

## FLETCHER DIARY DATES JULY 2021 – MAY 2022

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

**COVID-19 means that the events that are not online 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.**

21 <sup>st</sup> July	Wednesday	F	Fletchers' Golf Day at Tandridge
4 <sup>th</sup> September	Saturday	F	Fletchers Elite Archers Day at The Royal Toxophilite Society Grounds, Burham
7 <sup>th</sup> September	Tuesday 4:30 for 5pm	F	Anniversary Service of Thanksgiving, St Vedast alias Foster followed by a drinks & canapes reception until 7pm.
11 <sup>th</sup> September	Saturday	F	Fletchers' National Championships at Lilleshall
14 <sup>th</sup> September	Tuesday		Joint Shoot at the Tower
26 <sup>th</sup> September	Sunday	F	Sheep Drive across London Bridge – Fletchers group booking
29 <sup>th</sup> September	Wednesday		Election of the Lord Mayor followed by lunch
14 <sup>th</sup> October	Thursday	F	Noak Hill Archery Day for members
6 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Wednesday – Sunday		Deputy Master's holiday in Lisbon
19 <sup>th</sup> October	Tuesday		Court followed by lunch
25 <sup>th</sup> October	Monday		Past Masters lunch on St Crispin's Day
2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Tuesday at 4pm	F	Online tour of the <i>New</i> Museum on London
8 <sup>th</sup> November	Monday	F	End of season Fletcher Golfers Lunch
15 <sup>th</sup> November	Monday		Informal visit to the Natural History Museum in Tring
24 <sup>th</sup> November	Wednesday	F	Ladies lunch
8 December	Wednesday	F	Carol Service and buffet at HM Tower of London
25 <sup>th</sup> January	Tuesday		Court meeting followed by dinner
22 <sup>nd</sup> February TBC	Tuesday		Concert and buffet in aid of the Fletchers' Trust
March 7 <sup>th</sup> 8 <sup>th</sup> 9 <sup>th</sup> TBC			Anniversary Banquet at Mansion House
1 <sup>st</sup> April	Friday		United Guilds Service
12 <sup>th</sup> / 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Tuesday / Wednesday		Mary Rose visit
26 <sup>th</sup> April	Tuesday		Installation Court
4 <sup>th</sup> May	Wednesday	F	Charity Golf Day
7 <sup>th</sup> May	Saturday	F	Fletchers Day for Archers with Disability
10 <sup>th</sup> May	Tuesday		Sons of the Clergy

### Notes for Contributors.

Articles should be between 150 and 500 words long and emailed to [dumbrelljl@btinternet.com](mailto:dumbrelljl@btinternet.com) 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 email edition will appear in **November** and the deadline for contributions is **15th October**, and it is hoped to produce further 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 - [dumbrelljl@btinternet.com](mailto:dumbrelljl@btinternet.com)



John Dumbrell



# LA FLÈCHE

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THE MAGAZINE OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FLETCHERS

## Masters past, present and future



Normally our annual copy of La Flèche gives pride of place on the front page to the new Master and Wardens. However due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we missed the opportunity last year and so, at the first of our resumed face to face meetings, we can show you a school of Masters and Wardens. They are, from left to right, Duncan Garland, Master in 2019/20; Stuart Robbens, Master in 2020/21, and Anne Curry, our current Master with our Upper Warden, Philip Shears, and Renter Warden, Andrew Trapnell.

## The Master's 650 Vision – in 650 words

I am honoured to be Master in our 650<sup>th</sup> year. This is 'living history' in all senses of that expression. So, what does that mean for us today? How can we celebrate the past, make the most of the present, and prepare for the next 650 years of the Worshipful Company of Fletchers?

The early Fletchers were united by their desire to protect and promote their craft and to support each other. Throughout the company's existence, fellowship has always been the central tenet. Even when the craft of fletching declined, association was eagerly sought by members of the company, who maintained a strong ethos of support for those less fortunate than themselves. Our modern company's formal events still reflect the dates which shaped the Fletchers' year back in the fourteenth century, and its charitable function, through the wide activities of the Fletchers Trust.

We shall always be an ancient company with an established place within the City of London – 39<sup>th</sup> in an order of precedence which now extends to 110 companies. Our role in the City is extremely important.

Strength comes from our antiquity, but we are a company which has moved with the times and will continue to do so. Our 650<sup>th</sup> anniversary, therefore, leads to thoughts on how we can all shape the future in ways which ensure the resilience of the Company?

My vision, as well as my personal commitment, is best expressed through thoughts on the following areas.

With the significant anniversary we have a great opportunity to promote our profile within the City and Liveries, and to contribute, in whatever ways we can, to the aims and aspirations of the Lord Mayor and City government.

I am keen for us to strengthen even further our affiliate links, both military and educational, thereby supporting the futures of many who have so much to offer society.

The Fletchers Trust is a key part of our mission. I will do my utmost to support its work with Archery GB for widening participation in archery. We are privileged to be able to support Team GB Paralympic Archers. I look forward to welcoming them back after the Games.

Remaining 'True and Sure' to the fellowship which is central to the Company, we have a great opportunity, stimulated by our notable anniversary, to encourage others to join us in this aim. We are, as our website proclaims, 'a convivial and eclectic group who enjoy a range of social activities and support the City'. My vision is for a 650 membership campaign that takes this as its mantra, and that we recruit our families, friends, affiliates, and all who would wish to join us in a friendly, open, and diverse company. The 650<sup>th</sup> anniversary is also a stimulus to fundraising to ensure future financial resilience of the Company and the boosting of the Trust.

This is a special moment in our history, with our Royal Charter soon to be with us, and a celebration planned at Mansion House in March 2022. Our Hall is reopening through an arrangement which can help it be much more of a real headquarters for the Company. The recent opinion survey carried out by the Strategic Plan Committee has shown the importance of having our own Hall. The hall is a valuable element in the 650 membership campaign and I look forward to holding new members' events there.

The survey also pointed to the potential value of informal get-togethers, including regional events. After the restrictions of the last fifteen months, I am so looking forward to holding 'real' events again, but will also use all opportunities we can to enjoy the fellowship we all cherish. Virtual events may still have a place. I am keen to communicate all the special things we do, internally and externally, and to ensure a real feeling of belonging to what is a very special company.

My thanks and very best wishes to you all.



Anne Curry, Master

## Who will compete in Para-Archery at the Tokyo Paralympic Games?

We are all hoping that the postponed 2020 Paralympic Games in Tokyo will go ahead later this year and we get the chance to watch the World's best para-archers compete for the 9 gold medals on offer. There will be 3 medal events (Individual Men, Individual Women and Mixed Team) in each of 3 categories (Compound Open, Recurve Open and W1 (Wheelchair 1 - most severely impaired group). But which countries will be represented, and which athletes will compete?

To answer this, World Archery has agreed a process with the International Paralympic Committee which defines allocation of qualification slots to countries, not to individual archers. For slots allocated to Great Britain (GBR), the British Paralympic Association (BPA) and Archery GB identify the specific archers who will compete in Tokyo.

Most of the qualification slots (80) are awarded at the World Para Archery Championships in the year before the Games, 10 are distributed at each Continental Qualification Tournament (CQT) in Asia, the Americas and Europe and at least 12 are available at a Final Qualification Tournament (FQT). The remaining spots are split between the host country and awarded as bipartite places to smaller para nations on the merit of universality. For further details see: <https://worldarchery.sport/news/169110/beginners-guide-paralympic-qualification-process-tokyo-2020-1>

So, the first opportunity to qualify slots was at the 2019 World Championships in 's-Hertogenbosch. 23 countries secured at least one slot. British archers won a total of 5 slots (1 Recurve Man, 1 Recurve Woman, 2 Compound Men, 1 Compound Woman). Following the Asian CQT in October 2019, a total of 93 slots had been allocated to 26 countries, including Japan's host nation places. Then Covid-19 struck. The CQTs for the Americas and Europe and the FQT were all postponed by one year. The European CQT will now take place alongside the European Cup due to be held in Nove Mesto, Czech Republic in July. The FQT is also scheduled to take place at this event.

This means that the next, and last, opportunity for GBR to win further qualification slots will be in Nove Mesto. A separate European CQT tournament will be held in which only archers from Europe are eligible to compete. British archers, who have not already won a slot, can qualify one slot in W1 Men, W1 Women, Recurve Men, Recurve Women and Compound Women. GBR already have 2 places for Compound Men and cannot gain more. Hence, there are a further 5 slots up for grabs for GBR.

The FQT will be open to all archers who have not already won a qualification slot, subject to the maximum quota for their category. Depending on the results of the CQT, GBR could be shooting for slots in anything from 1 category (W1 Men), up to 5 categories (as for CQT), at the FQT. A second bite at the cherry if not successful in the CQT.

But how does GBR decide which archers will fill the slots and compete at the Games? For this, Archery GB runs a selection process. So far, 5 athletes have met the selection criteria (including having won a slot at the 2019 World Championships) and have been nominated to the BPA for the Paralympic Team:

- Jessica Stretton (Freeman Archer) – Compound Women
- Nathan MacQueen – Compound Men
- John Stubbs (Freeman Archer) - Compound Men
- Dave Phillips – Recurve Men
- Hazel Chaisty (Freeman Archer) – Recurve Women

For slots still to be won, the archer who wins the slot will automatically be awarded the place. So, the archers shooting in Nove Mesto really will be shooting to go to Tokyo. The Paralympic World Class Programme archers who are working towards this are:

- Jodie Grinham (Freeman Archer) & Phoebe Pine – Compound Women
- Martin Saych – W1 Men
- Victoria Rummy & Vicky Kingston – W1 Women

All the archers named above, except Martin Saych, have received grants from the Fletchers' Trust for equipment required for them to compete.

There are many steps and hurdles along the way. The aim of the qualification system is that the best archers in the world are on the line in Tokyo, all vying to win the ultimate prize – a Paralympic Gold Medal. Now, won't that be a sight to see?

Hilda Gibson June 2021



## Our RAF Affiliations

### RAF Northolt

RAF Northolt were heavily engaged in the recent funeral of HRH Prince Philip last month with the Queens Colour Sqn, RAF Band and others supporting. The Station Commander Nick Worrall, who many will have met, was the senior RAF officer escorting the Land Rover Hearse and also lined the steps as part of the Guard of Honour to St George's Chapel.

Many Station personnel remain committed to supporting Covid-19 but the station is returning to "normal" slowly, and the programme of ceremonial and other events throughout the summer will hopefully see a return to normality albeit the tempo on the Station, when I visited two weeks ago, seemed as busy as ever. The Queens Colour Sqn recently mounted Guard at Buckingham Palace as part of public duties.

The recent announcements of the Defence Review will have some impact on RAF Northolt. The four RAF BAE 146 aircraft of 32R Sqn will be retired by 31st March 2022. These aircraft are primarily tasked to transport senior government ministers and Ministry of Defence (MOD) personnel and also senior members of the Royal Family. Replacements for these aircraft are currently under consideration and the fleet of Voyager aircraft based at RAF Brize Norton also include VIP transport tasking. The Queen and other members of the Royal family will have to borrow Boris Johnson's plane for air travel in 2022! □ When the BAE-146 jets are retired 32R Sqn will just be left with its Augusta AW-109 helicopters for VIP transport.

On the organisational side a service wide restructuring of HR delivery in the RAF will see the demise of the old Personnel Services Sqn in Station Headquarters as the RAF adopts a hub system of regional HR centres. Much of this has been accelerated by Covid-19 and new ways of working.

### 1921 Lewisham Sqn ATC

Lewisham are now back to F2F activities on 3 nights per week to accommodate the bubbles in their limited space. The great news is that they have just received two gliding slots at Upavon. Wesley Pollard also has a part-time position at Reigate Grammar School as a supernumerary officer in their CCF RAF Section as it needs a complete re-build. At present, 1921 cadet numbers are below the maximum normally allowed due to accommodation limits and COVID regulations but they have over 30 cadets and more recruits joining on a weekly basis following the recent return to face-to-face activities (since the 12th April). Pre-COVID they were on the limit and had a small waiting list and are likely to return to that position once restrictions have eased. 1921 might be the last ATC Squadron domiciled in Lewisham but it has a promising future.

*John Chappell*



*As a few of you know Liveryman Dr. Christopher Scott is not only a published military historian but takes part in English Civil War re-enactments of the mid 1600s. One of his fellow re-enactors has given his permission for Chris to send in this fascinating piece he wrote on archery in those wars, a time when many believed the Company espoused long out-of-date technology. Little do they know...*

## Archery in the English Civil War by Spencer Houghton

As many of you know, I do medieval (War of the Roses) re-enactment in my spare time and a lot of this takes the form of archery and not just dressing up in lots of tin and battering each other.

One of the questions that is asked by the public is about the use and effectiveness of the longbow compared with the matchlock. From my personal point of view, I would take a longbow over a musket any day but apart from the illustrations by William Neade's Double Armed Man project of 1625, I have not seen any real evidence of its use.

However, I did stumble across an excerpt from a book called "Seventeenth-Century Military Archery" by E.T. Fox that provides evidence of significant use and some lovely illustrations. The author explains how as a weapon of war, the longbow began to fall from favour in the sixteenth century, so much so that King Henry VIII had to introduce a number of statutes enforcing the practicing of archery in an attempt to maintain a force of available archers if required.

In Queen Elizabeth 1st's reign, the longbow became less and less popular until, in 1589, her Privy Council reorganised the trained bands and removed archers from their ranks. With its strong tradition though, the longbow didn't disappear and its use continued particularly in provincial and rural regions well into the seventeenth century.

In Repton, Derbyshire, mustered militia men had "a cote and bowe and a shiffe of arrows and a quiver" in the reign of James I and as late as 1628, Sir Phillip Carteret wrote that Jersey had a force of 3000 able bodied men for the defence of the island, of whom 300 were armed with musket and pikes, "the rest having bows, bills and unarmed".

As late as 1638, the Earl of Arundel at Carlisle requested, "some quantity of bows with offensive arrows should be poured into the bordering shires of Cumbria, Northumberland and Westmorland".

During the seventeenth century there were a number of schemes to revive the use of the longbow, the best known of which is probably the famous William Neade's project of 1625 that we all know as the "Double Armed Man". Neade's idea was that by arming a pikeman with a longbow in addition to the pike, they would no longer be restricted to standing around on the battlefield getting shot for the majority of the time and waiting just in case they were needed to defend the remaining troops from cavalry. Armed with a longbow they would have an offensive role in addition to their defensive capability.



The nature of Neade's now famous invention appears at first glance to be something of a novelty rather than a practical proposition for use on the battlefield. However, we know it worked as Neade himself made it work and he persuaded the Artillery Company of London to put it into practice. In March 1628, the Council of War gave orders for a formal trial of Neade's idea and 300 members of the Artillery Company turned out in St James's Park in London to demonstrate it in front of King Charles I. In fact Charles himself had a go and was impressed enough to commission William Neade and his son to provide training and instruction to the county militias in the use of the double armed soldier.



William Barriffe wrote of it: "In all these firings, the pike never come to charge, but stand in a square battell, in danger of the enemies shot: themselves neither being able to offend the enemy nor to defend themselves. And yet if by frequent practice, they were inured to the use of the longbow, fastened to their pikes, I made no question but that, when they should become expert in the use of the Bow and Pike, they would not onely be a terror to their enemies, by the continual showers of Arrows which they would send amongst them; but also that they would be a great meanes to rout their enemies. And utterly to breake their order".

Robert Ward in his Animadversions of Warre (1639) and Sir Thomas Kellie in his Pallas Armata (1627) were both keen advocates of Neade's double armed man and this was part of a much large attempt to revive the use of the longbow during the first half of the seventeenth century. In 1631 and in 1637 King Charles 1st reissued the statute requiring all men between the ages of 16 and 60 to both own and practice with the longbow.

[Having got the reader up to 1637, the rest of the story will appear in the next edition. JLD](#)

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praised of progress during the summer. There remains space available for those who are able to join us.



Dr Bob Spain presents Stuart with his Portrait for more on the painting go to page 13

Lastly, I should like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who, during my Mastership, gave freely of their valuable time to assist in dealing with all the matters that faced our Company. In particular I should like to thank our Learned Clerk, Kate, who is the firm thread of knowledge and continuity as we Masters come and go each year.

In the mean time I send my thanks to you all for entrusting our ancient Company to my care. It was a great privilege to have been your Master.

*Stuart Robbins*

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an arrow piercing the vertical post. Two days later, despite being constrained by social distancing, it was most satisfying to be able to hand over the bar at a simple ceremony on board led by Upper Warden Philip Shears. It was particularly good that the CO and most of his senior team found the time, with less than 7 days before their 8-month deployment, to host us for a few hours and ensure the bar was suitably baptised. The opportunity was also taken to present the Fletcher Silver Arrow to Able Seaman Frederick Branson – a most deserved award!



Finally, since sailing, the bar has already proved its worth, having been used during a recreational Sunday at sea and during the official cocktail party in Odessa attended by many dignitaries including the UK First Sea Lord. It even fleetingly appeared partially in shot during the BBC 10 o'clock news film report on the Odessa visit! No doubt it will see a lot more action during the forthcoming Far East visits, much to the envy of HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH and the other ships who, it is reported, do not have one!!

*TJE*

## MEMORIES of the ARTIST

I began my portrait of Stuart before lock-down took hold. The medium I chose was Leonardo de Vinci's favourite – chalk. This was the first pastel that I have ever produced and I entered the medium with considerable ignorance. It was a dramatic learning curve where my engineering skills were tested. I had to develop micro stencils to execute the details of the chain of office, Stuart's cuff-links and his livery tie. I have greatly enjoyed working on this portrait. Following a minor stroke in June last year I was afflicted by a permanent balance problem. I now know the answer to the *Riddle of the Sphinx*, 'What creature has one voice and yet becomes four-footed, two-footed and three-footed?' – I have now arrived in the evening of life. I found this art work of great therapeutic value to my recovery and wellbeing but the whole process was greatly disrupted by the exigency of the covid restrictions. I produced a preliminary sketch of the head but was then prevented by the Prime Minister to continue further studio studies to capture the Master's robes and regalia. During the lockdown I attempted to advance the work in blind progress but there were some set-backs. If the picture was x-rayed you would see a rather pitiful attempt at Stuart's right hand hidden in the pastel layers. These delays caused an inordinate but enjoyable concentration on the head but I was very pleased with the result.

But the delays and interruptions to my artistic work are nothing compared to what Stuart has suffered from the covid incursions on his livery involvement, which has literally 'dashed the cup from his lips'. Lost are the memorable social gatherings that the Fletcher folk so enjoy and it robbed Stuart of the Master's functions that he so richly deserves and the opportunity to celebrate the achievements that have been made. I need not remind you of his very professional commitment and involvement in the success of the livery gaining the Royal Charter. I am sure that you will all share with me the pleasure that Stuart will surely have from receiving this portrait as a permanent record of his year as Master Fletcher.

*Dr. Bob Spain, Boxley, Kent*

## THE FLETCHERS' ARMS a bar that's travelling the world!

For those not already in the know, there is now a bar called "The Fletchers' Arms" that is currently travelling on a 26,000-mile trip halfway round the world and back. Funded by us and built by us, the bar was presented to our affiliated Royal Naval ship HMS DEFENDER in late April, just in time for her deployment with the Carrier Task Group to the Far East.

Like many good ideas, this one started during a convivial (pre-Covid) dinner in Fletchers' Hall when I found myself sat next to the ship's 2<sup>nd</sup> in Command. After enquiring if there was anything practical we could do for them, he mentioned that a small portable bar for use on the flight deck during official cocktail parties or recreation days at sea could be very useful. I immediately thought: "David Goodall and I can build that" – a rash idea based on a combined experience of 80 years' flight deck ops and cocktail parties plus a few dodgy woodworking skills! Remarkably, the next morning I was still able to remember most of the details discussed and started to hatch the plan and lobby David for the use of his shiny new workshop.



The challenge was to come up with a design that was smart enough for official events, could fold flat for easy stowage but still be strong enough to be "matelot-proof" – the latter being a vital requirement, as sailors will always find the design weakness in any bit of kit ... and they did (cracked bar top, but quickly repaired)! In consultation with the ship's flight commander, in whose hangar it would inevitably be stowed, we agreed a design that utilised an old solid mahogany dining table for the bar top, half-timbered front panels

in the finest "olde English pub style" and, of course, topped by a swinging pub sign. A cardboard mock-up was made, a timetable to deliver in February was set and then ... lockdown struck ... and everything went on hold.

In the end after a long frustrating delay, we had to make the whole thing in less than 4 weeks. This included hand-painting the double-sided pub sign featuring our newly approved Fletcher Coat of Arms - a daunting task normally, but helped hugely by Rev Keith Edwards with his small CNC machine able to carve an outline of the coat of arms. As a finishing touch we hung the sign from a gold-



## My COVID year as Master Fletcher

Who would have thought at my virtual Installation as Master Fletcher in April last year, that a year later we would still not be able to meet face to face and that I would install my successor, Anne, in a similar manner as I was installed. So it was to be but, hopefully, now the end is in sight and our happy meetings will be able to resume. In spite of the restrictions, which we have all suffered, you will be aware from my letters to you all that the business of the Company continued apace. As your Master, I joined the Hall Stakeholder Group that had the unenviable task of managing the temporary closure of the Hall and the winding up of Farmers and Fletchers Hall Limited, the Farmer's Hall Management Company. My task of petitioning for a Royal Charter, I must confess, has been a longer exercise than I expected!



I had greatly looked forward to the planned 650<sup>th</sup> anniversary Mansion House Party that would have just fallen within my Master's year but COVID-19 prevailed and the decision was rightly made to postpone this event until March 2022. In fact COVID-19 had a further negative effect on the progress of the Charter. Whilst our petition was acknowledged at the Privy Council meeting last October, various Government Offices who were expected to respond to the Privy Council by December, failed to do so because of administration pressures due to the pandemic. At last the expectation was that the order to affix the Great Seal would be made at the Privy Council meeting in April, just before I was to install Anne, however the sad passing of HRH Prince Philip, a Privy Council member, meant that the order was further delayed. However, I am pleased to confirm to you all that, following the meeting of the Privy Council on 26<sup>th</sup> May, the order was made that the Great Seal can be affixed to our Charter.

Before this can happen the scribe and artist that we have commissioned to script and illuminate the Charter must complete his work which may not be undertaken for several months yet.

With COVID gradually being brought under control and Portugal being the first on the "Green List" I am looking forward to being with many of you in Lisbon in October this year, my visit that was aborted due to COVID-19 last year. I am in regular contact with our hotel, "The One Palacio da Anunciada" and all our rooms remain reserved for us. I will keep you all ap-

*(Continued on page 4)*

## The Army Cadet Force in London

By way of background, the ACF in London is split into four sectors, City & NE, NW, SW and SE, each commanded by a Lt Col. Each Sector is then split into three or four Companies, each commanded by a Major, and each Company is then split into four to six detachments. Ideally, each det should be commanded by an officer, Lt or 2nd Lt, but in practice many are commanded by Warrant Officers or Senior NCOs. There are quite a few different cap-badges, not in neat groupings, with quite a number of Fusilier cap-badged detachments across London and across the UK as a whole. However, our ACF affiliation is with just one of them, namely 135 Detachment, commanded by C/Sgt (SSI) Lyn Renolds, which is part of 13 Company commanded by Maj Kaz Lorimer, one of the three companies in SW Sector.

To set this in context, all Cadets and all Reserve Forces of all three Services are looked after by the Reserve Forces and Cadet Associations (RFCAs), the successors to the 1908 Territorial Associations, which were originally to be found in each County under their Lord Lieutenants. There are now just 13 main RFCAs across the UK, plus the City of London RFCA (Chaired by the Lord Mayor) which is administered by the Greater London RFCA (President the Lord Lt). Within the Greater London (incl City) RFCA, we have some 15,000 Cadets and 5,000 Reserves of all three services, comprised of over 350 separate units at over 170 locations. I am on the Main Board(s) and I chair the Finance Board, where we spend quite a bit on salaries, buildings et al, besides being very involved politically as the RFCAs are now the main link between MOD and civil society.

*Colonel John Power*

## Up and Running Again.

As you can see from the above our affiliated detachment is 135 Detachment RRF at Balham which is part of 13 Company commanded by Maj Kaz Lorimer who writes;

“From January to March we held a company parade night every Tuesday, where cadets and adults from across the company came together (virtually) over zoom to take part in cadre based programmes.

In March, we had the best news that we were allowed to go back to the units, so as a programme of adult refresher training kicked in, with Company HQ hosting a virtual new recruits presentation evening with over 80 new cadets and families listening and asking questions. This has led to a healthy influx of new recruits.

The company are fit and well, being back to face to face training which is of course fantastic news with all 7 detachments up and running and every night we have had new recruits through our doors.

On the first weekend of May, the company held our first barrack skills weekend for just over a year. It was great to see the cadets and also how much they had grown. I am sure the QM is going to have a large amount of uniform exchange requests.”

In addition the following note came from SSI Lyn Reynolds, the Detachment Commander

“As you are aware we are only parading at 135 very briefly. Whatever happens, I will ensure you and the Fletchers receive an advance invitation to attend, I’m sure that our cadets would be very happy to welcome you into our virtual world of training. I currently have the Fusilier hoodies which you kindly donated locked safely in the detachment office awaiting a date for issue. I will email you again soon with a more detailed update of what 135 have been up to and will gladly let you have a few of our photos to share.”

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up to get the best results.

In 2015 I started to compete at national junior competitions more often, although I had shot some in the previous years now I had become competitive and won medals at a handful of smaller events. I had also started training more often, after school I would walk to my Nana and Grandads house and would shoot blank boss in their garage, frequently I would persuade them to give me a lift to Evesham or Redhill Archers ranges as they were open 7 days a week. This additional training and coaching from the Academy made me improve very quickly, by the end of the year I was ready for a more competition orientated bow. My next bow was the Hoyt Podium X.

2016 was a very successful year for me, whilst the Paralympic GB teams (many of whom I had met whilst at the academy) were winning medals in Rio, I was winning medals in more national junior competitions. This winning led to me being invited to the Junior Masters. Against the best able bodied junior archers, I proudly took 1st place, a major achievement that set me up to start competing against adults.

The start of 2017 was not nearly as successful, I struggled to balance training with my A levels and learning to drive. I found myself performing poorly at competitions and generally finding it hard to adapt to new techniques and the environment. Despite the challenges I continued and made a key decision that would improve,



Jamie Harris

this included moving most of my training to Evesham Archers as this allowed me to shoot outside on a dedicated range more often. My biggest achievement in 2017 was taking 3rd place at The Worshipful Company of Fletchers’ Disability Championship, a good result but also a lesson not to attend a week long archery festival before a major event. The Disability Championship was a fantastic event, split across two days the event comprising of qualifying on day one and Head to Heads on day two. Day one has a similar feel to most events but day two is set up like an international competition with individual matches and live commentary, a great event for beginners to experience the professional’s challenges. Over the course of the indoor season with help from the Compound Specialist Andy Rikunenko I was able to improve the quality of my shooting back to where it should have been.

In 2018 the Archery GB Coaches gave me the opportunity to join para team on a trip to an annual international para competition in Dubai (4TH FAZZA PARA ARCHERY WORLD RANKING EVENT). It was new experience for me with the cameras and multiple teams from around the world as well very warm weather.

Drawing from my experience at the Disability Championship I was able to put in a good performance finishing in the top 8. I also performed well at national competitions getting the selection score needed to join the team in the Czech Republic for another international competition. Also during the year I won at one of the national competitions held at the Deer Park Archery Club against able bodied archers. The competition in the Czech Republic (NOVE MESTO 2018 PARA ARCHERY EUROPEAN CIRCUIT 2ND LEG WORLD RANKING TOURNAMENT) also went well finishing in the top 16. My performance during the year must have impressed the Archery GB coaches, as I was offered a place on the team. Since then I have gone on to win the 2nd Worshipful Company of Fletchers’ Disability Championship.

So far in 2019 I have left my job in customer care and focused fully on archery and being part of the team, the additional training has allowed me to work continually on key areas, there are always plenty of areas of improvement across both myself and my kit if I am to become a world leading archer. Thankfully The Worshipful Company of Fletcher’s has generously provided me with a grant for new equipment (a spare bow of higher poundage). With help from this new equipment I plan to compete at both the international para archery championships this year and at the Tokyo Paralympics games.

A big thank you to The Worshipful Company of Fletchers’ not only for the grant, but for holding wonderful events like the Disability Championships that inspire both experts and beginners to push themselves to be better archers.

*Jamie Harris*

## Jamie's Story

In our January eMagazine, you will have seen Jamie Harris being awarded the Fletchers' Cup. This was in recognition of the hard work and progress he had made towards the Paralympic squad. He has also written up how he has progressed over the years and it is a remarkable testimony on how to overcome difficulties. Here is his story.

I have recently joined the GB para archery squad after shooting for six years. I have found it's often hard for people starting out to see how it's possible to become world class archer. What is the secret - talent or training? This is my story, how I went from being a novice, reliant on people to load my bow, to winning first place at the National Disability Championships in 2018. My passion for para sports started in 2012 when I was lucky enough to be able to watch events live at both the London Olympics and Paralympics. During this time I saw a variety of events at the games and was impressed with the innovative ways the para athletes adapted to compete, it was this experience that inspired me to find a sport I could enjoy and challenge myself at. Later in the that year I was fortunate to attend an event organised by Limp Power at Stoke Mandeville Sport Centre, the weekend aimed to get young people with limb impairments into sport, something that certainly worked for me. At the event I tried multiple sports ranging from Rowing to Javelin but found Archery to be the most enjoyable; this was despite getting a friction burn and only just hitting a target 10m away, clearly a hooked shaped arm and locked fingers is a challenge for shooting a recurve bow.

In 2013 I joined my local archery club, Stratford archers. After completing the five week beginner's course on a recurve bow, this time with a finger tab, I moved on to try a compound bow as I was still having a hard time drawing the bow. By the time of the outdoor season, I was able to shoot 20m on a 120cm face without missing. I was a long way from shooting independently though, as I had to rely on my Dad to load the bow as I would typically pick up several arrows at a time from the quiver.

During the year I tried lots of equipment, starting with the club's Genesis bow and a collection of borrowed arrows and ended up with my own Mission Rally bow, this setup could adapt as my draw length often changed whenever new adaptation was tried. The biggest change was being able to use a trigger release, a great relief for my fingers and a dramatic increase in my shooting ability. My Dad endlessly helped me with adaptations, everything from complex release pulleys to simply turning my quiver upside down and drilling holes into it, a great solution for separating arrows in a quiver and allowing me to load the bow myself. By the end of the outdoor season I had started to shoot at 30m.

The indoor season between 2013 and 2014 was spent trying to adapt the release mechanism from my little arm. My Dad and I came up with many triggers designs ranging from shoulder pads with metal rods going across my face all the way through to bandages wrapped around my hand, consideration was even given to creating a system similar to the chest plate John Walker uses. In the end we went for a trigger attached to a metal bar, attached to a shin pad and all held in place with elasticated Velcro straps. Whilst innovative, this set up did run into problems whenever I increased the poundage of my bow as we had to increase the number of straps and this often cut the circulation in my arm. In 2014 I was invited on to the Archery GB Para Archery Academy as a coach had spotted me shooting at a return visit to the LimbPower's event. The Academy was great and meant that I got a weekend of training with some the best archers in the country once a month. My aim now became to shoot at a Paralympics, first building up to shooting at 50m by gradually increase my bow poundage as well as improving technique. With Compound Specialist Simon Scot on hand, we developed a new release system out of an Astra Shot Trainer, a Jim Fletcher Insider and a pullcord, a great improvement from shin pad with straps and possible one of the biggest reason I was able to reach the 50m distance. To this day I use a similar set up but constantly tweak the set-



## FLETCHERS ARROW AWARDED TO an INJURED FUSILIER

The Company is pleased to make a number of awards each year to our Military Affiliates, based on recommendations from their respective commanding officers and usually going to an outstanding junior rank. For the Army, we have links with both Battalions of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (1 RRF Regular and 5 RRF Reserve), Oxford University Officers Training Corps and 135 RRF Cadet Detachment at Balham. Undeterred by Covid lockdown, the Company conducted a video ceremony on 11<sup>th</sup> February to award this year's Fletchers Arrow to Corporal Tom Green of First Fusiliers .

By way of introduction, the Master made reference to the long and proud traditions of the Fusiliers and Fletchers, noting our mutual connections with the Tower, whilst gently reminding them that we were a couple of centuries ahead here. He went on to say how very much we appreciated this affiliation, noting both joint events and joint members, and to explain the significance and prestige of the Arrow award for outstanding achievement and merit.

The Commanding Officer of First Fusiliers, Lt Col Chris Head MC, reciprocated his appreciation of the link and gave a brief summary of his Battalion's activities over the past year. Their deployment to Estonia had gone ahead, despite Covid, as it had to in order to maintain a demonstrable forward deterrent, and because, put simply, that is what the Army does, regardless. There, he had been in command of an armoured battle group of about a thousand soldiers, with his core Fusilier Battalion supported by a Danish armoured Infantry company and the various elements of artillery, engineers, signals, intelligence, medical et al to make up a powerful independent force.

The tour had been highly successful in its operational purpose, but severely constrained in off duty and recreational terms because the country was under very tight Covid restrictions. Estonia was a small country of barely 1 1/3 million with only 150 intensive care beds. Troops were confined to barracks and normal mid tour leave had been cancelled, placing additional stress on troops and families, well supported by the Rear Party back in the UK, so post operational leave on return was particularly welcome. The Battalion was now on 12 hour notice for any contingency, with medics already deployed on Covid related tasks.

Lt Col Head then turned to the recipient of the Fletchers Arrow, Corporal Tom Green, who was pleasantly surprised to find his proud Parents joining the video call. Cpl Green was a section commander and PT Instructor, already an outstanding NCO when he was very seriously injured in a road accident last August whilst undertaking a 100 mile cycle challenge to raise funds for Combat Stress. He was now being treated for serious spinal injury at the Defence Rehabilitation Centre (Stanford Hall in Leicestershire which replaced Headley Court near Epsom) where his cheerful determination, fortitude in adversity and fighting spirit was an inspiration to all.

The Master endorsed Cpl Green as a truly worthy recipient and shot the arrow on its virtual trajectory via Lt Col Head to Cpl Green, whose response and subsequent conversation with the Master confirmed all that had been said. He was a fine example of all that is best in our Army. The Ceremony concluded with the Master thanking the Fusiliers for all that they were doing and looking forward to welcoming Lt Col Head at a future Fletchers event, whenever that might be.

John Power

## Court Meeting and Lunch at the National Liberal Club – 6<sup>th</sup> July

At last, more than six were allowed to gather, and finally we were able to clothe two new members in the Livery – both had been waiting for over a year. Before the Court meeting, photos of the Master and Wardens for both this and last year were configured in the opulent Smoking Room, badges and robes were swapped around with smiles a plenty.

The Court convened and welcomed Jon Avern as an Assistant. The Deputy Master gave an update on the Royal Charter. Various delays caused by the pandemic meant that it was not until May that the Privy Council gave their approval for the Great Seal to be affixed. But before that, the first page of the Charter must be illuminated and the best person to do that cannot begin until the autumn. We do however, expect it to be ready for presentation at our Anniversary Banquet to be held at Mansion House in March next year. Stuart was also able to present Duncan Garland with his Past Masters badge before the Master presented Stuart with the Deputy Master's jewel.

We were then able to welcome Elna Joseph and James James-Crook to the Company before they and the Court moved to the Smoking Room for the customary pre-lunch drinks reception where we were joined by more members and guests. We were pleased to welcome the Master Farmer and his Clerk, as well as Lt Col Chris Head, former CO of the First Battalion Royal Fusiliers, who we had not been able to host previously, due to both the pandemic and overseas operational commitments. We were also fortunate to have Stephen Tully join us; Steve is a Board member of Archery Great Britain and also the Chair of the Development and Technical committee of World Archery (Europe). The Master's consort and son were able to support Anne at her first *in person* event, alongside a colleague from Reading University, Professor Ken Dark. They and guests that members had invited were all welcomed by our Upper Warden, Philip Shears before the Master gave her maiden speech. Alderman of Southwark Borough and Chairman of the National Liberal Club, Tim McNally was also with us and he and the team at the NLC made us all most welcome, the waiting service was impeccable, and all the arrangements ran smoothly, including having to move the Reception from the Terrace to the Smoking room because of the non summer weather!



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(Continued from page 8)

When the Beadle and I departed to return various items to our Hall, at least half of those who attended were happily settled at the NLC bar - everyone being so pleased to actually see each other and to rekindle old friendships as well as making new friends. Here's hoping that even more of us will be able to gather when we meet again in September for our Anniversary Service of Thanksgiving; social distancing and other COVID restrictions having limited numbers who could attend up to now but that did not impede the Fletcher spirit of fellowship and conviviality.



KP

### JAMES JAMES-CROOK, CLOTHED 6 July 2021

James has spent much of his career with Phillips Fine Art Auctioneers, becoming a Director and Senior Auctioneer, and worked for them in Australia, South Africa and Ireland, amongst other countries. He is now an independent Fine Art Consultant and Valuer specialising in 20th Century British and Irish Art and a freelance auctioneer. James has a thorough knowledge of the Livery, his father having been Master Bowyer 1994-96 with his Jubilee being recognised with a presentation at the Agincourt Dinner in 2005. His grandfather was an Honorary Court Assistant during 1950's. James has been an active participant in many of his School's committees – Aldenham (also attended by PM Scott Knight, though in different years) and is currently Secretary to The Letchmore Trust; President of Old Aldenhamians and a Governor of The Aldenham Foundation. James's interests include tennis, music, architecture, classic cars, gardening and travel.

### ELNA JOSEPH, CLOTHED 6th July 2021

Elna's previous involvement in the Livery movement stem from her husband Neville, who is a member of two companies. Elna supported Neville whilst he was Master Wheelwright and became involved in both his Past Masters Association and the consorts Association. She has arranged many activities for the latter and is currently their treasurer. Elna's interests lie in the arts: theatre, music, ballet, history books and the visual arts. She has been a Governor of both her local Primary and Secondary schools, as well as being an active Parish Councillor. Elna assisted Neville in his accountancy and investment advice practice; and they have three children and six grandchildren.

## Your Opportunity

Several people at lunch were wearing a pin badge to mark our 650th anniversary as a Livery Company. This handsome badge is now available. It measures 3 cm across. The cost is £6.50 for one badge plus postage / £10.00 for 2 badges plus postage / £20 for 5 badges plus postage and can be ordered from our Clerk, Kate Pink— either by email [clerk@fletchers.org.uk](mailto:clerk@fletchers.org.uk) or 'phone 07952 051618. It is shown here a little bigger than its actual size.

