



LA FLÈCHE

January 2021 Issue51a

THE MAGAZINE OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FLETCHERS

A Royal Charter for our Company in its 650th year

Our Company for 650 years was unusual among the ancient Companies never to have sought a Royal Charter and was described as a Company by prescription. It had resolutely resisted incorporation believing that by doing so it retained its independence of any other authority. However, in the changing and more litigious times it was recognised that some move towards establishing the Company as a clear legal entity was deemed appropriate. Following a Strategic Plan Committee meeting in late 2016, Chairman PM Bob Hall on behalf of that Committee, made a recommendation to the January 2017 Court that a working group be formed to consider limiting the individual liability of Members of the Company either by forming a Company Limited by Guarantee or by submitting a petition to the Privy Council for the grant of a Royal Charter.

Following the Court's agreement to that recommendation and at a Strategic Plan Committee meeting in November 2017, it was agreed that PM Bob Hall would Chair the Working Group and that he would be joined by myself and Liveryman Simon McMenemy. The Working Group, having considered the circumstances relevant in the 21st Century, the options available to the Company and having taken the advices of Keith Lawrey, who had assisted a number of other Livery Companies to obtain a Royal Charter, recommended to the April 2018 Court that a Working Group be formed and its Terms of Reference agreed in order to petition for the grant of a Royal Charter as soon as is reasonably practicable. The Terms of Reference were agreed at that Court and the Working Group formed to include myself as Chairman, the Master Dr Roger Watson, PM Sir David Wootton, Liveryman Alex Gerver and Keith Lawrey (ex officio). Work then began in earnest and the Working Group met a number of times at Guildhall courtesy of Sir David Wootton.

At the July 2018 Court, I reported on the Working Group's progress and the various steps to be taken towards gaining a Royal Charter. I advised that the working group estimated the cost at £10,000. The Working Group continued its work during that summer culminating in the agreed wording of the Letter of Intent, dated 20th September 2018, being signed by the Master, Dr Roger Watson, at a Working Group meeting and it was subsequently hand delivered to the Privy Council by Keith Lawrey.

It was at this time that it appeared that, although the Fletchers' armorial bearings had been approved by Clarenceux, King of Arms, as early as 1467 and that a Crest was granted in 1486, the Supporters that appeared on the current Arms had never been approved by the College of Arms. PM Dr Roger Watson spent many hours at the Guildhall Library searching the old minute books but could find no evidence that an application to the College to approve the Supporters had ever been made. If the Arms including the Supporters were to feature on the Royal Charter, assuming it be granted, it would be necessary that the Arms including the Supporters be approved by the College of Arms.

The January 2020 Court gave approval for the application to be made to the College of Arms

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F-OFF Cup 2020, Match Report

Probably the only live Fletchers event in the year of Covid-19 took place on 14th October when we met the Founders at Tandridge Golf Club to play our annual match for the much coveted F-OFF trophy. For the uninitiated this is a cup that was donated in 1988 by the late Leslie Kemp, a Past Master of the Founders and the acronym stands for Festival Of Founders and Fletchers.

Both companies field a team of 6 players playing as three 4 balls and the result is determined by the overall number of holes won and lost. This year the Fletchers team comprised Gordon Sharp playing with Andrew Trapnell, Jeremy Garnett/ Mike Williams and Andy Wiggins /Rainer Vogt.

In the first match Jeremy Garnett and Mike Williams combined well and took an early lead against the Founders. A few holes

were then conceded but a magnificent recovery shot by Mike from under a tree into the heart of the green reversed that trend and, despite losing the last hole, the Fletchers duo finished a magnificent 5 holes up after 18.



In match two, Gordon Sharp and Andrew Trapnell stormed into a 3 hole

lead over the opening holes as the Founders struggled to get going. However when they did, they slowly clawed back the lead and by the 16th the match was all square. On the 17th a surplus of sand for Gordon and a missed put from Andrew allowed the Founders to go one hole up which they extended into a winning lead of two on the long par 5 last hole.

The third match saw Andy Wiggins and Rainer Vogt take an early lead but throughout the match it was nip and tuck until the Founders won on the last hole. If we had interpreted the Club rules applying on the day properly, the Fletchers would have won as the opposition removed a distance marker for their shot to the green, which was not allowed. However, as perfect gentlemen nothing was said.

So the upshot of what was an extremely enjoyable day was that as a result of Jeremy's and Mike's splendid performance the Fletchers won by 2 holes and thereby successfully retained the cup won the previous year.

Rainer Vogt

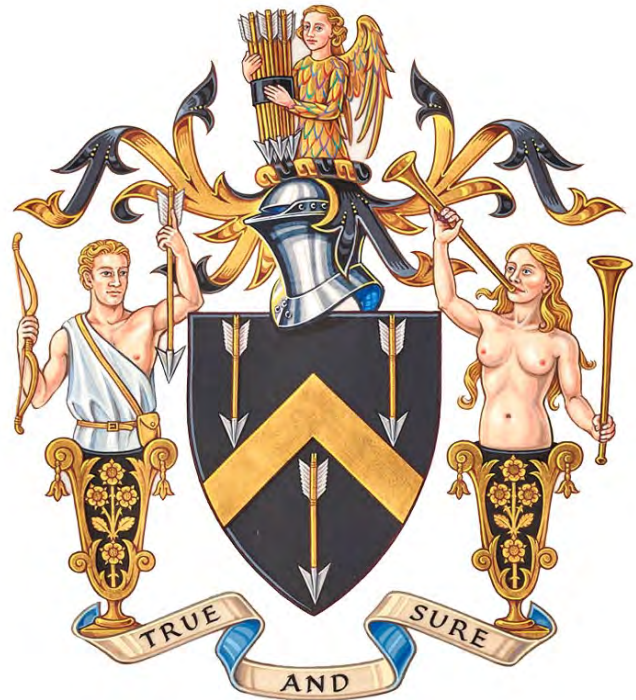
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and payment of the fee of £4200 was approved. Following the April 2020 Installation Court, I, as the newly installed Master, signed the Petition or Memorial to “The Most Noble Edward William Duke of Norfolk Earl Marshal and Hereditary Marshal of England” requesting approval of the Supporters. The College granted the use of the Supporters on 10th June 2020 and advised that wording to the following effect should appear on the Royal Charter:-

“That by Letters Patent under the hand and Seal of Clarenceux King of Arms bearing date the Twelfth day of October 1467 certain Arms were appointed given and granted to The Master and Wardens of the Mystery and Craft of Fletchers of the City of London That a Crest was granted to the said Company by Clarenceux King of Arms in the second year of the reign of King Henry VII That the said Arms and Crest were viewed ratified and approved by Sir Henry St George Richmond Herald in 1634 That the said Company is now known as The Worshipful Company of Fletchers That certain Supporters were granted unto the said Company under the hand and Seal of Garter King of Arms bearing date the Tenth day of June 2020”.

Returning to the matter of the Royal Charter, the Working Group proceeded with their work on preparing the Royal Charter documents that included the Charter itself, the By-laws and the Ordinances, all of which would need to be approved by the Court of Aldermen before the Charter and By-laws were submitted to the Privy Council. I reported to the December 2018 Court that the Privy Council had advised Keith Lawrey that, following submission of the Letter of Intent, they had no further enquiries and were content for the application to proceed. I also noted that I had circulated a working draft of the documents to the Court. Following discussions at the Court a number of useful comments were received from Court members and the Working Group continued their work refining the documents with the objective of them being presented and considered at the April 2019 Installation Court. At that Court, some Court members had concerns regarding the wording of a number of the clauses contained in the documents and it was agreed that those concerns should be communicated to me, as Chairman of the Working Group, for consideration before the revised documents were circulated before the July 2019 Court.

The revised documents were circulated to the Court members on 28th June and at the July Court, Sir David Wootton spoke addressing a number of issues that had been raised. There remained, however, further concerns and it was agreed that PMs David Goodall, Andrew McMillan and Tony Poulter would review the documents and submit their comments and concerns to the Working Group by the first week in September in order that they may be considered before the final draft could be presented at the October 2019 Court. At that Court, I reported that there remained six areas for discussion by the Court, details of which had been circulated to Court members with the revised Charter documents, following which Sir David Wootton spoke to each. Agreement having been reached on these matters it was further agreed that after the final documents had been circulated to Members of the Court they would be submitted to the Court of Aldermen for their approval.



Our New Arms for details
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However, at the January 2020 Court Sir David Wootton reported that in keeping with the wish of the Court an informal approach had been made to the Privy Council by Keith Lawrey regarding the "Objects" and "Powers" clauses within the Charter. These clauses were accordingly being redrafted, and once complete the final version of the Charter would be circulated to the members of the Court and thence to the Court of Aldermen.

At the April 2020 Installation Court Sir David Wootton reported that the documents were presently before a Sub-Committee of the Court of Aldermen, chaired by Alderman Alison Gowman, and that some further minor, but necessary, amendments that had been passed to the Working Group by Past Masters David Goodall, Andrew McMillan and Tony Poulter would be included in the final drafts that would be submitted to the Court of Aldermen.

At the July 2020 Court I reported that, subject to some minor changes to wording requested by Alderman Gowman's Sub-Committee, the City approval of the Charter documents was progressing. I also advised that the final document would be placed before the Court of Aldermen on Friday 10th July for final approval. At that meeting, the Court of Aldermen, on behalf of the City Corporation, approved the documents and, following that approval, Keith Lawrey hand delivered the Charter and By-laws to the Privy Council Office.

At the Privy Council meeting in October 2020, the documents were considered and, after that Meeting, the following entry appeared in the Gazette on 9th October:-

"Notice is given that a Petition has been presented to Her Majesty in Council by the Worshipful Company of Fletchers praying for the grant of a Charter of Incorporation. Her Majesty has referred the Petition to a Committee of the Privy Council for consideration and report. All Petitions for or against such a grant should be sent to the Privy Council Office by email at enquiries@pco.gov.uk on or before 9th December 2020."

At the Privy Council meeting in December, it was reported that no objections had been received but that the Council still awaited reports from other authorities that were delayed due the Pandemic. I was advised that it was expected that authority for the Great Seal to be appended to our Charter would likely be granted at the Council's February meeting and that the Seal and Charter would then take 2 or 3 months from that meeting to be completed.

So at last we seem to be coming towards the end of what has seemed to be a long process to become a Chartered Company but I suppose in terms of our 650 years of history it is little time at all!

Stuart Robbins

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.

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.



A NEW MUSEUM

Ever wondered what liverymen have been doing during lockdown when trips to the City are few and far between? Because I know that the Company sponsors at least three military units, and, having taken fellow Fletchers on tours of Agincourt and Crecy, I also know there is an interest in history and museums, here is my contribution.

For a long time I have been on a museum Board of Trustees, and all last year I have been working on the story for the new Museum of Military Medicine (MMM) which will be opening in Cardiff Bay.

Currently based in Surrey, the museum is taking this opportunity for a different thrust to telling how the four medical corps involved in dealing with battlefield injuries, RAMC. QARANC. RADC and the RAVC, alongside the School of Army Music (showing how bandsmen used to be stretcher-bearers and even now are trained medics too) have for centuries made innovative developments in the treatment and care of people and animals. These discoveries have benefitted general medical practice and are used today to develop new lifesaving medical techniques used in hospitals around the world to save lives and provide treatments that improve quality of life and wellbeing. This is to be a museum dedicated to the history of welfare: its stories will be told through exhibitions, archives and collections that incorporate over 30,000 objects that preserve the heritage of those who have saved lives through service.



Big ask – big brief!

As well as displaying artefacts associated with past and current military medical practice and celebrating those who employed them, one of the aims for the Museum will be to feature an immersive interactive video attraction, Deep Space. This will be the first time this technology has been used in the UK and, in addition to creating a new attraction for Cardiff's established tourism sector, this space will be made available for medical training and the development of new medical technologies. The large-scale projection technology offers visuals in 2D or 3D in 8K resolution. It is used in medical lectures to allow doctors and students to explore the details of the human body by projecting complex images of bones and organs. At the Museum of the Future, the facility has also been used to broadcast live surgery, with the audience able to follow steps of a surgical procedure in close detail.

One of the reasons MMM is going to Wales is Cardiff's proximity to several major universities and teaching hospitals: key planned partnerships that aim to drive future medical advancements, because in addition to learning from the past, this museum will work to drive new

(Continued on page 6)

healthcare innovations. It is already in talks with health organisations and universities to help root those developments and deliver new services in the region. There are plans for a Veterans' Out-patient Clinic within the Museum building, in partnership with Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and alongside Veterans' NHS. This would be a space for veterans suffering with service-related mental health diagnoses, such as anxiety, depression or post-traumatic stress disorder, to receive evidenced-based treatment and rehabilitation, and to make links to veteran-specific charities. It is hoped that services, such as art therapy, delivered at the Museum could also be made accessible to residents in the local area. This is planned to be much more than a series of objects locked away in cases! This will be a real living museum. I like to think of it as the past and present meeting the future.

Designed by internationally renowned architects, Scott Brownrigg, the proposed four-storey Museum at Cardiff Bay's Britannia Quay was shortlisted for a World Architecture Festival award and named by The Times as "one of the future buildings to visit" in its Top 21 Visitor Destinations in the World list.



Atrium courtesy Scott Brownrigg



Situated on the water's edge of Britannia Park, the ground floor is approximately 90 per cent transparent, maintaining a view of the dockside. The Museum will also provide a reading room, research facilities and an auditorium, plus a café, shop and public toilets, all of which will be open for the community to use.

Jason Semmens, the Director of the Museum of Military Medicine told me, "Our goal is to create an international venue and one which will benefit everybody; national and local communities, educators, healthcare providers and those creating lifesaving technologies that will support future lifesaving innovations. The Museum will become a centre for new educational programmes, which foster research partnerships and create not only an institution to celebrate past achievements but also a place at the forefront of UK innovation in healthcare."

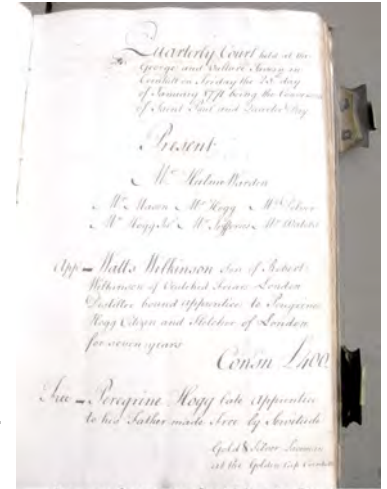
I could write a great deal on the financial challenges, rising building costs, expanding dreams and now the impact of covid. But I won't. I want to convey the really exciting place that this will be, as a military museum that you as people who enjoy museums and appreciate what medics do for everyone, will want to visit in the future.

Chris Scott.

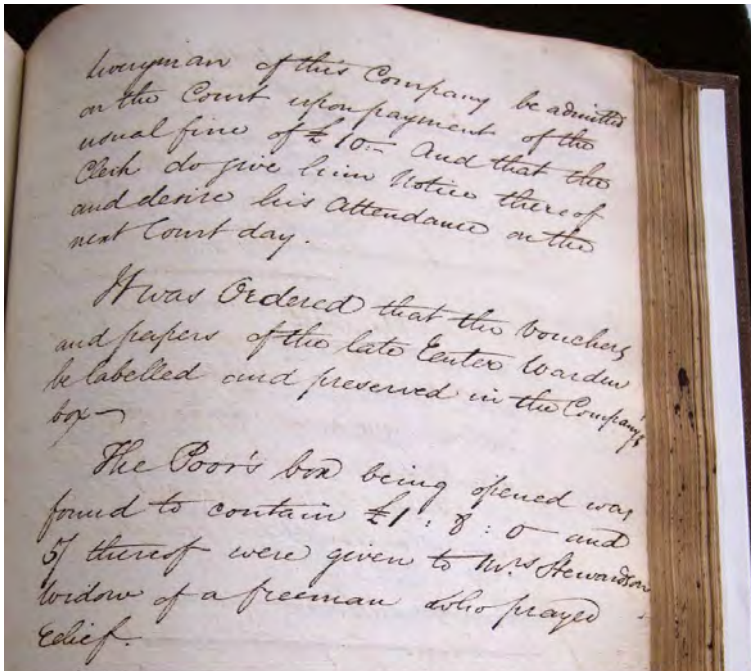
A further glimpse into the archives

Since March 2020 it has not been easy to carry out research in our archives which are housed in the Guildhall Library. A planned reopening in November was thwarted but in mid-December I was finally able to spend two days there. (My thanks here to Howard Doble, Peter Ross and their colleagues of the GHL for their assistance.) Given the circumstances I spent most of my time taking photographs, but that means I have many interesting documents which I can now peruse at home.

There is still concern over transmission of Covid through touching objects. As with other archive repositories, we have been allowed to make bulk orders in advance but not to order anything new once in the library. Yet there is a silver lining to any cloud. It is exciting to open the lid of the large box placed next to your seat and gaze inside. I had been able to order most of our archives from the late eighteenth



A page from our first Minute Book showing the binding clasps



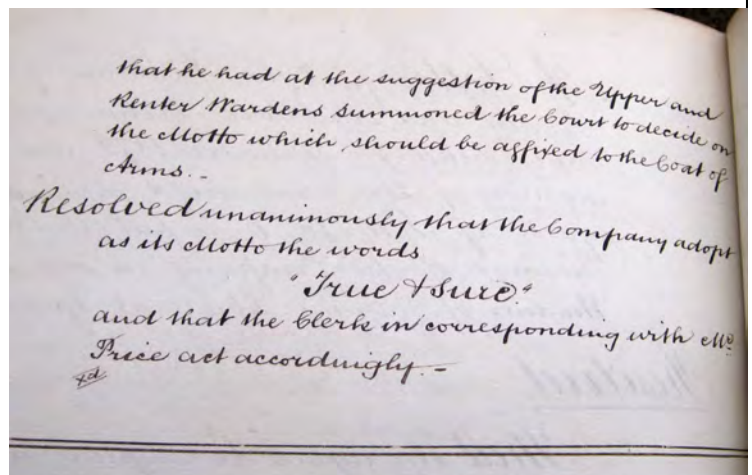
An example of Charity in 1829

Perhaps this archive display was linked to our 600th anniversary in 1971 or another occasion. If any reader has knowledge of this, do please let me know. We are hoping to be able to have a visit to the archives during the 650th anniversary. Keeping fingers crossed.

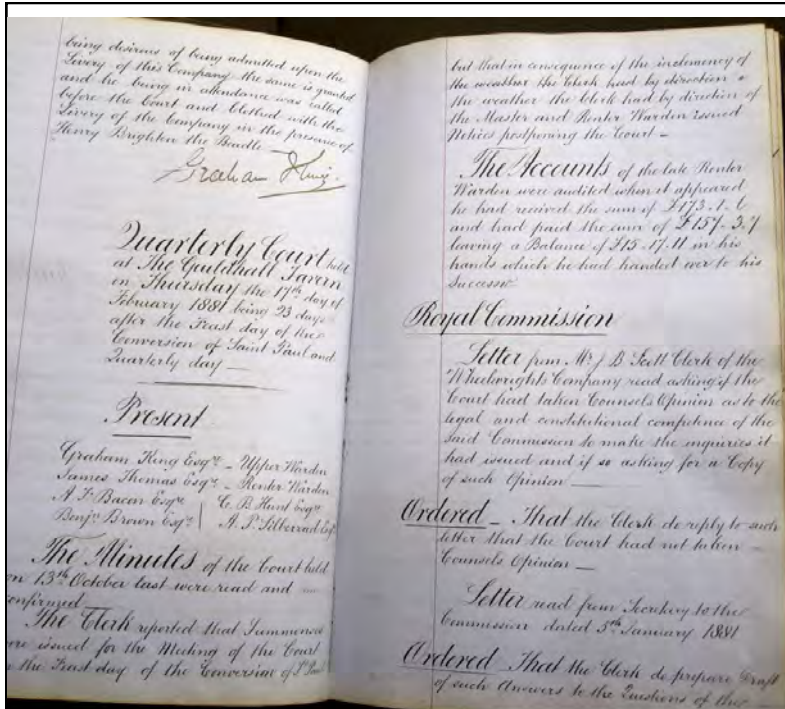
Interesting as account books can be (James Oxley transcribed the first account covering 25 January 1775 to 19 December 1777 on pages 71-73 of his history published in 1971 for our 600th anniversary) it is the Court minute books which offer the clearest insight

century onwards, and there they all were!

What is also interesting is that some of the volumes had been placed on display at some point in the past. I could see that thanks to the captioned cards found within them. A single book records the Company Accounts from 1775 to 1927, some 152 years and its use only ended because a new system of accounts was introduced. Note the tax on armorial bearings introduced by Pitt in 1799 to pay for the French war: it remained at £1 1s throughout the period of the account book – possibly a record for any tax!



A Decision on our Motto 1873



Minutes begin to be signed 1881

Minutes begin to be signed 1881. For the penultimate meeting the minutes were typed and stuck into the book. The fifth book also has an embossed cover but was a pre-printed minute book into which the minutes were again glued, page by page. This begins in April 1953 so it is not clear what happened to the court minutes of the intervening year. The last set of minutes here relate to the court of 22 July 1971.

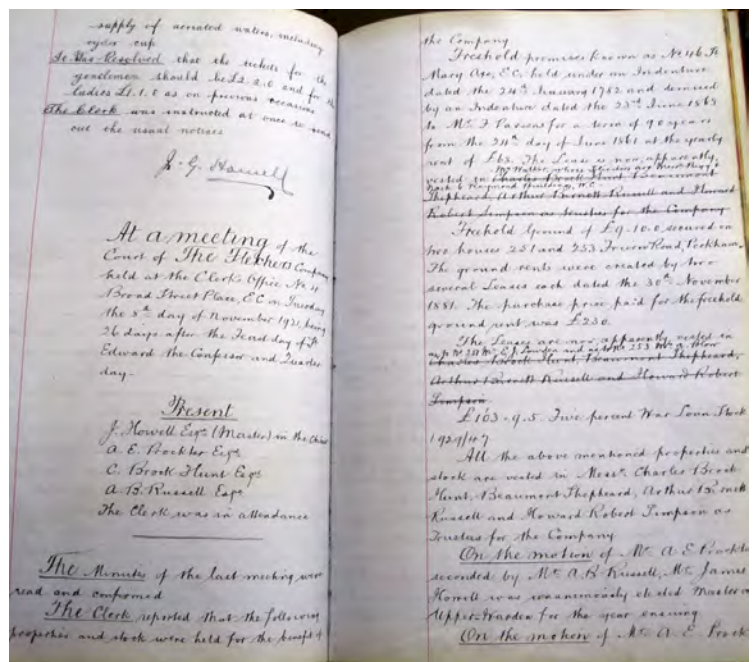
There are two further books in the Guildhall Library, covering April 1990 to July 1996, and October 1996 to July 2002. Here the word processed contents have been custom bound in rather nice dark green bindings and covers embossed with the Company name.

The minutes for the period from 1971 to 1990 are still held by the Company but we shall be adding them to the Guildhall Library deposit in due course so that there is a complete run of court minutes revealing the history of the Company since the 1760s.

There is much of interest in the history of the Fletchers Company. I've been concentrating on the later centuries but thanks to the researches of liveryman Dr Hannes Kleineke we will have a new and fascinating history of our foundation and early years for our 650th anniversary year.

into the various phases of our history. I was able only to glance at the pages as I took the photos but it really is the case that history unfolds before our eyes, not least in styles of handwriting of the succession of clerks. I have included a few indicative photos.

We have seven surviving minute books. The first begins at the court of 24 January 1767 and ends in June 1808. It still has its original binding. The second, from July 1808 to July 1878, has been rebound. The third has its original cover but was a pre-printed minute book with numbered and lined pages which was embossed with the company name. It covers from October 1878 to April 1927. The fourth is in the same format and co-



Minutes get amended even in 1921

Anne Curry

Upper Warden

Margaret Maughan

Some of you will have noticed that the UK's first Paralympic Gold medallist in the first Paralympic Games in 1960, Margaret Maughan, died in May 2020 aged 91

Margaret won her first gold medal for Archery in Rome and she went on to compete at another 4 games winning a total of 4 gold and 2 silver medals across 4 sports.

To this Hilda Gibson adds some memories of meeting Margaret in the excitement of the 2012 Paralympic Games.



"When I was working for London 2012, we (the Archery Sport Team) were frustrated that more was not made of Para Archery as the first Paralympic sport. Also, the identity of who would light the flame at the Opening Ceremonies was a closely guarded

secret, with lots of speculation going on in the press. I don't think Margaret's name came up. At the Opening Ceremony for the Paralympic Games, I was delighted when they did a cameo of Margaret Maughan and recognised her as winning the first British Paralympic Gold Medal. I was then thrilled when it turned out that she lit the Paralympic flame!

After the Opening Ceremony, we approached Margaret and she agreed to come to the Woolwich Royal Artillery Barracks (where the Para Archery events were held) to present medals. She presented the Men's Recurve Team medals and then spent time with Dani Brown and Mel Clarke, chatting with them about the Gold and Silver medals they had



won the previous day. It was a privilege to meet her. She was very charming with an infectious smile.



I remember that several Fletchers attended those medal ceremonies on what was perhaps their first experience of international Para Archery. Here is a photo of Margaret presenting the medals at the ceremony for the Men's Recurve Team Open. I don't think that I was alone in thinking that the medallists had a huge respect for Margaret and gave her a very warm welcome.

Hilda

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

BESPOKE FLETCHER JEWELRY

Cufflinks

Rob Slatem, Liveryman and our Webmaster has kindly arranged through a Jeweller friend of his, for some bespoke Fletcher Cufflinks to be available to the Company. The Jeweller has taken the shield from our coat of arms and made it into a 3D representation with the three arrows engraved into the sterling silver surface and the inverted chevron burred and textured then gilded into 18ct gold. Swivel fittings have been used to allow movement as wrists are lent on to make for a comfortable cufflink. This supports the orientation of the cufflink in the longer axis being top to bottom due to the shield shape. Only one of the cufflink pair has been produced as a sample and has not been hallmarked yet but production versions will have the London Assay Office full set of English hallmarks lasered into the backs.

The cost per boxed pair is £80.00 including VAT



Pendant

The 650 Anniversary pendant is styled as an angular arrowhead made from sterling silver and like

the cufflinks it bears the Fletchers' coat of arms with the inverted chevron embellished in 18ct gold. The pendant can be purchased as a brooch or as a badge for £60 including VAT.

A silver Spiga chain may be purchased separately at a cost of £1.00 per inch.

Alternatively, the pendant is available at £75.00 (inc. VAT) with an 18" silver Spiga chain included.



Please email the Clerk if you would like to order either or both items, or complete the form below.

Bespoke Fletcher Jewellery

To: Kate Pink, 37 Wallingford Avenue, London W10 6PZ

I enclose my cheque for £ _____ £80.00 per pair of cufflinks. made payable to "The Worshipful Company of Fletchers"

And / or

I enclose my cheque for £ _____ £75.00 per anniversary pendant with 18" chain made payable to "The Worshipful Company of Fletchers"

And / or

I enclose my cheque for £ _____ £60.00 per anniversary pendant with _____ inch chain at £1 per inch made payable to "The Worshipful Company of Fletchers"

And / Or

I enclose my cheque for £ _____ £60.00 per anniversary brooch/badge payable to "The Worshipful Company of Fletchers"

(Caps please)

NAME:

If paying electronically, to the Worshipful Company of Fletchers: sort code 40 05 21, account number 11126598, please quote cufflinks or pendant or brooch with your surname as the reference, **and email the details requested above to: clerk@fletchers.org.uk**

Jamie Harris awarded the Fletchers' Cup

Archery GB and The Worshipful Company of Fletchers are delighted to announce that Paralympic squad archer Jamie Harris was awarded the Fletchers' Cup at an online presentation on 11 November. This to recognise the hard work and commitment Jamie has applied to his training, despite the challenges of Covid-19.

In attendance at the virtual presentation were the Master of the Fletchers Stuart Robbens, Chairman of the Fletchers' Trust Chris Brown, together with fellow Trustee, Andrew Mcmillan and other members of the Fletchers plus Tom Duggan, Archery GB's Acting Director of Performance, Olympic Team Director, David Tillotson, and Jamie Harris.

The Master acknowledged the unusual circumstances for the presentation, which meant that Jamie could only get a glimpse of the trophy on screen, which in previous years has also been awarded to fellow para archers Hazel Chaisty, Ken Hargreaves and Dai Davies. He said: "The Fletchers' Cup is usually given to



Jamie Harris

the archer whose score has improved the most, and although the

Championships were not held this year, we were keen to seek out a worthy recipient. Jamie, it is testimony to your continued hard work and diligence during these difficult times that you have been selected as the recipient of the award this year. You have maintained your strict training regime and been driven to look to the future, when your efforts can be further recognised. This award can be regarded as a stepping stone to future achievements."



Tom Duggan, Acting Director of Performance, said: "We nominated you Jamie because you have been an asset to the Paralympic programme since you joined us a couple of years ago. I distinctly remember the conversation we had when we invited you to train full-time – you said you'd much rather join us than speak to Betty about her frozen chicken breasts on the super-

market helpline where you worked at the time! We know you have applied yourself throughout the lockdown with your usual dedication, and being away from Lilleshall hasn't stopped you from progressing. I'm also full of admiration that in light of the fact that you knew fairly early on that you wouldn't be going to Tokyo based on the selection policy, you've switched your mindset to this being the first year of your Paris 2024 cycle. Myself, the coaches and the sport team thought it was important to recognise your continued hard work, progression and the fact you're a really positive influence. You know I love your dry sense of humour! We're really pleased you're being recognised with this award, and on behalf of everyone on the Paralympic programme and Archery GB, congratulations!"

The Fletchers will have the cup engraved with Jamie's name, and hope to present it in person when circumstances allow. A certificate was also sent to Jamie. Jamie said: "It's really been an honour that my commitment has been recognised. Thank you very much."

Affiliates Report

Schools

Covid-19 lockdown issues relating to schools have received a lot of news coverage. Our academy links are all secondary schools, so each faced their first returning students in June. At Southwark Academy remote learning will be supported for year 10s with 1 day a week in school and year 12s will get one visit as part of a fortnightly rolling programme. At Hackney Academy the year 10s returned on 16 June with 2 visits per week with the year 12's returning on 15 June with a process to book face to face appointments with their tutors once a fortnight. At Islington Academy year 10s returning on 15 June get two visits per week whilst on site access for year 12s will be limited to a once a week face to face visit each Friday for those students deemed to be falling behind and/or not accessing on-line learning.

By contrast CLFS covers years 4 – 13 so their first experience of returning students was the year 6 students returning for 5 days per week from 1 June joined this week by the year 10 and 12 cohorts. We already know that Prize Day will not be its usual grand affair and will not include the Civic party or visiting livery masters but will take a more virtual form – with real prizes. We believe Southwark's usual July date will not run but Islington and Hackney hold their prize events in November / December.

City Academy Hackney held a virtual Founders Day in October, where the Fletchers prizes for Geography and History were presented to Ella Raphael McLean and Charis Nimoh-Ababio respectively. The Master was also pleased to present each winner with a certificate.



Fusiliers

John Power has assembled three very interesting and very personal reports from the leaders of the three key parts of the Fusiliers that interest us – 1RRF, 5RRF and the Balham Cadets. As John pointed out, some Fletchers were to have joined the Fusiliers on a trip to Gallipoli which has not been possible – maybe a next year's *event*.

FIRST FUSILIERS (Regular Bn). An update from their CO, Lt Col Chris Head MBE.

It is very nice to hear from you and thank you for La Flèche which I have shared with my Team. I do hope the Fletchers are all well in these challenging times. Although COVID-19 has thwarted so many people's plans and caused so much distress, I am pleased to report that First Fusiliers are in good health and we are enjoying delivering our NATO mission in Estonia.

We deployed just as the Coronavirus was really taking hold in the UK, which was fortunate as we got most of the Battle Group (around 950 people) into the country before the requirement for quarantine. Of course, we adopted some additional health protection measures, such as increased distancing at mealtimes, no large gatherings and of course lots of hand washing but, at all times, we have remained mission focussed. The Estonians have taken the threat from COVID-19 very seriously, but absolutely not taken their eye off the threat from the East, so our training and deterrence activities have continued, including some large-scale exercises.

For the first six weeks we had some rather challenging winter weather, with snow the norm on exercise, but now we are enjoying some glorious sunshine and blue skies. The COVID-19 situation in Estonia is actually now quite positive, so we are seeing the Government lift restrictions somewhat quicker than in the UK, which has increased our freedom of movement, and we are getting to see a bit more of the country. At the moment we are preparing to take the Battle Group down to Latvia in a couple of weeks' time for some large-scale live firing.

Unfortunately, the wider travel restrictions mean our R&R back to the UK is cancelled until further notice, which is very difficult for the troops and our families, but we are putting a brave face on it. I'm afraid this also means all visits remain cancelled for the time being. Sorry to hear so many of your events this year have already been disrupted, but we are looking forward to celebrating your 650th birthday and your Royal Charter with you!

FIFTH FUSILIERS (Reserve Bn) an update from their CO, Lt Col Steve Burton MBE

As the COVID-19 lockdown continues I thought it prudent to write in order to keep The Fletchers up to date regarding our activities during these unusual times.

The 5 FUSILIERS Main Effort is "Collective readiness for operations" and as I type, we have 107 members of the Battalion deployed on Op TOSCA 32 in support of the United Nations in Cyprus. Recently we also stood up a further 130 Reservists to form a COVID Support Force (CSF) to assist on Op RESCRIPT, which is the MOD's response to the ongoing pandemic. This provided another opportunity for 5 FUSILIERS to demonstrate our utility at the highest levels reinforcing our reputation as the best Army Reserve Infantry Battalion in the British Army. Sadly, the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions have meant that much of our planned activity has been postponed or cancelled. This is incredibly frustrating for all of us and makes our ability to remain ready for operations much more difficult. However, I am incredibly impressed at how well our soldiers have all adapted to the new virtual training that has been delivered. We are continuing to develop our warfighting capabilities in new, exciting and innovative ways many of which will endure post COVID-19.

I had the honour of laying a wreath in Newcastle to commemorate VE Day and I hope you all managed to find a quiet moment to reflect on this significant event. Our St George's Day and Gallipoli Day celebrations were sadly cancelled. But VJ Day will be upon us before we know it so I hope we can mark these events in true Fusilier style once the lockdown restrictions are relaxed sufficiently.

Looking further forward our Annual Training Event this year remains Ex IRON WOLF, which is a multi-national, NATO exercise that will be held in Lithuania. This demanding exercise promises to provide an excellent training opportunity that will thoroughly test the soldiers that deploy but I am sure the men and women of 5 FUSILIERS will be up for the fight!

It would be remiss of me not to mention those members of the Battalion who, in their civilian capacity, are forging ahead and living up to the finest examples of our predecessors in supporting the UK's response to the greatest public health challenge in a generation. This takes many forms; some find themselves on the front line of the NHS, others are reinforcing our country's logistics chain and many others are fulfilling countless key roles. We are extremely lucky to have such dedicated and committed individuals in our Fusilier family.

May I also take this opportunity to offer my very best wishes to all members of the Fletchers and their families for the days and weeks ahead.

BALHAM CADETS, 135 RRF Detachment.

The new Detachment Commander is Sgt Instructor Lin Renolds. This email is from her boss, the new OC of 13 Company, Capt Karen (Kaz) Lorimer.

I hope this email finds you well and keeping safe, thank you for yours and the Company's continued support of 135. Unfortunately, we are not able to parade in person until the 1st September. However, 135 Det are doing quite a lot virtually and this maybe something that both you and SI Reynolds would like to set up.

We are currently planning a Sector camp in October half term, if there is a visitors' day, I will ensure that you are sent an invitation.

I know that SI Reynolds will be in contact and will have you visit as soon as we are back to parading. In the meantime, please take care and pass my thanks to the Master and the Company for their continued support of 135.

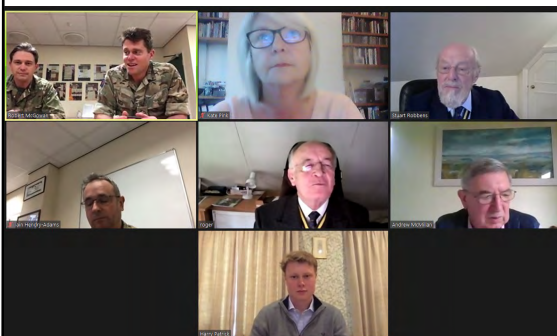
Oxford University Officer Training Corps

When our prize arrows were presented to OUOTC at their annual dinner event on 15 February the intention was that they would be awarded to the best platoon during their Easter camp in Thetford over Easter. However their CO, Lt Col Ben Walters, reported that following the introduction of the Social Distance restrictions imposed from mid-March the schedule of events was significantly affected at the end of the Hilary Term. Not surprisingly we had to cancel all face-to-face training which included two field weekends and of course our Easter Camp and the Best Platoon Competition. However, we were able to start operating again remarkably quickly with interim online training up and running within just a week.

After Easter a more considered training package was introduced and has been well supported attracting more Officer Cadets than normally attend during the Trinity Term, almost certainly in part due to the absence of alternatives, but also because we adapted and made training more accessible. After a break in August, this programme recommenced in September.



Due to Covid the prize for Best Platoon became instead, the CO's nomination of the best Platoon, and on 11th December 2nd Lt Harry Patrick as Commander of Allenbrooke Platoon received an Agincourt mug and certificate on behalf of his Platoon, and the Platoon's name will be added to the Prize arrows. This too was a virtual presentation, superbly conducted by the Master and attended by OUOTC liaison officer PM Roger Watson, Trustee PM Andrew McMillan and the Clerk from the Fletchers. The RSM, 2IC and both the outgoing CO Lt Col Ben Walters (Fusilier) and incoming CO Lt Col Andrew Seddon (Grenadier Guards)



attended from the unit.

HMS DEFENDER

Since our last meeting, DEFENDER returned in March from deployment in the Gulf to a world of lockdown. Tim Eltringham has maintained contact with the XO, Lt Cdr Paul Caddy, but hopes of a series of visits and presentation of the prize arrow will have to wait.



Latest news is that on 21 May, Cdr Richard Hewitt handed over command of HMS DEFENDER to Cdr Vince Owen (a Fleet Air Arm Observer) the new CO is on the right in the accompanying photo. They have been to sea for a few days of training and trials (and bedding in the new CO) with no news of any deployments yet. It is difficult to imagine how a regime of 2 metre personal separation is possible .

Andrew McMillan, 18 June 2020

Worshipful Company of Fletchers Charity Golf Event 12th/13th May 2021

Following the success of The Charity Golf Day in 2019 it has been decided to present another similar event next year. The event was not only enjoyed by the Fletcher golfers and their guests but well supported by non golfers of whom many assisted with the organisation on the day. The Putting Competition and lunch were well received by all.

Many Fletchers supported the event last year but we have scope for a larger attendance. Our aim is to raise more funds to support our Paralympic archers competing in the forthcoming Tokyo event. At this stage I just wish to raise awareness regarding the dates and ask you to etch them in whatever sort of diary you employ. Indeed you may wish to invite guests in good time to avoid double booking. Although the main event is the Charity Golf Day, many (particularly from further afield) may wish to make more of the event. Naturally we have a preliminary programme which I would like to share with you, some of the details have not yet been finalised including costs:

Wednesday 12th May

Light lunch followed by golf at Tynney Park GC (RG27 9AY), Evening meal at local pub & Overnight stay at local hotel

Thursday 13th May

Charity Golf Day at Dummer GC (RG25 2AD)

Of course it may not suit all Fletchers to attend both days and, when we finalise arrangements and issue the invitations, options will be made clear. Plans to issue full invitations in January are in place. I hope that as many of you as possible will attend to make it a 'sparkling' jamboree and successful fund raiser.

Peter Beard, 3rd December 2020

Our Coat of Arms Authenticated

The sharp eyed among you will have noticed that the Arms displayed on pages 1 and 3 are slightly different. As part of the process of obtaining a Royal Charter, it was necessary to regularise the supporters as there was no trace of them having been granted by the College of Arms. We have now obtained the grant below and the supporters are now official. They have also moved slightly as they are supposed to touch the shield otherwise it is difficult for them to support it.

The official description of our supporters is;

“Supporting with their elbows proper issuant from a Campana Urn Sable garnished and charged with four Roses three in chief one and two and one in the nombril point all with slips conjoined and leaved Or on the dexter a young Man proper crined Or vested with a Cotton Toga proper belted a Bag over the sinister hip pendent from the dexter shoulder holding in the dexter hand a Bow string outwards and in the sinister hand an Arrow point downwards all Or barbed and flighted Argent and on the sinister a naked Maiden proper crined and winding a Trumpet bendwise held in the dexter hand and holding in the sinister hand a like Trumpet palewise bell upwards all Or.”



FLETCHER DIARY DATES JANUARY 2021 – APRIL 2022

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

COVID-19 means that the events detailed below are subject to confirmation and dependant on the Government advice regarding social distancing and event attendance in force at the time. No event will be held unless it is considered safe to do so.

25 th January	Monday		Virtual meeting of the Court
14 th April	Wednesday		Installation Court and Lunch
5 th May	Wednesday	F	Guildhall Yard – Paralympians
8 th May	Saturday	F	Fletchers Day for Archers with Disability
11 th May	Tuesday	F	Sons of the Clergy Service at St Paul's Cathedral
13 th May	Thursday	F	Golf Fundraising Day at Dummer
TBC May / June		F	Noak Hill Archery day for members
18 May	Tuesday		In the Steps of the Fletchers' – walk to Fletcher locations in the City, a visit to our archives at Guildhall followed by lunch
21 st May	Friday		United Guilds Service St Paul's
6 th June	Sunday	F	Fletchers' Archery Day at Guildford Archery Club – open to family and friends
15 th June	Tuesday	F	Virtual lecture on the Peasants Revolt in 1381 – open to other Liveries
24 th June	Thursday		Election of the Sheriffs followed by lunch
29 th June TBC	Tuesday		Joint Shoot at the Tower
6 th July	Tuesday		Court meeting followed by lunch
21 st July	Wednesday	F	Fletchers' Golf Day at Tandridge
4 th September	Saturday	F	Fletchers Elite Archers Day
7 th September	Tuesday	F	Anniversary Service of Thanksgiving
26 th September	Sunday	F	Sheep Drive across London Bridge – Fletchers group booking
29 th September	Wednesday		Election of the Lord Mayor followed by lunch
Sept / Oct TBC		F	Noak Hill Archery day for members
6 th – 10 th October	Wednesday – Sunday		Master Robbins Lisbon holiday
13 th October	Wednesday		Court followed by lunch
25 th October	Monday		Past Masters lunch on St Crispin's Day
8 th November	Monday		End of season Fletcher Golfers Lunch
15 th November	Monday		Informal visit to the Natural History Museum in Tring
1 / 8 December TBC	Wednesday	F	Carol Service and buffet at HM Tower of London
25 th January	Tuesday		Court meeting followed by dinner
22 nd February TBC	Tuesday		Concert and buffet in aid of the Fletchers' Trust
March 7 th 8 th 9 th TBC			Anniversary Banquet at Mansion House
1 st April	Friday		United Guilds Service
12 th / 13 th April	Tuesday / Wednesday		Mary Rose visit
26 th April	Tuesday		Installation Court