	1 st December	British Blind Sport Coaching day for blind or visually impaired archers. Stoke Mandeville murrayxhallam@gmail.com
Saturday	12 th January	British Blind Sport Coaching day for blind or visually impaired archers. Stoke Mandeville murrayxhallam@gmail.com
Sunday	3 rd February	Deer Park Archery – Annual event sponsored by the Trust. A group usually stay at a Hotel on the Saturday michaelholden@hotmail.com
Saturday	9 th February	British Blind Sport Coaching day for blind or visually impaired archers. Stoke Mandeville murrayxhallam@gmail.com
Saturday	9 th March	British Blind Sport Coaching day for blind or visually impaired archers. Stoke Mandeville murrayxhallam@gmail.com
Easter Sunday	20 th April	British Blind Sports Indoor Championships sponsored by the Fletchers Trust – Lilleshall murrayxhallam@gmail.com
Sunday	12 th May	Fletchers Day for Archers with Disability - Clerk
Saturday & Sunday	15 th & 16 th June	British Wheelchair Archery Championships, Stoke Mandeville michaelholden@hotmail.com
Thursday & Friday	22 nd August & 23 rd August	Blind Veterans Shoot Ovingdean, Brighton murrayxhallam@gmail.com
Saturday	31 st August	Fletchers Day for Elite Archers - Clerk
Sat 14 & Sun 15	September	Fletcher National Disability Championships Lilleshall michaelholden@hotmail.com

In addition, the Trust has taken on support for Metro Blind Sports who run a monthly shooting session for archers with disability. These sessions are held on 3rd Sunday of each month acjcmcm@btopenworld.com

A Spring & Autumn date for Noak Hill archery, *have a go or improve your skills* days, will be circulated in the next Edition of La Fleche.

AGINCOURT MUGS

Special Price to clear remaining Stock



We still have a few of these attractive mugs left. They commemorate the 600th anniversary of the battle and were produced in a strictly limited edition of 600, the Mug has the Coat of Arms of the Fletchers Company on one side and those of Agincourt with the Agincourt 600 badge on the other. There are also three arrows on the inside of the Mug and a brief history of the Fletchers' Company on the base. Proceeds from the sale will go to the Fletchers' Charitable Trust, which principally supports Archery for the Disabled, from grass roots up to

support for Paralympic archery.

Each mug, which is 3½ inches (90mm) high, comes with a numbered certificate signed by the Master Fletcher.

The price of a single mug is £20 but to clear the few remaining, we are offering a set of 4 for £40. Both prices include post and packing.

The mugs can be collected from the Hall if ordered from the Clerk, and paid for electronically: Fletchers Trust, Act. No.11115146 Sort code: 40-05-21 or by post from Andrew Trapnell, 17 Prince Consort Drive, Ascot, SL5 8AW. andrew@trapnell.co.uk. Cheques should be made out to the Fletchers Trust.

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After this, I was even more motivated to heal quickly, with the goal to be able to compete in 12 months time at this shoot..... So I worked really hard on recovery and rehab, and in November of 2017 I was given the 'all clear' to once more pick up my bow.

It was a long, slow, hard slog back - and I had to learn a new technique - drawing the bow with my elbow to allow me to shoot again -but it worked - and just 13 months after my surgery I was competing at this years' Championships. In some 'not so ideal' weather, I qualified first during the ranking round - and it was incredible to see so many archers with disabilities on the field - with Para, classified, non classified, experienced and new athletes all competing together.

Finals day came on the Sunday, and I had made it through to the gold medal match. After some friendly advice to a very new athlete shooting in the bronze medal match - in her very first head to head match shot in this format about 'how it all worked', I sat waiting to compete.

I was nervous to compete with the commentary, live streaming and crowd once more - especially after not doing so since 2015 - but I pulled on my experiences and shot well against Jodie Grin-

ham. It was a close match, and after 12 arrows we were tied - yet I shot well with my last three arrows to become the 2018 Champion!



The Worshipful Company of Fletchers Disability Championships is an incredible shoot - to allow such a range of athletes the opportunity to compete together if fantastic - and once again I thank the Fletchers for their organisation of this, and their support of the GB Paralympic Team over many, many years.

So - that's the kind of difference a year can make - and what about the next 12 months.... Well, it's all looking very exciting. I've been shooting really well, and our World Champs are next year where I hope to win a space for the Tokyo Paralympics in 2020. But life is amazing - and changing - and next year I am getting married to my fiancée Richard, and we are expecting a baby just after Christmas too.... so life will keep us busy.... but I still hope to return to the Disability Champs in 2019 to defend my title!!.....

Mel Clarke

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We are very grateful to Noak Hill Archers for continuing to provide their facilities and experienced instructors to us for more than 10 years now and to PM Lesley Agutter, who organises the days. HOWEVER ... on the last two occasions, April and September this year, our numbers have fallen short of the ideal minimum of 15. If we don't get our numbers up next year, it is quite possible that Noak Hill Archers may not be able to keep supporting our archery days. So, spread the word ... 2019 is FLEXIT YEAR!



Felicity learning field shooting

TJE

FLEXIT – YOUR SUPPORT IS REQUIRED!

You might be forgiven for wondering if this is a cunning plan to take the Worshipful Company of Fletchers out of the livery movement ... a hard Flexit where we are free to sell arrows under WTO rules, free to move the company to Cornwall, free to have cream teas instead of expensive dinners and free to have loving cups filled with rum cocktails and fiery mojitos. Ah ... we can all dream!



Noak Hill - All Weather Facilities

Well, don't worry, you haven't missed a referendum and there is definitely no exit plan. This is a call for Fletchers to flex! It's a call for you to come to Noak Hill next year to flex your muscles and flex a bow at our favourite Archery Club.

Seriously, if you've not tried one of these bi-annual events yet then you really don't know what a brilliant day out it can be! The Noak Hill Archers are based near the M25/A12 junction with excellent indoor and outdoor facilities and always provide a day of interest and variety. It doesn't matter if you are a complete beginner or an experienced archer with your own equip-

ment, everyone is welcome. Beginners are provided with all the equipment they need and guided by patient and very experienced instructors throughout the day. More experienced archers also benefit hugely from the expert coaching on hand.

After a warm up and initial coaching session, the day starts with classic target archery for the rest of the morning. By then, everyone is hungry and the famous Noak Hill cold buffet is very welcome! The afternoon is then taken up with field archery – shooting at a variety of woodland targets at differing distances. Finally, after retiring to the clubhouse for tea and cake, the scores for the day are announced and prizes awarded.

Not only is this a great day out in the fresh air, it is also a perfect (and cost effective) way to experience archery for the first time or to continue to improve your skills - indeed, most of us in the Company who now shoot regularly, started at Noak Hill. The events are open to all Fletchers (Liverymen, Freemen and Apprentices) plus guests, especially those who may be potential new members.



Marianne's guest shooting for the very first time

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FLETCHER DIARY DATES DECEMBER 2019 – APRIL 2020

Those events marked with an **F** are also open to Freemen, Liverymen may attend all events.

Thursday	6 th December		Carol Service & fork supper HM Tower of London
Monday	10 th December		Christmas Luncheon
2019			
Tuesday	15 th January		Court Dinner
Date to be confirmed	February or March		Ladies Banquet
Tuesday	12 th March		Visit to Heathrow animal centre
Friday	29 th March		United Guilds Service
Monday	15 th April		Installation Court Dinner
Easter Sunday	20 th April	F	British Blind Sports Indoor Championships sponsored by the Fletchers Trust - Lilleshall
Sunday	12 th May	F	Fletchers Day for Archers with Disability
Tuesday	21 st May		Sons of the Clergy Service at St Pauls
Wednesday	22 nd May	F	Golf Fund Raising day at Drummer Golf Club, Hampshire. Non-golfers welcomed.
Tuesday	11 th June	F	Fletchers Golf Day – Thorndon Park, Essex
Monday	24 th June		Shrieval Elections and Lunch & Armed Forces flag raising
Tuesday	25 th June		Joint Shoot at the Tower
Tuesday	9 th July		July Court (Lunch or Dinner TBC)
Saturday	31 st August	F	Fletchers Day for Elite Archers
Sunday	29 th September	F	Sheep Drive over London Bridge
Wednesday	2 nd October		Election of the Lord Mayor and Lunch
Tuesday	8 th October		Court (Lunch or Dinner TBC)
Tuesday – Saturday	22 nd – 26 th October		Master’s Holiday, Taormina, Sicily
Saturday	9 th November	F	Lord Mayor’s Show
Monday & Tuesday	25 th & 26 th November		Red Cross Christmas Fair
Early December			Carol Service & Christmas Luncheon
2020			
Tuesday	21 st January		Court (Lunch or Dinner TBC)
Date to be confirmed	February or March		Ladies Banquet
Friday	27 th March		United Guilds Service
Tuesday	21 st April		Installation Court

Other dates, such as the Master’s *special events / visits* in 2019 & 2020 are to be added, as well as a Spring & Autumn date for Noak Hill archery, *have a go* or *improve your skills* days, and these will be circulated in the next edition of La Fleche. Dates for Archery events sponsored by the Trust are shown on p 8.