



La Flèche

email edition

September 2019 issue 50a



10th Anniversary Celebrations

The City of London Academy Islington marked its 10th anniversary with a celebration in the Guildhall on 21 May 2019, which PM Andrew Macmillan and Renter Warden Anne Curry were delighted to attend. COLAI has come on with leaps and bounds since its formation, and has been strongly supported by both the City and the City University. Our links with the school are also strong, not least as they chose to name one of their four houses after our company. The event also celebrated the outcome of their recent Ofsted inspection, which led to an 'outstanding' grade.



Andrew and I were pleased to meet at the event the new head of Fletchers House, Mr Ahmet Durak, who succeeded Mr Adam Smith. Fletchers House are the current Sports Day, Talent Show and Overall House Champions, and at the last awards evening, the Year 7 Overall PE award and Overall House Award were all received by Fletchers students. We look forward to continuing our links with COLAI and Fletchers House.



Anne Curry

Sheriff's Horse Ride – 10th July

Members may recall a plea to donate to the Sheriff's and Recorder Fund in support of Aldermanic Sheriff Vincent Keaveny and lay Sheriff, Liz Green riding around the City on horseback.

Their escorts, The Light Cavalry, HAC mounted outside the Old Bailey in Warwick Square and then proceeded to Guildhall Yard, where Liz and Vincent took charge of their mounts, before calling at Mansion House. From thence to Grocers', Drapers', Furniture Makers' and some further 10 Livery Halls before calling at Farmers' and Fletchers'.

Moments before their arrival the drilling began, followed by a huge articulated lorry turning into Cloth Street. Your Clerk tackled the lorry, persuading the driver to hold off for a few minutes, whilst Master Farmer stopped the drilling. The sound of hoofs was heard, and the ensemble turned into Cloth Street.

The Master had to attend a funeral that day, and was kindly represented by Stuart Robbens, our Upper Warden and the Clerk together with Rosie Carne, Master Farmer and her Clerk, Graham Bamford who greeted the riders and their



“shanks pony” supporters. The walkers, one of whom was Past Master Andrew McMillan accompanied the horses along the route shaking buckets. A brief photo call and chat and they were off to visit further Halls on their return to Warwick Square.

At lunch at the Old Bailey, both Sheriff's commented on how much they had enjoyed the ride, it possibly surpassed their other duties in the year in terms of enjoyment, and it transpired that a man in a white van had popped £20 into one of the buckets – he was an ex prisoner, now gainfully employed.

The following day in thanking their supporters they wrote *We were lucky that it was dry (and not too warm) – pleased to report that we're walking okay this morning! Having so many people helping collect on the day made a huge difference and created a great atmosphere. We Hope you enjoyed it as much as we did – we're still buzzing!*

And they raised some £6,200 for the fund.



Golf Fund Raising Day Drives Off

May 22nd saw some 50 Fletchers and their guests descend on Dummer Golf Club near Basingstoke for the 2019 Fletchers golf fundraising event. The sun shone, the course looked beautiful and the company was excellent. With an early start, all were welcomed with coffee and bacon sandwiches in the clubhouse. Even before anyone had teed off, over £1,000 had been raised from the purchase of Mulligans (free shots to replace a botched one), the sale of raffle tickets, Fletcher golfing sweaters etc; a very promising start to proceedings.



Ten teams participated playing over the full 18 holes. The winners were Team Trapnell comprising Andrew Trapnell, Melanie Trapnell, Rae Perry and Neil Perry. Honours went to Adrian Scott Knight for the shot nearest the line; to Andrew Mc Crea for nearest the pin with Mike Grainger having the best individual score.

Non-golfing Fletchers had their own putting competition won convincingly by our very determined and focussed Clerk Kate who also hit two holes in one. She claims beginners luck!

The club

laid on an excellent and convivial lunch with the Master welcoming our guests. Our new Ambassador, Tania Nadarajah, who sadly couldn't join us owing to training commitments, sent a recorded video message paying tribute to the role of the Fletcher's Trust in supporting disabled archery in general and her in particular. The day concluded with Prizegiving and three happy raffle ticket winners staggered home with over thirty bottles of wine between them.

The day raised a total of £4,000 towards our causes. This sum included donations from Fletcher golfers who were unable to attend and a very generous anonymous donation of £1,000 from one of our guests.

A huge thank you to Liveryman Peter Beard and PM Adrian Scott Knight for all their hard work to ensure such a successful and happy day. And many thanks also to those Fletchers who put together teams. We look forward avidly to the next golf day.



Michael de Styrcia

Royal Navy's Annual Flotilla Awards

On Friday 18th July, Liveryman Baron de Styrcea represented the Company at the Royal Navy's Annual Flotilla Awards Ceremony, held in the official residence of the 2nd Sea Lord; a very grand and historic building in the middle of Portsmouth dockyard. Unfortunately, the 2nd Sea Lord could not join the ceremony as he was, not unsurprisingly, working hard dealing with the Royal Navy's response to the tanker hijackings in the Gulf.

The Captain and crew of each ship and shore establishment at the base nominate the individual who has made the greatest contribution to the ship for the past year. Commander Richard Hewitt, DEFENDER's Captain was fulsome in his praise of DEFENDER's winner, and all the Naval personnel that Michael talked with had high praise for DEFENDER as one of the best ships in the fleet.



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.



July Court Lunch

On Tuesday 9th July, the sun was shining and the temperature bearable, both being unusual this summer! Court members convened at Watermen's Hall, and after a steaming cup of coffee (or tea) Court began at 10am. The main item on the agenda was the precise wording of the Royal Charter and its concomitant Bylaws and Ordinances, and discussions on these were followed by the usual reports to Court from the Chairmen of the Company's committees.

Once the business of the Court was concluded it was time for admissions. Michele Burrell and Natalie Coney were clothed in our Livery. Natalie is Ann Spain's daughter and a senior civil servant, and Michele is the wife of a Constructors' Past Master and has been involved in making arrangements for his Past Masters association following a career as an electrologist.

Helen George, who has been involved with and promoted and developed archery for the disabled for many years was made an Honorary Freeman of the Company.

After a brief break to turn the Freemans Room where the Court meeting was held around, some 36 Liverymen and their guests enjoyed some sparkling rose before going into lunch in the Georgian elegance of the Watermen's Company Hall. Salmon with asparagus, followed by baked Atlantic cod in a sorrel sauce with summer vegetables was served, before a sumptuous soft fruit crème brûlée and blackcurrant sorbet.

The Trust's first ambassador, Tania Nadarajah was the Master's guest on honour, who gave a speech thanking the Company for its support of her personally, and to the development and growth of archery for the disabled. Her words were echoed by Helen George who also spoke and subsequently sent the Company the following email:

"To All Members of the Worshipful Company of Fletchers

I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone, for the honour given to me and for the luncheon provided in London on July 9th. It is much appreciated. I would also like to say how grateful I am for all the help given to Archers over the years from the Fletchers. That support has helped us to win a considerable number of Archery International Paralympic medals.

Many thanks for everything on behalf of Archery GB."



Helen George Natalie Coney Michelle Burrell

Bowyers versus Fletchers

The Tower Shoot 25th June 2019



Bowyers' and Fletchers' gathered in the east moat of Her Majesty's Tower for our annual shooting contest. Aply assisted by volunteers from the London Archers, a few practice arrows were loosed and then then it was every arrow to count - the competition was on! Moreover, this time it was a "barebow" competition – no sights on the bow to help with the aim – was this a cunning ploy by a Bowyer to gain advantage? The Pimm's team did a sterling job, and despite the influence some stronger mixes most arrows landed on the targets or very close to them!

We were joined in the Moat by Colonel James Denny and Lieutenant Colonel Jez Lamb from the Fusiliers, and Debbie Whittingham, the Deputy Governor and head of security and operations at the Tower; who also joined us for supper.

The Companies repaired to the Fusiliers' Mess for an enjoyable buffet supper, with choices of Salmon en Croute, a Guinea Fowl Chasseur or Pork Fillet with apples served in a cider sauce. Individual pavlovas, profiterole or a honey and

yogurt cheesecake followed.

All went quiet when the Deputy Governor stood up to announce the winner of the Governor's Trophy, a small wooden box said to be a replica of the arrow box in which Anne Boleyn was buried. The competition is always hard fought if friendly, and since the Fletchers' had won the Trophy in 2017 and 2018, we hoped for a hat trick; and this year the scores were especially close, with only one mark's difference in the two Company's scores: 213 to the Bowyers' and 214 to the Fletchers'! The highest scoring guest was Tony Ward a member of the Gunmakers' Company with 26 but the highest individual score of 27 out of a possible 30, went to Past Master Chris Brown, which undoubtedly contributed to our win.



After the prize giving and speeches a Yeoman Warder joined us to give a brief on the Ceremony of the Keys, the traditional locking up of the Tower and has taken place every night without fail since at least 1555. The importance of securing this fortress for the night is still very relevant because although the monarch no longer resides at this Royal Palace, her Crown Jewels do! During the Second World War several bombs fell on the Tower and in September 1941 it is recorded that following a direct hit the ceremony was delayed by half an hour, but still went ahead. Many of the assembled Bowyers' and Fletchers' attended the ceremony on the 25th June, the Escort for the Keys that evening, being the Coldstream Guards.

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

Thanks to the Fletchers' Trust

My name is Helen Powell. I am 36 years old and I live in the North East of England. After a Skiing accident when I was 17, I developed Complex Regional Pain Syndrome: A degenerative, neurological condition which causes me to experience intense, unrelenting pain in my right leg.



When I was younger, I was very sporty and active; frequently partaking in Horse-Riding, Hapkido (a Korean Martial Art), SCUBA diving and Skiing. After my accident, I found the immobility caused by my condition difficult to reconcile. As my condition is exacerbated by movement, I needed a sport that would quench my thirst for activity whilst limiting movement. After much searching, I found that Archery fit these criteria perfectly... I was hooked!

I first discovered archery in 2014 and since then, it has improved my quality of life dramatically. It makes me feel competitive and included again in the same way that Horse-Riding and Martial Arts did before my injury. I also found that the focus and mental discipline required in Archery creates a welcome distraction from my pain.

I was introduced to the British Wheelchair Archery Association (BWAA) by Helen George (an Hon. Freeman archer and AGB Para Coach), whom I met whilst competing in my County Championships back in 2015. Since then, my technique has gone from strength to strength.



With the aid of funding from the Fletchers, I have been able to acquire a high quality Spotting Scope that is both very powerful and very lightweight and compact. I had been struggling to find a way to view my arrows accurately at competitive distances due to the limits inherent to my disability. The more powerful scopes are usually larger and heavier and when attached to my chair, they become unstable, slip out of position easily and wobble around, thus aggravating my condition.

Receiving this funding has enriched my overall shooting experience immeasurably. It allows me to be more independent on the shooting line as I can see exactly what results my efforts are having in real time, giving me accurate feedback as I train. This has boosted my confidence greatly and will undoubtedly help me to achieve my full potential as an archer in the years to come. **Thanks**

Helen Powell

FLEXIT ... ARCHERY AND FOOD!



If you are a diligent Fletcher and follower of la Fleche - well you must be, because you are reading this - then you will recall my "Flexit" article last year calling for The Worshipful Company to flex their arm muscles and support our 2019 archery days at Noak Hill. Well thankyou everyone, you responded in force and we had a full house for the 16 May event.

Having canvassed all who attended, I can report that the universal response was ... **what an excellent day out it was!** The sun shone, the archery targets were challenging but great fun, the instruction from the Noak Hill archers was invaluable, everyone surprised themselves with their skills and one of the novices even managed a triple gold (3 bullseyes in archery parlance) from three arrows – take a bow

Vince Gowler! All entered into the competition with vigour and, at the end of the day, the overall champion was "novice" Roy Campbell. For someone who "allegedly" had done little previous shooting it was a magnificent performance – congratulations Roy! In addition, Celia and Roy were awarded another prize - for the greatest distance travelled on the day. They confessed to having flown up from Gibraltar that very morning and were returning the same day!



Notwithstanding the archery fun, I need to let you into a secret.

The real reason that everyone loves our days out at Noak Hill is, not just for a great day of shooting, but also for the FOOD! After an early start to get there and then a busy morning of target competition, the lunchtime spread is a magnificent reward with hot pizza, canapes, sandwiches, seafood, salads, fresh strawberries, fruit and the most wonderful home-made APPLE PIE! It sets you up perfectly for the afternoon field shoot, which burns a good few calories (we

can all kid ourselves!). Then, after conquering the challenge of Noak Hill's master field target-setter, Dennis, we recover to the clubhouse for the final event of afternoon – prize giving and tea with home-made cakes and pastries. Which reminds me, I should also let you into another secret ... the tea-time prize was awarded to Lesley Agutter (our spiritual leader and organiser) for managing to consume a huge Danish pastry in its entirety (see picture)!



Whether you are a complete beginner (note: equipment and instruction is provided), an experienced archer or a spectator coming along for the fun and

the food - don't miss our next "Flexit" event on 18 September. Bookings through Lesley (lesley@corfa.co.uk).

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ARCHERY DATES TO March 2020

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

7 September	Saturday	Fletchers Day for Elite Archers – Clerk
14 & 15 September	Saturday and Sunday	Fletcher National Disability Championships Lilleshall michaelholden@hotmail.com
18 th September	Wednesday	Noak Hill lesley@corfa.co.uk
Saturday 26 th	October	British Blind Sport Coaching day for blind or visually impaired archers. Stoke Mandeville murrayxhallam@gmail.com
Saturday 30 th	November	British Blind Sport Coaching day for blind or visually impaired archers. Stoke Mandeville murrayxhallam@gmail.com
2020		
Saturday 11 th	January	British Blind Sport Coaching day for blind or visually impaired archers. Stoke Mandeville murrayxhallam@gmail.com
Saturday 22 nd	February	British Blind Sport Coaching day for blind or visually impaired archers. Stoke Mandeville murrayxhallam@gmail.com
Saturday 21 st	March	British Blind Sport Coaching day for blind or visually impaired archers. Stoke Mandeville murrayxhallam@gmail.com

Fletchers Golf Day

On Tuesday July 11, fifteen Fletchers booked to play at Thorndon Park Golf Club at our annual Fletchers' golf day. A day earlier, the South of England had experienced torrential downpours, causing a sink hole to appear under the central reservation of the M25 closing the motorway for several hours. As a result, our numbers were depleted by one non arrival and one very late one, both of whom spent a very frustrating morning.

The weather however behaved itself during our round which was played in bright sunshine and play was followed by an excellent carvery lunch. We were joined at lunch by the Master, who then presented the prizes.

The winner, for the second time in three years, of the MacLellan Cup for the best Stableford score, was Gordon Sharp. Second was Rob Cossey, third Mike Williams and fourth Paul Knight.

Best guest was Tom Clarke, a guest of Ted Hoefling, and a former captain of the club. Best lady was Melanie Trapnell. Nearest the pin on the short fifth was Peter Hollins and the longest driver on the eighteenth was Mike Williams. The Scott Knight trophy was fittingly won by Adrian Scott Knight.

Having visited West Surrey, Muswell Hill and Thorndon Park during the last three years, it is the turn of those living to the South of London to have less far to travel next year when we will play at Tandridge on Wednesday 17th June.



Mike Williams, Fletchers' Golf Secretary

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.

FLETCHER DIARY DATES SEPTEMBER 2019 – APRIL 2020

(and beyond where known)

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

2019			
7 th September	Saturday	F	Fletchers Day for Elite Archers, Burnham
14 th & 15 th September	Saturday & Sunday	F	Fletcher National Disability Championships Lilleshall
18 th September	Wednesday	F	Noak Hill
29 th September	Sunday	F	Sheep Drive over London Bridge
2 nd October	Wednesday		Election of the Lord Mayor and Lunch
2 nd October	Wednesday	F	Musicians' Company Evensong Service at St Paul's
7 th October	Monday		Lunch following a meeting of the Court at Innholders'
22 nd – 26 th October	Tuesday - Saturday		Master's Holiday, Taormina, Sicily
9 th November	Saturday	F	Lord Mayor's Show
13 th November	Wednesday		Ladies lunch
25 th & 26 th November	Monday & Tuesday	F	Red Cross Christmas Fair
4 th December	Wednesday		Carol Service
12 th December	Thursday		Christmas Luncheon at FFH
2020			
21 st January	Tuesday		Court Dinner at FFH
12 th March	Thursday		Ladies Banquet
27 th March	Friday		United Guilds Service
21 st April	Tuesday		Installation Court Dinner
10 th May TBC	Sunday	F	FDAD – Fletchers Day for Archers with Disability
12 th May	Tuesday		Sons of the Clergy Service at St Paul's
17 th June	Wednesday	F	Fletchers Golf Day, Tandridge GF, Godstone Road, Oxted RH8 9NQ
24 th June	Wednesday		Shrieval Elections and lunch at FFH. Armed Forces flag raising Guildhall Yard
6 th July TBC	Monday		Lunch or dinner following Court TBC
5 th September	Saturday	F	Fletchers Elite Archers Day
16 th September	Wednesday		Master's event – Visit to Freemason's Hall followed by lunch
29 th September TBC	Tuesday		Election of the Lord Mayor and lunch at FFH
13 th October	Tuesday		Luncheon following Court
2021			
25 th January	Monday		Dinner following a meeting of the Court

British Blind Sport Coaching days for blind or visually impaired archers at Stoke Mandeville, **Saturdays: 26 Oct, 30 Nov, 11 Jan, 22 Feb and 21 March**. In addition, the Trust supports Metro Blind Sports who run a monthly shooting session for archers with disability on 3rd Sunday of each month. acjcmcm@btopenworld.com