

January Court Dinner



On 17th January, a very grey winter evening, spirits were lifted by a most enjoyable Court Dinner. The dining room was attractively set with six round tables, creating a relaxed but still elegant atmosphere. Guests at the Master's table included the Masters of the Innholders, Information Technologists and the Prime Warden of the Basketmakers, as well as the Fletchers' Alderman Sir David Wootton and Ms. Clare Verga, Head of the City of London Academy Islington. Three new Liverymen and three new Freemen were heartily welcomed by all, as were the Clerks of the three Companies.

The menu offered us a tempting smoked salmon first course, followed by delicious breast of duck and a sinful crème caramel dessert, all accompanied by excellent wines.

The Master had invited Bertie Pearce, a Liveryman of the Skinner's Company to keep us entertained and visually challenged by his legerdemain skills and amusing commentary. Fletchers were startled by his knowledge of their personality traits as he went from table to table demonstrating his dazzling talent. At one point Ms. Verga was surprised to be enlisted as his assistant, gamely co-operating with his routine.



The Master's toast to the guests reflected the importance the Company places in maintaining its close connections with the Livery as a whole and his personal pleasure in welcoming such distinguished guests to the evening.



A special welcome was given to Ms. Clare Verga, Head of the City of London Academy Islington, which is supported by the Fletchers' Charity. She gave a dynamic and eloquent speech about the Academy and its aims, highlighting the Academy's success in dramatically improving the scholastic achievements of its pupils. Most come from very difficult backgrounds, both economically and personally, and she stressed the difference the Academy makes to their lives and prospects. The Head of the Fletchers House and a pupil also attended the dinner, as exposure to the City is also important in educating the pupils.

Finally, to close the "official" part of the evening, the Master Innholder offered a gracious toast to the Worshipful Company of Fletchers, thanking the Company and the Master for their generous hospitality to all the guests.

Gloria Neal



The Installation Court and Dinner



Tuesday 4th April 2017 was a big day for the Fletchers. It started at 4pm with the Court Meeting.

Clare James, having been unanimously elected by the Court, was duly installed as our Master for the Year by the outgoing Master, Stuart Fraser. Clare then installed **Dr Roger Watson** (above left), as Upper Warden and **Duncan Garland** (above right), as the Renter Warden. The new Master then went on to install Tim Sanders-Hewitt as a Court Assistant and Stuart Robbins as a co-opted Court Assistant.



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Fletcher Diary Dates May 2017- April 2018

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

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------------|---|--|
| Tues | 9 May | | Sons of the Clergy |
| Sun | 14 May | F | Fletchers Day for Archers with Disability |
| Wed | 31 May | F | Noak Hill Archery |
| Wed | 7 June | | Highgate Cemetery Visit and Lunch |
| Tues | 20 June | | Joint Shoot at the Tower |
| Mon | 26 June | | Shrieval Elections and Lunch |
| Tues | 4 July | | Court Dinner |
| Tues | 11 July | | Fletchers Golf Day – Muswell Hill |
| Sat | 2 September | F | Fletchers Day for Elite Archers |
| Fri | 8 – 10 September | | Master's Holiday - Guernsey |
| Sun | 24 September | F | Sheep Drive over London Bridge |
| Fri | 29 September | | Election of the Lord Mayor and Lunch |
| Thurs | 5 October | F | Noak Hill Archery |
| Tues | 17 October | | Court Luncheon |
| Thurs | 2 November | | Visit to Folgate Street |
| Sat | 11 November | | Lord Mayors Show |
| Tue | 5 December | | Christmas Luncheon |
| Thurs | 14 December | | Carol Service, finger buffet at St Magnus the Martyr |
| 2018 | | | |
| Tue | 16 January | | Court Buffet Supper and Jazz evening |
| Date TBC | February or March | | Ladies Banquet |
| Date TBC | February or March | | Visit to the Jewish Museum |
| Fri | 16 March | | United Guilds Service |
| Tues | 17 April | | Installation Court Dinner |

My thanks to Carol Kisby, the Assistant Editor, who put together this edition. JLD

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Notes for Contributors.

Articles should be between 150 and 500 words long and emailed to: john@dumbrell.org.uk or sent in typewritten format. Emailed pictures should be no larger than 10x8 cm and at least 200dpi.



All pictures should have a file name relevant to their content. Actual photographs can be any size and will be returned. Letters to the Editor should be short and to the point. The Editor reserves the right to edit letters or articles as necessary.

Our next printed edition will appear in **May 2018** and the deadline for contributions is **1st April**, but it is hoped to produce email versions during the year. So please keep the articles coming in. It is your newsletter, and I rely on you all to keep the contributions coming in preferably with some photos.

John Dumbrell, Editor - john@dumbrell.org.uk

With our allotted time already exceeded, we returned ashore, got out of our protective gear, and were escorted to the Wardroom of HMS Nelson for an excellent lunch, hosted by Lieutenant -Commander Tom Evans, the Logistics Officer of *Defender*, before heading off home.

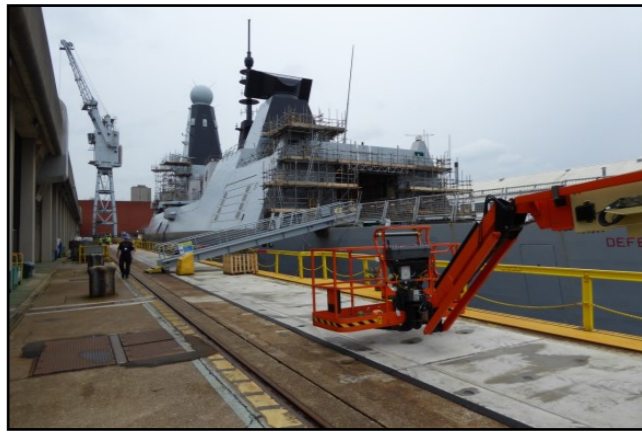


It was a fascinating visit and very good to maintain ties with our ship. Our grateful thanks go to Lt-Commander Evans RN for his hospitality and to Lt. Gregory Sinclair RN of the Refit Support Group for guiding us round and for patiently answering our many questions.

Michael de Styrcea

HMS defender Key Statistics:

- Launched October 2009; entered service July 2012
- Length 500 feet; Beam 70 feet; Draught 24 feet
- Displacement of 8,500 tons
- Speed in excess of 30 knots with a cruising range of 7,000 nautical miles
- Sea Viper defence system comprising Samson radar and Aster Missiles
- 4.5 inch gun plus other weapon systems
- Carries 1 x Merlin or 2 x Wild Cat Helicopters
- Crew of 191



Visit to HMS Defender - 23rd March 2017

A cold, grey and blustery day saw a small group of Fletchers assemble at the Guard Room of HMS Nelson at Portsmouth Naval Base prior to a visit to “our” ship. Security was high following the previous day’s Westminster attack and Union Jacks, both ashore and on board HM ships, were flying at half-mast.

Defender is currently undergoing a refit in dry dock, prior to re-floating in January 2018. The original intention had been to descend to the bottom of the dock to view the hull and propellers, but anti-fouling spray painting of the below water line hull rendered it a highly toxic environment, so an on-board tour was substituted instead. Protective clothing and footwear was donned complete with hard hat and goggles and we moved dockside. The first thing to strike one is the sheer size of the ship. The length of 1.5 football pitches and almost the height of Nelson’s column from keel to the top of the radar dome; she is a very impressive piece of kit. For those interested, some statistics are set out on the page opposite.

We crossed the gangplank to the Helicopter deck, through the Hangar and into the Systems Control Centre from where all the mechanical and electrical systems in the ship are monitored and controlled. As a fighting ship, the extent of protection against incoming missile and shell damage was explained, together with the back-up systems in case primary systems should be knocked out; for example, there are 6 back-ups/alternatives for steering the ship.

From the Systems Control Centre, we were guided along gangways, up and down steep ladders and then had to climb a vertical ladder (hard hats came in useful here!) to gain access to the Missile Silo. Along with the 4.5 inch gun, this is the core of the ship’s weaponry. A large space, four stories high, it holds silos for 48 Aster Missiles. Then on to the ship’s Operations Room. Much of the equipment was either covered or removed but one got a sense of how the different shipboard functions came together to fight the ship under the Captain’s direction. These, working in tandem with the Samson radar system, provide the raison-d’etre of the ship – as a defensive shield for a naval task group against airborne and missile attack. Able to track up to 100 targets at any one time and with the ability to knock out an object the size of a cricket ball travelling at three times the speed of sound, it was not surprising to learn that *Defender* and the five other Type 45 destroyers in her class are highly valued air defence escorts for the massive US Navy aircraft carriers.



The Installation Court and Dinner. (cont.)



After the business of the Court was concluded, the Beadle presented Gordon Sharp to the Court for admission as a Liveryman and he made the oath of allegiance and was clothed as a Liveryman.

At about 6.45 pm, the new Master and Wardens received us and our guests for the celebratory dinner. Needless to say, many members of Clare’s family were present including her two young sons, Sam and Alex who, as we sat down to dinner, recited the “Grace”.

Dinner itself was an excellent meal with an Escalope of Cod as the starter followed by a Slow Cooked Rump of West Country Lamb. The dessert was a chocolate medley. After the customary toasts, the Master and Wardens invited us all to take part in a “Loving Cup”. A series of cups were produced for each of the table sprigs and the cups passed round in the usual manner – there appeared to be a wager on which sprig would finish first!!



After coffee was served, the Upper Warden, Dr Watson, made a witty speech welcoming all our guests and, in particular, Michael Cooper, the Principal Guest. He went on to outline Mr Cooper’s career and his connections with the City including the fact that he is a Past Master Parish Clerk.



Dr Watson concluded by proposing the toast to “Our Guests”. Michael Cooper responded on behalf of the guests mentioning his long friendship with Clare and congratulating her on her appointment as Master. He concluded by proposing the toast to The Worshipful Company of Fletchers and their Master.



The Beadle then asked for silence to hear the Master’s response, which received a round of applause. The Master started by repeating the welcome to all the guests and particularly her family. In addition to her two sons, her husband, Nigel, and her parents were also present. She went on to thank them all for supporting her. She also thanked everyone for electing her and providing help and in particular, Stuart Fraser the outgoing Master. She then presented Stuart with his Past Master’s badge. Clare concluded by inviting everyone to join her and the Wardens upstairs for a stirrup cup. She sat down to great applause..

Dinner was now concluded with the Master leading her party from the room. They were quickly joined by the rest of the company for a final drink before we left for home after an excellent evening.

John Dumbrell

Master, Clare James—My Aspirations for the coming Year



As I write this I am knee deep in the City elections, which are proving something of a short-term distraction from focusing on my year as Master – a year that has been planned meticulously over the last 12 months with almost every detail now put in place. To this end I must thank the members of the Events Committee who listened to my initial ideas, made suggestions which I took on board and helped me create my programme of events.

When planning my programme during 2016 and looking ahead at dates in 2017 and 2018 these seemed so far away; I now realise that my Installation on 4 April is fast approaching and all that has been planned is about to become reality. Am I ready? Will I be worthy of the responsibility bestowed upon me by the Livery? Will everyone enjoy the programme I have put together? What

legacy do I wish to leave at the end of my year?

On the latter theme, I was recently asked what objectives I have for my year. When I reflected on this question I realised that what I really wanted to do was to promote and celebrate the special family atmosphere of the Fletchers. It is very pleasing to note our increasing number of younger liverymen in recent years and, as a working Liveryman with a young family, I know how challenging it is to balance family and work, let alone in addition to playing an active part in the City. I sympathise with our younger Liverymen facing similar challenges and who may find it harder to play a regular part in Fletchers' life. I also appreciate that we have a diverse mix of Liverymen of all ages; indeed this is part of what makes the Fletchers so special. I am very conscious that the cost of formal lunches and dinners has escalated in the City and I want to make sure that the Fletchers' programme of events remains accessible to all.

My theme for this year therefore centres around bringing the Livery together. My aspiration is to use a wide ranging programme of events, incorporating a number of lower cost events, to engage with all our Freemen and Liverymen and especially encourage those whom we may not have seen for a while to come along to an event and catch up with old friends. Whilst not everything will appeal to everyone, I hope I have managed to incorporate something for everyone. My aim is to meet as many Freemen and Liverymen as possible at our different events during my year and thus to lay secure foundations enabling the Fletchers to adapt and continue to grow into the future.



Clare James

Equipment Investment. As athletes enter the Archery GB pathway scheme, they may need to start with new equipment or change their existing; as development is fast tracked in the Pathway, the athletes can require regular equipment updates. Archery GB have suggested there is a more sustainable way of supporting the athletes and they propose to invest in a "equipment try and exchange scheme" owned and managed by Archery GB Performance at their Lilleshall HQ. Under this scheme, the archers can try out and then use the equipment as they need it, then exchange it back into the equipment pool when they require upgrading. Once the pool is established, athletes can be supported for years to come.

Classification Investment. In order to become a Paralympian, archers need to undergo "classification" which enables them to compete in one of the disabled classifications. The archers can find this tiring, stressful and insensitive when being assessed "outside the camp". Archery GB wish to invest in, say, four classifiers offering them training and development opportunities as part of a national classifying group.

National Championship Sponsorship. Archery GB do not run a national disability championship but believe this should be established as a priority, in order that all disabled archers can compete and demonstrate their skills. Archery GB wish to build this into their "competitive calendar" and have asked for the Trust's support. They wish to name this competition "The Worshipful Company of Fletchers Championship". The Company has sought to increase its profile in recent years and this could be an ideal opportunity. From initial discussions, the venues could be high profile, and of course it would promote the partnership between the Company and Archery GB.

The cost of this proposal would total £53,000 but spread over four years. This is less than the Rio total.

At their last meeting the Charity Committee agreed to support Archery GB's request.

It is stressed that the Tokyo proposals will in no way reduce the Trust's commitment to other archery organisations,- particularly grass roots – which have been supported for some time.

Michael Holden Hon Almoner

Births

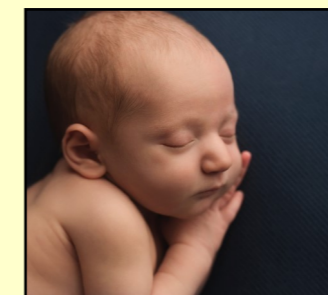


Congratulations to :

Georgina and Robert Benton on the recent birth of Alexa Chloe



Robert and Georgina Selwyn on the birth of Joshua.



Slightly belated congratulations to Sophie and Alessandro Wootton Buroso on the birth of George about 9 months ago.



THEN and NOW – TARGET TOKYO

Rio is over but, what a year we have had!



The paralympic archers achieved their best performance ever with 3 golds, 3 silvers and one bronze. Not to mention 3 MBEs.

And the Worshipful Company of Fletchers shared in that success; our funding of the Rio Dream was obviously worthwhile and created a legacy for the future – the Pathway and the training of coaches. Six of the medal winners at Rio were “debutantes” who would not have participated had it not been for our funding.

The Fletchers’ Trust had a very busy year supporting the archers and other organisations and, of course, non archery charities. The Trust spent a record amount of nearly £45,000 in 2016, broken down as follows:-

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|----------|
| Awards to individual archers | approx | £14,000 |
| Awards to archery organisations | approx | £ 24,000 |
| Miscellaneous | approx | £ 6,500 |

But even while the celebrations were taking place, plans for the next Paralympic Games in Tokyo were under way. In the run up to Rio, Archery GB, the organisation representing British archers, had identified some areas which needed strengthening and over a period of several meetings sought the Trust’s help for the following:

New Liverymen of the Worshipful Company of Fletchers

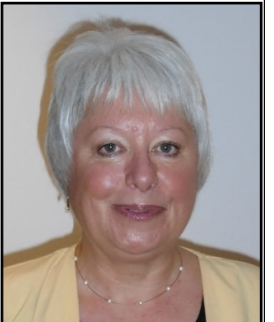


Leigh Bowman-Perks

Leigh is CEO of the executive development firm, Clareo Potential and is an Executive Coach & Top Team Facilitator, Motivational Speaker and Philanthropist. Author of “Inspiring Women Leaders”, co-author of the inspiring “Leadership Top Tips” series and co-designer of “Inspiring Leadership Compass” and a suite of psychometric tools. Leigh works with top organisations around the world, and is respected for her particular passion for developing women and promoting social inclusion and equality. She is the founder & trustee of the charity, Inspiring Leadership Trust, helping to advance the lives of some of the most vulnerable women and their families in the UK and Internationally.

She joined the Company in July 2016, and is a Steward this year. Leigh and her husband Jonathan split their time between busy working lives. in London and their home in Lincolnshire. Jonathan is a member of the Bowyers’ Company.

Sian is the sister of Freeman Neil Fletcher, who is Beadle to the Bakers’ Company. Sian worked at various Government departments until early retirement. She lives in Cardiff, where she is a Magistrate on Family and Adult Courts; she is a Lay Member on the Independent Panel for Schools Appeals and Exclusions and a trustee of a local animal charity, as well being active in her local Church.



Sian Davies



Robert Selwyn

Robert is a partner at a legal practice based in Enfield. He specialises in working with elderly clients and those unable to manage their own affairs, as well as all aspects of residential and commercial property, wills, probate etc. Robert is a Freemason and his other interests include football (Arsenal in particular), gardening (including an allotment), comic and graphic novels. He is married to Georgina and they have two sons.

Jane owns and runs an insurance broker, E.S.J.G. Ltd., specialising in Kidnapping for Ransom Insurance. She is also a flautist, fisherman and animal lover, having three dogs and two cats. She was widowed in 2012 and has three gorgeous stepsons, James, Simon and Nicholas - and of course her step grandson Charlie. Her brother David is joining the Gunmakers’ Company and their father was Private Secretary to the Lord Mayor.”



Jane Gilbert



Michael Hoffman

Michael spent most of his career in the City as a Stock-broker, ultimately with the Investment Bank UBS. He is a keen skier and was pleased to join Adrian and Ben Scott Knight to represent the Fletchers at the annual Livery Ski Competition in Morzine in January. Mike enjoys an active retirement, his other interests include Cricket (an MCC member), Hill Walking, Motoring (both two wheels and four), and makes a regular pilgrimage to the Le Mans 24 hour race. Mike is a Steward to the Company this year.

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Chris Scott

Chris transferred from Freeman to Liveryman this year. Chris is well known to those who attended John Owen-Ward's holiday, where his expertise guided everyone over the battlefields of Crecy & Agincourt. Chris spent his career teaching theatre & managing an FE college. He won a Contemporary Playwright Award whilst working as Head of Education for the Royal Armouries at the Tower of London. Aside from being a published expert in Military History, Chris is a re-enactor, being a retired parliamentarian Lord General and serving aboard HMS Victory during the Trafalgar celebrations. He also enjoys travel, Steam Punk, stamp collecting and wargaming with model soldiers. Chris is married to Pamela who lectured in English and managed a Higher Education programme;

they live in Swindon.

Howard is an experienced management consultant, specialising in change management, leadership and business improvement. Having held a range of senior and strategic positions in the public, private and voluntary sectors and, most recently, in the Audit Commission; he is currently Lead Assistant Commissioner to the Boundary Commission for England. This involves chairing Public Hearings in different parts of the country, inviting and collating views and representations from Ministers, MPs, Local Authorities, political parties, business/community groups and all interested individuals prior to writing independent reports to be presented to Parliament, recommending new and revised parliamentary boundaries.



Howard Simmons



Gordon Sharp

Gordon is already a Liveryman of the Actuaries' Company, and is their Honorary Treasurer. He joins us as an enthusiastic and accomplished (1st Class recurve) archer, and is a fellow actuary professional like our new Master. He retired from KPMG in 2013. Other than archery, Gordon's interests include golf, skiing, bridge and travel. He is also a member of the Lotus 7 club, driving his ageing Caterham 7 around the occasional airfield track. Gordon is married to Marion, and they have two daughters and one granddaughter.

New Freeman

Jeremy (Jez) is currently commanding 1st Battalion, Royal Fusiliers in Tidworth. He has met various Fletchers whilst he worked in London as Military Assistant to the Minister of State for the Armed Forces before taking up his command in August 2016. Jez was awarded the MC for personal bravery whilst serving in Iraq in 2006.



Dan Spencer

Daniel is a former student of Professor Anne Curry and has achieved his doctorate in Medieval History. Daniel (Dan) was a volunteer on the Agincourt 600 Committee. He continues to publish academic articles in Medieval History as well as conducting his research, which sometimes includes translating Latin into English.



Jes Lamb

A Big Thankyou from Ken and Fred the Dog

Today, I had to go to Merlin Archery Shop, Durham, for some 40cm targets to keep up my training for the 2017 Invictus Archery Team. It was with great surprise & joy to be told by the Store Manager that they had received a payment note for myself from The Worshipful Company of Fletchers. I shall endeavour to do my best and bring back a medal and also to keep you informed of my progress if this would not impose on your time. I have just trialled in Bath for the 2017 Invictus Games, and during that weekend I was not outshot by either Novice or Open Recurve Archer, so could not have done any more to make the Novice Recurve team. Plus this was only a couple of days since I had radical surgery (second time) for the complete removal of the right hand side sinus structures due to CA. So I was still on the ropes a little trying to recover from the op and the 8 hours car travel to get from home to Bath. We had been accommodated at Tedsworth House by H4H over the Trials. The weekend before I Won the Open Novice Championships for Durham & Northumberland and I have also had my Para Classification done, so that I can compete as a wheelchair Archer, with the aim of trying to make the 2020 Tokyo Games, we shall see!. Anyway that's up to speed. May I once again say Thank You!!!!!! to all of your members for your most kind help and sponsorship.



Prince Harry addresses the Bath Meeting

Kindest of regards Ken & Fred the Dog.
Capt. (Retd.) Ken Hargreaves & Fred,
the Resisted Assistance Dog.
Disabled Gulf War II Veteran, Wheelchair & Assistance Dog User.

Inter Livery Races, Morzine January 2017.



The Inter Livery Ski Races took place on 19th and 20th January in Morzine, France which is not far from Lake Geneva and for the first time the Fletchers entered a team comprising of Deputy Master Adrian Scott Knight and Liverymen Michael Hoffman and Ben Scott Knight.

There were teams from 27 different livery companies, some of whom entered more than one team. We didn't do very well, but all three of us completed the course. Hopefully in future more Fletchers will be able to attend.

Ben arrived on the Tuesday to get some familiarity with the mountains and Michael and I arrived quite late on the Wednesday evening. On Thursday there was a parallel race to sort out the running order for the main race on the Friday. There was a reception on the Thursday evening, which with most if not all of the 230 attendees squeezed into one room, was a good opportunity to talk to people one knew and to meet some of those that one didn't know.

The weather was kind on both days so the inevitable waits at the starts were not onerous. The racing standard was quite high, but racing suits were not permitted. The Coopers with 3 racers under 25 won comfortably, with the Grocers second and the Mercers third. Friday night's gala event was a very good event with numerous prizes, but regrettable none won by the Fletchers.

On the Saturday Ben got in another days skiing and Michael and I joined an Air Pilot, who drove us across Switzerland into Italy for the Stock Exchange race week (Interbourse). After 10 days in the mountains, I needed a holiday.

Adrian Scott Knight

Review of my year as Master



Both Laura and I have thoroughly enjoyed my year as Master. It has been a privilege to represent the Livery at many events and to enjoy meeting many new friends. I have always found that the Fletchers are held in high esteem and have a reputation of excellent hospitality combined with a relaxed atmosphere and fun. I think this is reflected in the steady flow of new members this year.

Of course, the year has been dominated by dealing with the completion of our move to our new Hall. I must say it was not too onerous as my predecessors had laid the groundwork and a number of Court Members rolled up their sleeves to make sure we finished the job. It is always difficult to name names without the risk of upsetting some but I would like to personally

thank Jeremy Garnett for his work on the property issues, our recent Chairman of Finance and our new Master Clare, and of course our learned Clerk, Kate, for organising and recording the numerous meetings on top of the normal business of the Livery. Andrew MacMillan and Bob Hall should also be mentioned for painstakingly going through the legal structure.

The result has been worth all the effort. We have a lovely Hall with a lift, air conditioning, a much-upgraded ladies' cloakroom and good caterers. Long may it last. The financials are now settled, or at least quantifiable and we have a proper spreadsheet to plan our future. In the final analysis, it is new Members that we need if we are to survive in the longer term and this should be taken on board by all members.

In my year, we have had some memorable events, particularly the Master's trip to Andalucia with breath taking scenery, marvellous buildings, good food and great company. Perfect. We enjoyed the visit to the Mansion House to see the art collection and the gold and silver in the vaults. This was followed by a very enjoyable lunch in the Members Private Dining room in Guildhall. A private tour of the Barbican Centre was followed by a relaxed lunch in a nearby restaurant. A large group of us were entertained during a visit to RAF Northolt and the Tower Shoot, attended by the Lord Mayor, was blessed by good weather and a delicious supper afterwards in the Officers Mess. It was inspirational to see the results of our charity's work when the Paralympian Team joined us for our Service of Thanksgiving and lunch. Equally inspiring was meeting some of the archers at the annual shoot for archers with a disability (or disabilities) held at the Royal Toxophilite ground each May.

I know that Kate has written to some members recently whose donations to the Trust lapsed, owing to the bank no longer processing direct debits. If you are not currently making a donation to the Trust, may I urge you to do so, the benefit of equipment to archers with disability cannot be overstated.

In my year, I have tried to make things more informal and to have fun without undermining the importance of our traditions. I think we are on a roll. Finally, my heartfelt thanks to Laura who, in collaboration with Kate, has managed to keep me on the straight and narrow and she has attended every event.

Deputy Master Stuart Fraser



John Owen-Ward MBE 17 December 1934 - 21 January 2017

We were all saddened by the loss of John Owen-Ward who was Master in 2011/12 and also served as Clerk to the Company from 1994 to 2002. John was also involved in starting the Company website and introducing this magazine. A memorial service to give thanks for his life was held in St Lawrence Jewry on the 26th April. John was involved in many aspects of the City and is remembered for many things. The church was packed and the Tribute to John was given by Sir Alan Yarrow and the following is an extract from what he said;

“John Owen Ward died on 21st January 2017

John always said that his involvement in the City started when he attended Mercers' School. He was later President of the Guild of Mercers' Scholars. He trained as an architect and was in private practice for many years.

John became Clerk to two livery companies, the Bowyers and the Fletchers, which must have tested his diplomatic skills considerably, since the two companies had been and are still intense rivals, following the Bowyers' breakaway from the Fletchers... as recently as 1371. He became a Liveryman of the Masons in 1977 and was a founder member of the Chartered Architects Company, where he became their second Master in 1986.

After retiring as Clerk to the Fletchers, John became a liveryman and served as Master Fletcher in 2011-12 for a very successful year. Everybody who came across him commented on his discretion and his enthusiasm for everything to do with the City Livery movement.

Elected Common Councilman for the Ward of Bridge and Bridge Without in 1983, John set about reviving the then largely moribund **Bridge Ward Club**. It is in large part due to his efforts that the Club today has over 200 members and is one of the most vibrant Ward Clubs in the City. Some of us say the BEST!

Always a stickler for protocol, John was positively shocked when somebody suggested lounge suits for dinner, rather than black tie. Black tie it was, and still is! It is good to see a large number of Club members here today.

John was Common Councilman for a mere 32 years serving on many committees. City Side of Greshams, Hampstead Heath, Port Health. His passion was, however, always buildings and his conservative appearance hid a creative and exciting mind.

One of the highlights of a distinguished career was his Chairmanship of the Planning and Transportation Committee, which oversaw the transformation of the City with the building of a number of iconic buildings. Being an architect, John was able to bring his considerable expertise and insight to the Committee. He championed high calibre design which enhanced the City's historic environment, and his term as Chairman saw the first award of the

(Continued on page 8)



(Continued from page 7)

Stirling Prize for Architecture to a commercial building – the Gherkin at 30 St Mary Axe – and the granting of a prestigious national Royal Town Planning Institute award to the Merrill Lynch Financial Centre in Newgate Street. He was also heavily involved in the revitalisation of Cheapside as a shopping destination.

John's expertise was also invaluable to the Guildhall Improvement Project, the results of which some of us benefit from every day. Indeed, John's impressive contribution to the work of the City Corporation throughout the years was justly recognised in 2008 when he was made a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in the New Year's Honours' List.

He served on this committee from 1985-2013, being involved with the Gherkin, the Cheese Grater, Walkie Talkie, One New Change, not to mention the stairs at London Bridge, to name but a few. Architects like to leave their mark. John certainly did that."

Members of John's family—He was very much a family man—also gave thanks for his life, including his Grandson, Laurie, who read his poem "Marmalade and Custard".

A large number of Fletchers, Bowyers and other Liverymen were at the service, which was taken by Canon David Parrott

JLD

1921 (Lewisham) Squadron ATC

David Preece has recently handed over command of the Squadron to Flying Officer Wesley Pollard, this will give David more time to devote himself to his new post as Head of Department at St Dunstan's School. The good news is that Wesley has been the Squadron Training Officer for the past few years and so brings excellent continuity to the post. He has just sent us the exciting news below.

"You might also like to know that 1921 (Lewisham) Squadron has been nominated by the Officer Commanding London Wing to represent the Wing in the Lees Trophy which is awarded to what is judged to be the top cadet squadron in the country. So far we have been selected as one of the 6 nominations for the London and South-East Region (one squadron from each of six Wings). Three of the six squadrons nominated will be selected by paper sift (activities and achievements) and will go on to be visited by the Regional Commandant. He will then select one squadron from the three that progress to this stage for the final review by Commandant Air Cadets of the six regional candidates. We have a long way to go but the last two winners of the trophy came from London Wing so you never know! It may or may not be an advantage that I have just met the Commandant Air Cadets and the Regional Commandant visited the squadron last year. I'll keep you posted.

Best regards,

Wesley "

Although the final selection has not yet taken place, just to be nominated is a great achievement for the Squadron.

Tim Eltringham

Visit to RAF Northolt—27th January 2017

On a chilly day in January, twenty five inquisitive Fletchers were given a wonderfully warm welcome to our affiliated Royal Air Force Unit, RAF Northolt.

Following an invitation last year from the Commanding Officer, Group Captain David Manning, we were kindly given a fascinating glimpse of the history of the Station and some of its every day activities at this "the only strip of military concrete within the M25".

We were welcomed by Wg Cdr Gaz Littlechild, Station Ops Officer, and Wg Cdr Steve Courtnadge, OC 32 (The Royal) Squadron, who gave an excellent brief on the Station's main roles and the units it hosts. The principal role is to provide a base for Royal and Government VIP flights and other military activities, but it also facilitates up to 12,000 private aviation flights per year which help to fund more than 50% of the running costs of the station.



The Station also hosts: No 1 AIDU (Aeronautical Information Documents Unit); the British Forces Post Office; 621 EOD Sqn - a specialist unit of the British Army's Royal Logistic Corps - responsible for counter terrorist explosive ordnance disposal (EOD); The Queen's Colour Squadron - renowned for their ceremonial drill but with an operational role providing protection to vulnerable airfields; Headquarters, Music Services and the Central Band of the RAF; the tri-Service Prosecution Authority; and 600 (City of London) Squadron, Royal Auxiliary Air Force.

After the brief, we moved to the indoor Close Combat Training Range where most members had an exhilarating hour "shooting" fully representative SA-80 weapons on an extremely realistic laser firing range. Our gallant Clerk proved to be most adept – you have been warned! It was also great fun to see "the ancient para" (Liveryman John Power) demonstrate his skills at stripping and rebuilding a GPMG machine gun – only to be completely stymied by the more modern equivalent!

Following that, we had a brief visit to the Station Fire Section where everyone enjoyed clambering around the huge fire engines and meeting the firefighters.

After lunch in the Officers' Mess, the highlight of the day was the tour of 32 (The Royal) Squadron. Not only was it fascinating to see the royal aircraft and have a chance to sit in The Queen's seat, but it was also intriguing to see just how basic and spartan are the two BAE-146 aircraft that are used for senior government flights – noisy, cramped seats, no flight entertainment and half the cabin set up as a cargo hold!



All in all it was a very informative and an enjoyable day.

Tim Eltringham