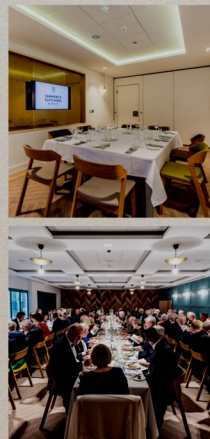


'Piercing Plate Armour with Arrows - Fact or Fiction'

On the 19th April, we were treated to a marvellous talk by champion archer and arrowsmith Mark Stretton. Mark holds the Guinness World Record for the heaviest longbow draw weight (200 lb) achieved in 2004 at the shooting ground of the Bath Archers. During his talk, via Zoom, Mark showed us pictures of his experiments using various arrow heads against a selection of mediaeval armour. These experiments were carried out in as realistic conditions as possible by simulating a person behind the armour. For this simulation Mark used a pig carcass. The pig had died from other causes. His experiments showed that, given the right conditions, plate armour could have been pierced, however it was more likely that the force of the shot would have knocked a knight off his horse. Against chain mail, however, arrows were deadly and could easily penetrate this type of protection. Mediaeval arrows have rarely survived as, being made of iron, they rust away but Mark was able to show a variety of arrow heads from lozenge or bodkin shapes to much heavier barbed heads. He believes that, in warfare, the lozenge or bodkin heads would have been used as they were much cheaper and easier to make. The wider barbed heads would be more suitable for hunting game as they would cause a greater blood loss and hence a quicker kill. Research on the few arrow heads to have survived showed that the arrowsmiths who crafted them were highly skilled and hardened arrow points by heating them in a mixture of charcoal. Heads were also tempered to ensure they were not too brittle. From practical experience, he estimated that a skilled archer probably used a draw weight of 120– 140 lbs and, although it was possible to loose 12 arrows a minute, this would have been an exhausting exercise and a much lower rate of fire was likely to have been maintained. An interesting and thoughtful talk.

JLD



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KEEP CALM AND INSTALLATI-ON !!

At the Installation Court on Tuesday 26th April, we were pleased to welcome our new Clerk Lt Col Debs Taylor, who duly took the Oath of Office of Clerk to the Worshipful Company of Fletchers. *To the Gallant and Learned Clerk, your mission should you choose to accept it.....* 'The Master elect has Covid and will not be at Court in person, modify the proceedings accordingly'



The Master, Philip Shears QC, was not able to attend his installation

.....this message will self-destruct in 5 seconds.....!!
Welcome to the Company Debs!!! Not one to be rattled, our new Clerk rose to the challenge magnificently. Philip Shears QC, our Master-elect valiantly appeared via Zoom on the screen in the

Court Room and took the Oath of Office becoming our Master for the ensuing year. The business of the Court was then carried out in a hybrid format, partly in person and partly via Zoom. We were pleased to clothe two new Liverymen, Brady Brim-DeForest of Balvairst Castle, Baron of Balvairst, and District Judge Anthony Rich. Court was also pleased to receive the oaths of two new Freemen, Robert Linnegar and Graham Potts.



Brady Brim-DeForest Anthony Rich Robert Linnegar Graham Potts



Service of Thanksgiving at St Vedast alias Foster

Processing from our Hall to St Vedast-alias-Foster, Court joined our members and guests in a service of Thanksgiving, led by the Honorary Chaplain, The Reverend Paul Kennedy, remembering our departed members and sending our Master our prayers for a speedy recover. Processing back to our church: *To the Gallant and Learned Clerk, your next mission should you choose to accept it.....*
'The Master wishes to deliver a speech vir-

tually, please set up the technology and modify the running order'
.....this message will self-destruct in 5 seconds.....!!



Murray Craig Paul Kennedy Andrew Trapnell Tim Sanders-Hewett
 Anne Curry Nicola Davies Melanie Trapnell Clare Sanders-Hewett



The Battlefield seekers

Anthony Rich Anne Curry Robert Shaw Sue King Dr Christopher Scott

No sooner said than done!! The Deputy Master Professor Anne Curry, Upper Warden Andrew Trapnell and Renter Warden Tim Sanders-Hewett welcomed our guests to the Hall (including a notable group of Battlefield Guides). We also welcomed our principal guests, Murray Craig, immediate past Clerk to the Chamberlain's Court and Nicola

Davies, Master Armourer. Seated at dinner our Master was able to speak to us via a large screen behind the top table (imagine an imposing figure presiding over a Court room!!).

While we missed our Master, Fletchers and guests enjoyed their dinner in a bubbly atmosphere rounded off by a toast to our guests from the Upper Warden and an enjoyable, amusing speech to his Fletcher friends from Murray Craig!!

Andrew Trapnell



The Fletchers retrace their steps through history

On Tuesday 8th February 15 members and guests assembled outside the Royal Exchange. Our purpose was to enjoy a walk around the City of London which would include a stop at the Church of Austin Friars with which we were associated in our medieval past. Our guide, Liveryman Joslin Lewis, was there to greet us and we started with a short introduction to the Royal Exchange.

This is the third building on the site. The architect was Sir William Tite, and it was opened by Queen Victoria in 1844. She used the same words that Queen Elizabeth I used in opening the first building in 1567 – "It is my Royal will and pleasure that this building be hereafter called the Royal Exchange". At the front is a massive portico with eight Corinthian Columns. At the top is a pediment with seventeen figures, the largest of which is Commerce. In the middle of the pediment are the opening words of Psalm 24 – 'The Earth is the Lords and the fullness thereof'. We also learned a little of the history of the Bank of England, the Mansion House, a statue of James Greathead, the developer who made the machines for tunnelling the Northern Line of the Underground, and also Lord Palumbo's building that is intended to represent a ship coming towards you.

From there we walked to Austin Friars. We were able to go inside and view the interior of the Dutch Church, but we were discouraged from talking as the organist was in the middle of practicing! The church has a strong association with the Worshipful Company of Fletchers. In 1484 in the reign of King Richard III ordinances were presented by the fellowship of the craft of Fletchers to the Mayor and Aldermen of London. These were mainly to secure the conduct of the business of arrow making and selling but they included an order that the whole fellowship of the Craft should 'henceforth for evermore yearly assemble at the Augustinian (often called Austin) Friars of London on the Day of the Decollation of St John the Baptist [29 August] to attend the Mass to be said then and there before the same fellowship. Any person who does not contribute 2d towards the light of five tapers of wax shall pay one pound of wax or 6d'.

This reminds us that in their early incarnations the Craft Guilds were religious in nature. The associations of members of a particular trade would meet for mutual prayer and worship. Central to this was the doctrine of Purgatory. The soul of a deceased Christian would spend time in a state of suspension before moving on to the afterlife in heaven or hell. In keeping with the Company's likely origins as a religious fraternity the money raised from the members at the four annual quarter days was explicitly assigned to the maintenance of the light of St John the Baptist in the Augustinian (Austin) Friary in Broad Street which had been founded in 1253 was the leading Augustinian monastery in England, part of an Order established in 1244 which followed a Rule written by St Augustine of Hippo (d. 430). Its boundaries were London Wall, Throgmorton Street and Copthall Avenue. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1540, Sir William Paulet took over the monastic buildings and built himself a town house on their site. After the Friary's dissolution the Fletchers had to find an alternative venue, and the annual commemoration of the dead was held in the parish church of St Mary Axe. In 1550 the nave of the former Church of the Augustinian Friary was given to Dutch refugees by King Edward VI. In 1862 the Church was burnt down. It was rebuilt and bombed in 1940 and later rebuilt again.



From Austin Friars we walked to a statue of George Peabody, an American Philanthropist, and founder of the Bank now known as J P Morgan. His statue was erected in 1869, the year that he died. His funeral was held in Westminster Abbey where he was originally buried. However sometime later his will appeared and he specifically stated in it that he was to be buried in Massachusetts. Queen Victoria decreed that his wishes must be complied with and so he was dug up, transported across the Atlantic and reburied in his home town. Next to George Peabody is a herm of Paul Julius Reuter, founder of the world wide news agency. During the First World War communications were so disrupted that the only way Reuter could get the news of the war back to England was by pigeon post. However this proved to be very unreliable as

sometimes the pigeons, on release, flew straight back to Germany.

Along Cornhill we stopped at St Michael's, a church built by Sir Christopher Wren following the Great Fire of London in 1666. This Church has a statue of St Michael outside and it is in memory of all those who lost their lives in the Great War. Inside we were treated again to organ practice! However, our guide was able to tell us about the pelican who feeds her young with her own blood, which is one way of representing one generation of

(Continued on page 10)

Gold Certificate in Fletching

It is extremely rare these days that the Worshipful Company of Fletchers awards a gold certificate for fletching, but we were delighted to do so to Mick Manns, Master Fletcher and Past Warden of the Craft Guild of Traditional Bowyers and Fletchers, and liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Bowyers.

The award was presented by the Master Anne Curry, supported by a number of liverymen and past masters of the WCF, at a special event in Lutterworth on 20 February 2022. Such awards are made on the recommendation of the Craft Guild, and on examination of a specimen box of six arrows, all different and made to the very highest of standards. The WCF is delighted to have these special arrows for display in its hall.



Master presents Mick his certificate

Marc Grady, Master of the Traditional Craft Guild is on the right

Mick's apprentice Ann

Pole told us more of his long and interesting history in the world of archery. He first 'found' archery in the mid-1980s, when his daughter wanted to 'have-a-go' with the Bowmen of Bosworth. Mick joined the bowmen in 1986, and by 1994 had joined the Craft guild as apprentice to John Randall & Alan Rogers, achieving Master Fletcher by 1996, and rising to Warden from 2005 to 2007. Mick has made hundreds, if not thousands of quality arrows for customers worldwide, before his retirement in 2019. But he has also passed on his skills and enthusiasm to his many apprentices, and also through the many demonstrations and displays he gave at festivals and museums over 20 years of activity. Mick has influenced so very many people far and wide, from his local battlefield at Bosworth to educating school and college students in America. A Gold award is thus so well deserved not only for Mick's craftsmanship but also his wide communication of the skills and significance of fletching.

Anne Curry

(Continued from page 11)

Christians nurturing the next.

Our next stop was at Leadenhall Market. This takes its name from a Mansion owned by the Neville family with a lead roof in the 14th Century. People originally were able to buy and sell poultry, cheese and butter here. The market and the mansion were burned down in the Great Fire, and rebuilt around three court yards. The first was the beef market, the second was for veal mutton and lamb, and the third was for fruit and vegetables. This was pulled down in 1881 but still maintains some of the features of the post 1666 market.

Our final stop was for a lunch at the George and Vulture just off Lombard Street. The Minute books of the Fletchers Company show that Court met there from at least 1767 (our first surviving minutes) to 1808. Since the building dates back to the early eighteenth century and retains many of its original features, we were definitely eating in an environment with which our predecessors would have been familiar. And the choice of menu – steak and kidney pudding and syrup sponge – also invoked popular food of the past. The George and Vulture has a strong link with Charles Dickens, and he mentions it in his first novel, "The Pickwick Papers" (1837). A messenger arrives at the restaurant and tells Mr Pickwick that his debtors want to meet him urgently. "Tell them" says Mr Pickwick "that I am temporarily detained at the George and Vulture".

Joslin Lewis



HMS DEFENDER – Spring 2022 Update



A quick roundup of what our affiliated RN ship has been up to since returning from her Far East deployment at Christmas.

January and February were spent in Portsmouth dockyard going through a frantic maintenance period – her "40,000 mile service" – plus having lots of new equipment fitted. It was also a change-over period for 35% of the ship's company, so there was a busy training period running throughout as well.

On 8th Feb, the annual award of the Fletcher Silver

Arrow was made on board by PM Lesley Agutter, accompanied by five lucky Fletchers who were invited to lunch with the CO, Cdr Vince Owen. Afterwards they enjoyed a ship tour, a briefing of the ship's escapades with the Russians around Crimea and then, as a special treat, an exclusive tour of HMS VICTORY. The recipient of the award this time was Leading Seaman Luke Bothamley - a great character and a most worthy recipient.

Two weeks later, Cdr Owen handed over command to Cdr George Storton, a specialist Navigating Officer who has previously commanded patrol vessels in the Falklands and around UK and, most recently, was the CO of HMS DRAGON – sister ship to DEFENDER - for a few months before Christmas. We wish him the best of fortune with "our" ship!

At the end of Feb, George took the ship back to sea for a series of equipment trials and shakedown training, followed by one of the largest NATO amphibious exercises for many years in the high Arctic around North Norway. After Easter, the ship has a full programme of operations at sea planned, however the current war in Ukraine looms and could affect the programme at very short notice.

On a final note, we were delighted to be able to invite Cdr Owen and his wife Victoria to our Anniversary Banquet in the Mansion House. They were honoured guests at the top table and Cdr Owen was presented to our Royal Guest. Later this year he and his family are posted for 12 months to Rhode Island, USA followed by a possible appointment for a further two years in America. Notwithstanding, he has promised to keep in touch with the Fletchers!

TJE Apr 2022



Farewell to Kate Pink, Clerk to the WCF 2012-22



On 7 April, following a fundraising concert at St Vedast for the Trust, we had opportunity to make a formal presentation to Kate Pink to thank her for service to the Company as Clerk. Kate took up post on 20 September 2012, serving as our Clerk for nine and a half years before being appointed as Clerk to the Guild of Freemen on 21 March 2022. She has been a vital cog in the Company, organising a myriad of events, skilfully taking minutes of our discussions (in other words, making sense of what we were saying!), and handling our finances. Kate was particularly aware of the importance of fellowship, playing a key role in the support of our members. She was a truly vital 'help-mate' for the Master and for the Trust. It was fitting, perhaps, that her last event with the WCF was the 650th Anniversary Banquet. The organisation of a function of that kind is a huge undertaking. That it was such a marvellous occasion – quite a landmark in Fletcher history with the largest number of Fletchers and guests gathered together – is testimony to Kate's skills and energy as well as her powers of persuasion. Kate also played, and indeed still does play, an important role in the city more generally. In April 2021 she was elected by her fellow clerks to the Executive Committee of the Fellowship of Clerks,

and has since become Deputy Chair. She was also a member of the Livery Committee, a group which provides vital connections between the livery and the officers at Guildhall and Mansion House. Kate is also active in the FANYs, playing a vital role in supporting key public services at times of crisis and during the pandemic. The Company has much reason to be grateful to Kate. We are sorry to see her move on to pastures new but wish her all the very best for the future.

Anne Curry

Notes for Contributors.

Articles should be between 150 and 500 words long and emailed to 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, please put your name and address on the back. 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 edition is in email format and will appear in **November** and the deadline for contributions is **15th October**, and it is hoped to produce further email versions provided we have enough material. 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



John Dumbrell

(Continued from page 8)

Fletchers' support for the OUOTC Marathon Team.

RAF Northolt and 1921 (Lewisham) Sqn

John Chappell reports that with the current crisis in the Ukraine, the RAF is busy at present and Northolt will be playing its part in the overall effort, be it providing individual augmentees to reinforce RAF deployments to Eastern Europe and NATO HQs etc or providing support through units at Northolt such as No 1 Aeronautical Information Documents Unit and the Forces Postal and Courier Service where the workload has increased significantly with the increase in operational tempo. Sustaining the scale of effort over the coming weeks and months is going to be challenging for all in the RAF and Northolt will also be expected to maintain routine output as best it can with support to the Platinum Jubilee. As far as 1921 (Lewisham Sqn) goes they have had a recent significant success with Cadet Corporal Karol Escudero Mancera being awarded a much coveted flying scholarship under the Air Cadet Pilot Scheme. This will involve a couple of weeks flying training at Tayside Flying School to solo standard sometime over the summer. Wesley thought she was one of only two London Wing cadets to make the interview stage, an incredible achievement in itself and a testament to the unit in gaining success in this area given the intense competition for these awards. The Lewisham cadets were also at the Mansion House Banquet.

Andrew McMillan

Our New Arrivals

At the Installation Court, the following Liverymen and Freemen were admitted.

Liveryman Brady Brim-DeForest, of Balvaire Castle, Baron of Balvaire.

Brady is a social entrepreneur, digital entertainment pioneer, and technologist. He currently serves as Chief Executive Officer at Theorem and Halmos Ventures as well as Chairman of the Board of Hedgebrook.



Brady Brim-DeForest

Liveryman District Judge Anthony Rich.

Anthony Rich's profession is law. He was admitted a solicitor in 1981 with an early career in London, including service in the City of London. He was appointed a Deputy District Judge in 1999 and a full time District Judge in 2012. He has served as a reserve forces officer with The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.



Anthony Rich

Freeman Graham Potts.

Graham Potts worked in the Finance sector for Barclays Bank and then two Japanese banks prior to his retirement. He is heavily involved in the world of Archery, and was elected to membership of The Royal Toxophilite Society in 1988, becoming President in 2018.



Graham Potts

Freeman Robert Linnegar.

Bob Linnegar taught at Greendown Community School for 21 years being promoted to Pastoral Leader and Head of Faculty before moving into teacher training and development. He worked closely with Bath University and developed Higher Education MSc courses for established teachers. Finally, being appointed Deputy Head and then Headmaster of The Commonweal School in Swindon.



Robert Linnegar

Affiliates Report

The Fusiliers

The 1st Royal Regiment of Fusiliers have been busy supporting the NHS in the COVID fight, supplying Planners and Vaccinators, while members of the MT Platoon acted as tanker drivers during the fuel shortage.

Over the summer some personnel are due to deploy to Estonia in a Training Support role to assist the Estonian Army in their annual Readiness Exercise. This activity directly contributes to the NATO mission in the Baltics and the sober task of deterring any aggression against alliance members. Other detachments will take place over the summer but the Battalion will be reformed together in September when it conducts its Gunnery Camp at Sennelager.

Meanwhile the 5th Battalion also had several personnel deployed on Op CABRIT in Estonia as part of NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence. At home they continue to support Military Aid to Civilian Authorities taskings, which has seen many of service personnel mobilised across the country and helping with the United Kingdom's response to the Covid pandemic in the form of Liaison Officers to Ambulance drivers to anywhere in between. This opportunity has been a method by which to help the country recover from the pandemic and concurrently has given our troops the chance to get involved in operations, something which acts as a huge motivation for them.

The Fifth Fusiliers are training regularly on testing and realistic exercises across the southern and northern parts of the UK, and into Germany, working alongside their Regular counterparts as well. Over twenty soldiers have volunteered to deploy to the Falklands and Kenya over the coming months, and beyond that Fifth Fusiliers main effort is preparing for and executing its Annual Training Event, which will be an urban operations exercise on Salisbury Plain in October. Fifth Fusiliers continues to be the Army Reserve Infantry Battalion of choice, located across the UK, ready to react and support when required.

Balham Cadets

SSI Lynn Reynolds reports that the cadets really enjoyed their evening at Mansion House, providing the Honour Guard, and meeting HRH, even though it was very brief, a few did get to say good evening to her. It is all part of the experience we are aiming to give at 135 Detachment, allowing cadets to challenge what they consider are their limits and show them their potential.

We are currently in the middle of some heavy-duty navigation training to ensure we don't lose anyone on the upcoming Silver D of E expedition on the first weekend in April. Our cadets have also been collecting donations for the Ukrainian people in support of the sterling work being done by the White Eagle Polish Club, which is based next door to our detachment. I do hope that we are able to work with the Fletchers again soon, in the meantime I will aim to find an Archery Instructors course for myself and Sergeant Fenech to attend which will enable us to host a little competition with your members later in the year.

OUOTC

The Master attended the OUOTC Annual Dinner on 19 February and was thanked for the

Entertaining the Young Freemen



A very successful drinks reception and tour of the Hall was held on the 12th April for the Guild of Young Freemen. Several members of the Fletchers membership committee and fifteen members of the Guild of Young



Freemen attended the event, including their Master Louise Starling and their Middle Warden Samuel Chadd. The Master Professor Anne Curry and the Renter Warden Andrew Trapnell gave a very informative presentation in the form of a fun Q & A session.



Dr Hannes Kleinke also gave an excellent and amusing short history of the Fletchers. A most convivial evening and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Our New Master writes

I was honoured to become Master Fletcher on 26th April, 2022. Our 650th anniversary year has been a tremendous success, with many interesting events, and a superb banquet at the Mansion House on the 7th March, where our new Charter was displayed, and was much admired by our guest of honour, the Princess Royal. We also bade a fond farewell to our Clerk, Kate Pink on 7th April with gifts and a Drinks Party, following a delightful concert of Baroque music at St Vedast.

Our now Deputy Master Professor Anne Curry was a prime mover in the organisation of our anniversary year – together with an enthusiastic and hard working team. I shall do all that I can, working with the Court and its committees, to follow the successes of our 650th and work through the need to deal with the adjustments which arise from the implementation of the Royal Charter.

Additionally, we have potentially exciting developments with our Charitable Trust which may grow in its scope of supporting archery and disabled archery via a closer association with the charitable arm of Archery Great Britain.

The Fletchers are a wonderful, welcoming and companionable Company – and I will do all that I can to encourage and continue that culture. We have a number of interesting events coming up – including Professor Curry's postponed visit to the Mary Rose, the Master's Holiday to Venice in October and, rather sooner, and closer to (my!) home, a visit to the Isle of Wight in May.

Later in the year I hope to help organise two particular events. Firstly, a supper with a performance of Trial by Jury by Gilbert and Sullivan (their shortest work lasting less than an hour) – drawing on the talents of fellow Fletchers to fill the roles. Secondly, a Limerick supper – designed to entice those of quick wit to entertain us with original verse, perhaps descending to a soupçon of light hearted character assassination.

The final lifting of Covid restrictions is a wonderful opportunity for members of the Livery and their guests to fully enjoy the fellowship of this fine Company.

Philip Shears, Master.

(Continued from page 7)

I am glad to say our Trustees were happy to approve the modest spend, as it ticked many of the funding guidelines – archery related, educational including disabled and London-based. Over Christmas Richard and his colleague Hector Cole, who forges the arrow heads, manufactured a superb collection of 30 medieval arrows, various demonstration iron arrow heads, a quiver, leather gauntlet, bowstring and wax and a leather arm brace. These were delivered in early March to the ship by Richard and Liveryman Tim Eltringham and most gratefully received by the ship's owner, Roddy Coleman and his staff.

The ship is not yet fully open as Roddy and his team decided to use the pandemic lockdown period to carry out a comprehensive refit. This is nearly complete, and they hope to be fully open to visitors for Easter. Later in the year it is hoped we might be able to arrange a visit for the Fletchers to the ship and possibly combine it with a social event / cocktail party. Watch this space!

THE Apr 2022



Fletchers Present Archery Equipment to GOLDEN HINDE



Many of you may have noticed, near London Bridge and Borough Market, an old-looking sailing ship in a small dock on the south bank of the river. This is the *Golden Hinde*, an exact replica of Sir Francis Drake's famous ship that is now an established tourist attraction and educational venue. It was built in the early 70's at Appledore in Devon as a fully seaworthy vessel and circumnavigated the globe twice before eventually retiring to its present home in St Mary Overie Dock in Southwark. During lockdown last year, the ship's manager wrote to us tentatively asking for advice about archery at sea during Elizabethan times. After ringing him back and chatting for a while, it became clear that we might

be able to do a bit more than just offering advice ... given our contacts in the archery world, maybe we could source some replica Elizabethan archery equipment? We didn't let on straight away, but after a chat with our good friends (and Freeman Fletchers) Lindsay and Richard Head, a plan was hatched to provide a selection of equipment for display in an au-

thentic oak chest with some additional items, such as a selection of iron arrow heads and bodkins, for live demonstrations.

Needless to say, the ship's educational staff were overjoyed with the offer! The ship is normally open to visitors daily and features several exhibitions on board depicting various aspects of life on board in Drake's time. More importantly, it is used a lot for educating children (and adults!) of all ages with a series of exciting demonstrations and activities. The most popular event is a sleepover when the kids become the ship's crew for 24 hours. So it was clear that our equipment offer would provide a valuable and vivid addition to the exhibits and equipment already in use.



(Continued on page 6)