



La Flèche

email edition

November 2022



A View from the Master

Dear fellow Fletchers,

Given that I am now halfway through my term as Master, may I take this opportunity to reflect on the last six months and to look forward to the next six months. It is only right to start by thanking all those who have helped, supported, and guided me since my installation in April. The welcome and enthusiasm of all members of our Company really does define the 'Fletchers Experience' and, I am sure, has led to sustain our significant rise in applications to join us as Liverymen or Freemen .

At the recent Court meeting, I was delighted to take part in the clothing of ten people ... Lady Brewer as an honorary Liverymen, Hector Cole as an honorary Freeman (Hector being the foremost arrowsmith in the country), four Liverymen and four Freemen. I was delighted to greet the very successful para archer, Jamie Harris, who was awarded the Fletchers Cup in 2020 and achieved an individual gold at the recent European Para Final. The Court Lunch was attended by over 100 people and among those attending were guests expressing interest in joining the Fletchers.

Although there are many reasons to be confident in the direction the Company is going, we should not let up in encouraging more to join. A very important part of our purpose in being Fletchers is our support for the Fletchers Trust and, in particular, our support for archery for the disabled. One significant aspect, which has particularly impacted on me, is an understanding of what our support really means to those we help through the Trust. I have now had chance to visit events and competitions and have witnessed the benefits of our support in action. This included speaking to individuals to better understand the many difficulties they have faced and dealt with. One is left both inspired and humbled. It is clear that the work of the Trust really does make a difference to para archers. I am conscious that many Fletchers will have watched and supported archery for the disabled and, for those who have not and those who are new to our Company, I would urge you to do so.

The last six months have included some interesting and fun events. The Deputy Master's visit to the Mary Rose; the Isle of Wight visit; dining at the Royal London Yacht Club, visiting Osborne House and dining at the Royal Yacht Squadron; archery at Noak Hill; archery at the Royal Toxophilite Society; The National Disability Archery Championship at Lilleshall; The Para-Archery European Cup Finals at Nottingham; The annual Archery competition between the Fletchers and Bowyers at Kensington Palace (normally in the moat of the Tower of London); Two visits to HMS Defender (our affiliated Type 45 Destroyer); a visit to RAF Northolt (also an affiliate); My Masters Holiday to Venice where miraculously no-one fell into the Grand Canal or

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got lost! As can be seen, there is plenty to distract, inform and entertain any keen Fletcher, not forgetting the golf day, which sadly suffered from excess heat, and had to be postponed.

Looking forward to Christmas and beyond, we start with the dinner for Fletchers and Bowyers at the Tower of London under the watchful eye of the new Governor of the Tower when the result of the archery competition will be announced. This is closely followed on the 8th of November by a service of Evensong at Westminster Abbey commemorating the 600th anniversary of the funeral of Henry V. Thereafter we have again been invited by the Fusiliers to a Carol Service at the Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula in the Tower of London followed by an informal supper. Finally before Christmas we are having 'The Masters Christmas Party' starting early in the evening of the 19th of December, it will be informal with an emphasis on entertainment and fun, some limericks from those present, some Flanders and Swan and carols. Our Clerk's excellent recent newsletter sets out the programme up to the Anniversary Banquet on the 14th of March. May I pick out Trial by Jury on the 14th of February, it would be splendid to have as many Fletchers voices as possible. Let me or our Clerk know if you would like to join in. The first time I sang in it, I was in the chorus/jury and it was great fun, (and ironically the only time I have been on a jury!). I also hope to add a zoom event to the programme, having persuaded the Director of the Maritime Archaeology Trust to give a talk on its work which ranges from the Mesolithic inhabitants of the Solent area to their work in identifying the first world war wrecks which litter the South Coast and includes some exciting recent discoveries of 17th and 18th century wrecks of historic significance.

Finally, in the recent past, we have all enjoyed our celebrations for our 650th anniversary together with the granting of our Royal Charter. The Court and, in particular the Royal Charter Working Group, are now engaged in navigating the way to move from our present unincorporated structure to the structure required by the provisions of the Charter. Many important matters have been considered including financial structures, accounting periods, any continuing function of our present structure, members loans and the provisions for enabling the requirements of Common Hall and communication with members to be met. I am pleased to say that significant progress is being made as a result of hard work from fellow Fletchers combined with appropriate legal and other advice.

May I wish you all the very best and I look forward seeing you soon.

Philip Shears KC, Master Fletcher

The Venice Holiday

As the Master mentions above, the Weekend Away in Venice was a great success and enjoyed by all the participants. The boat trips, the visit to the Cathedral of St Mark and the opportunities for sight seeing and wine tasting were reflected in the pictures sent in and an assortment of these can be seen on the next page.





Armour-piercing Arrows

Throughout the middle ages, the armourers and the arrow makers were in fierce competition. Longbows changed little over the centuries, but armour and arrow makers engaged in a 'technology-war', each trade endeavouring to outdo the other, and thwart its rival's latest innovation. Mark Stretton's talk went into detail about arrowheads for different jobs and their countering of developments in armour. Expert armourers tell similar tales of their craft. However, although processes and quality of making arrowheads remained reasonably constant, those of armour varied! Cost-paring and manufacturing shortcuts for profit are not the prerogative of modern Britain. Bespoke armour for a noble was of superior quality to that made for a mass-produced, munition issue to the commonality. Full appreciation of arrows' armour-piercing ability should consider the type and quality of armour at which they were shot.

The two major types of armour used in Western Europe were 'plate' and 'mail' (never call it 'chain mail'). Blacksmith skills in forging and folding, tempering or even affecting the chemical composition of metal for plate armour is complicated and involved, so to understand about quality it is easier to consider mail. Mail armour is comprised of small rings of steel 'wire' linked together to form a larger expanse of flexible metal protection – the easiest example is the mail shirt, popular with the Celts, Romans and Normans. These rings were created by wrapping a length of 'wire' around a 'former' (usually a finger-sized piece of stick) and where metal met metal and formed a hoop, it was cut free, and the two ends squeezed together so they formed a ring. By threading one end of an open ring through a closed one then butting



its ends the two rings were linked. Repeating this process over and over again, with each ring being linked into four others, formed an expanse of metal 'cloth' which was then shaped according to a pattern.

However, being just squeezed together meant the rings could, with slightly greater force, be prised apart, especially by a stiletto-like arrowhead. Butted mail was cheap but inferior craftsmanship. One answer was to wear a thick leather jerkin or, a flock-filled quilted coat beneath it, but another was to double the number of rings and effectively create two layers, but it also doubled the weight! The solution was to not butt the ends but to flatten them out and then overlap and permanently join them. The overlapped ends could be welded closed but this was never really popular and moreover, poor welds could snap. Better quality mail was created by drilling a small hole

through both flat surfaces, then aligning these holes to pass a thinner short piece of wire through them and hammer their protruding ends flat – in effect riveting. Riveted mail was about the best quality produced. It was expensive in time and skill but it performed much better than its butted counterpart, especially when shot at from long range. A man wearing cheaply made, single thickness butted mail was more vulnerable to arrows than one in expensive riveted, double-thickness mail, but, carrying a lighter load, he was often more mobile. The same is true of the varying quality of plate before one starts talking about thickness angled deflecting surfaces or channelling seams!

The ability of arrows to pierce armour is a rather complex affair.

Dr Christopher Scott

'Chain armour' featured lengths of chain stitched to padded jerkins. It was mostly used in Europe but was not popular in England.

European Youth Championships 2022

The European Youth Championships for Archery were held from the 15th to the 20th August 2022, at Lilleshall National Sports Centre.

Mr Christopher Brown and Mr Andrew McMillan as Trustees of the Fletchers Trust were invited as guests to present prizes on Friday 19th and Saturday 20th when the Team and Individual finals took place. Also in attendance were Mrs Hilda Gibson (Liveryman), in her capacity as a World Archery Europe Executive Board Member, and Mr Graham Potts (Freeman), who attended the entire event as a volunteer announcer and also as a guest in his role as President of The Royal Toxophilite Society and World Archery International Judge Committee member.



The event attracted 297 Athletes from 30 countries across Europe, including athletes from the Ukraine, who have been training in Germany.



The athletes competed in two age groups – Under 18 and Under 21, and in two Bow Categories – Recurve Bow and Compound Bow. Medals were available for Women and Men in Individual, Mixed Team (one man and one woman) and Teams for Men and Women (3 athletes in a team).

The standard of competition was very high, with 2 World Records and 7 European Records broken during the event.

The medal table was topped by Turkey with 14 medals, while Great Britain secured 4 gold medals, 2 silver medals and 1 bronze medal to finish second in the standings. Of particular note was the performance of Ukraine, who with 2 gold and 2 bronze medals took a very creditable 4th place.

Christopher Brown presented the medals for the Compound Under 21 Men individual category, and you can see Christopher in action in the video link [Live: Compound finals | Lilleshall 2022 European Youth Championships - YouTube](#) approximately 2 hours 31 minutes into the video. Hilda, Andrew and Graham also presented medals and prizes at various times. The Championships were considered a great event with significant positive feedback to Archery GB and the organisers from those teams that were competing.

No event can run without the volunteers who put so much heart and soul into ensuring the athletes can compete at their best and they are to be applauded for their work during the week.

John Power and Hadrian's Wall

14-15 August 2022

It is the central 12 miles that is the toughest but best preserved and most scenic bit, the outer extremities being gently undulating or flat and boring. I set off from Wallsend at midnight Saturday, i.e. start of Sunday, and followed the actual wall rather than the tourist trail. This took me right through the centre of a steep and very lively Newcastle with hordes of scantily clad young ladies queuing outside the many clubs, though soon on to open country isolation under a full moon. I was carrying over 35 lb (2½ stone, the weight of a 4 year old boy) of mostly water because there were very few reliable replenishment points, particularly at night. I consumed 17 litres over the 48 hours, the first day being >30degC, though thunder storms by the end, so always drenched in sweat and/or rain.



The OS map shows the Wall following a succession of steep high scarps with major ups and downs, but what is not so clear but much more wearing are the many smaller gullies requiring quite a bit of scrambling. Total ascent per satnav was 9800 ft. After 42 miles and 17 hours of this, and feeling pretty worn, the sight of the isolated Twice Brewed Inn down in the valley provided a much appreciated

DB&B recharge for the next day, albeit imposing a longer stop than wanted. Taken with my other leisurely stops to inspect forts and Pol, the satnav ended up showing only 32 hours moving out of the 48, so I could have done it in significantly shorter time, though I was still mightily relieved to reach my car in Bowness on Solway, well before midnight and again pretty wet and worn. 84 bumpy miles in two days – OK for 76.

The Wall itself is stunningly impressive, both as an engineering achievement and in its spectacular scale and siting, particularly along the crest of the sheer cliff face of the Whin Sill geological feature. It took only six years to build, with a ton of cut stone for every yard, then 15000 men to garrison it. As a Fletcher, I was mindful of the Roman Archers or Sagittarii based there, though never developed to the later devastating effect of the English long-bow. This middle bit really ought to be seen at least once in a lifetime, and there are roads giving direct access to key points, with B&Bs within a few miles.

John Power

Editor's Note

John's trip to the Wall coincided with its 1900th anniversary and to celebrate that many events were held on the Wall over the summer. In the background of his photo above you can see a building. This is a temporary structure made of scaffolding but depicts the North Gate of Housesteads Fort. It was accessible and provided an excellent view over the surrounding countryside and was covered by coloured panels made by local school children. The idea was conceived by a local Artist.



The Fletchers visit to the Mary Rose.



Sunk while leading the attack on the invasion galleys of the old enemy in the Solent in 1545, the Fletchers visit on June 6th was therefore an apt date to visit one of England's greatest war ships.

The concept of this museum is staggering on two counts. The first is in the fact that you can dig up a 450 year old ship that has sunk during a navel engagement, bring it to the surface, build a museum around it and preserve it for posterity. The second is that you can then safely display it for ordinary folk like me to wander around its interior and see how the decks were used at the height of a battle.

Now I do have to admit at this point that it was the bronze and iron guns that floated my boat rather than the archery! (Apologies.) I

learnt from the displays and the tour that the Mary Rose was a transitional ship design, with new heavy guns able to fire through the 'recently' invented gun ports. Making her one of the earliest ships to be able to fire a broadside and possibly the cause of its sinking (disputed). It was the range of design, style and size that was intriguing to me. Beautifully decorated bronze culverins, wrought iron port pieces welded together with reinforcing hoops and small square mouthed muzzle loaders that apparently did as much damage to the gun crews as the boarding French!



So to the focus of our visit. The archery. The 250 bows and the 4000 arrows used were completely consistent in design, shape and construction. The difference between the variety of guns and the equipment for the archers was stark. I was fascinated by the fact that the bow staves all came from abroad, being traded through Venice. Dr Alex Hildred kindly showed us draws filled with what looked like brand new bows and arrows. Squeals of delight ensued from my fellow Fletchers and a lively discussion took place on the length of the fletchings that appeared to allow for more accurate close order combat. That was a bit beyond me, but it was lovely to see.



If you haven't been to the Mary Rose museum, GO. It's a real treat. So, a BIG THANK YOU to Anne for organising it, Debs for making it happen and a special thanks to Dr Alex Hildred for taking us around this fantastic piece of history.

Bob Linnegar

The Royal Toxophilite Society Platinum Jubilee Celebration and Shoot

On Saturday 4th June 2022 The Royal Toxophilite Society held a Jubilee shoot and lunch in honour of their patron, Queen Elizabeth II. The Master and Sarah, and the Deputy Master and Clerk, were guests of the Society, and other members of the Company who are also members of the Society participated, including Freeman Jacqueline and Liveryman Peter Gerrie.

The archers shot Western rounds (that's eight dozen arrows) at various distances. It had been decided that a full twelve dozen round might not allow sufficient time for the more important business of lunch. The sun shone (at times), the arrows flew straight (at times), and winners were determined using the Society's unique conversion tables to accommodate the different bowstyles being shot.

At lunch the President and Freeman Fletcher, Graham Potts shared greetings from HM The Queen, in a letter to the Royal Toxophilite Society on the occasion of her Platinum Jubilee. This was in response to a message of congratulations and good wishes sent to Her Majesty by the Society. The Master then thanked Graham and the Society for their hospitality, and paid tribute to the strong and warm connections between the Company and the Society.

Earlier in the year members of the Society had planted the Queen's Copse, a planting of seven native trees and two yew trees donated by members to mark the Platinum Jubilee. It is hoped that this will flourish into a splendid addition to the grounds at Archers' Lodge in years to come. The Master expertly performed the unveiling ceremony, despite the strengthening breeze.

At the conclusion of shooting, the Deputy Master presented the trophies to the winning archers. The splendid silverware included the Society's Coronation Trophy, the Coronation Cup, the Jubilee Candlesticks, and the Sergeant of the Bow award. Liveryman Gordon Sharp was the winner of the Coronation Cup.

Fletchers' Elite Archers Day

Saturday 3 September was a glorious late summer's day on which to hold the 2022 Fletchers' Elite Archers Day at the Royal Toxophilite Society. Despite the number of archers attending being a little lower than previously, all thoroughly enjoyed a relaxed and friendly shoot at Archers' Lodge.

After enjoying a leisurely pub lunch nearby (kindly organised by Peter Beard), the Fletchers contingent moved on to the "Tox" to admire the shooting and talk with the archers. Before presenting the prizes, Master Philip Shears thanked the Society members for organising the competition and for their hospitality, and also thanked all the archers and their supporters for attending to make the day a success.

Congratulations went to the following prize winners:

Ladies' Recurve: Eleanor Piper

Ladies' Compound: Michelle Sword

Gentlemen's Recurve: Alec Wise

Gentlemen's Compound: Liam Goodes



Eleanor Piper and the Master, Philip Shears KC



Michelle Sword receives her prize.



Alec Wise and the Master



Liam Goodes and the Master

All four received Fletchers pens in engraved boxes presented by the Master on behalf of the Fletchers Trust. The pens are hand-crafted for us by the Rev Keith Edwards, chaplain to PM Roger Watson, and are admired by all for their beautiful appearance. Our particular thanks were given to Gemma Underwood, Match Secretary at the Royal Toxophilite Society, and her fellow members, for all the hard work in organising another successful day's competition.

The Fletchers at Noak Hill 2022

I have two visits to Noak Hill to mention as our first this year, in May, happened the day after the closing date for articles for La Flèche and is perhaps a little hazy in my memory! Common to both visits, however, was the fact that the weather could not have been better with pleasant warm sunshine and protective footwear out in the field needed, not for wet conditions, but to guard against the deep ruts that have formed as a result of the drought.

As ever, we were very warmly greeted by Dennis and his team who had worked incredibly hard to prepare for our invasion (when thinking archery, one simply cannot escape the battle-



field connotations) whether in planning the course or, in the case of our autumn visit especially, clearing the phenomenal growth prompted by recent rain after the warmth of the summer so that our predators and prey were actually visible. With Dennis having been away leading up to our September visit, Kathy nobly volunteered to take on the additional role of stepping into his shoes to ensure that the visit could actually go ahead. This, in addition to running the catering side of our visits which she has done with Glenys for many years and with great success. I am delighted to report that the usual incredible spread was placed before us and no one reported going hungry, either at lunchtime or tea when Mick, the master cake baker amongst Noak Hill Archers,

produced an amazing selection of goodies to restore our blood sugar levels and possibly increase our waistlines at the same time!

Whilst we now have a hard core of experienced archers who attend regularly - all with a highly developed competitive spirit - it is a great pleasure to welcome a number of people who have little experience or, indeed, none at all. Amongst the latter, it was a real bonus last week to also welcome our Learned Clerk as a guest who, unsurprisingly given her sporting prowess, proved herself a natural. There is nothing our instructors from Noak Hill enjoy more than to initiate a new archer into the art and there is equal enjoyment for the new recruit to feel the progress that is made during an intensive day of instruction, so if anyone is hesitant about signing up for a future day of archery, hesitate no longer.

During the summer, one of our aforementioned highly competitive archers, Tim Eltringham, had suffered an awful accident which, thankfully, did not hinder his ability to shoot but, inevitably, a close Fletcher colleague felt it appropriate to mark the event with a specially commissioned eye patch adorned with the Fletchers badge and which was





jauntily sported by several others as can be seen from the accompanying photo evidence! Having won the Men's Trophy at the spring gathering, together with one or two previous to that, Tim was somewhat relieved that David Goodall snatched the Trophy this time by the smallest of margins, not due to his injury holding him back but to David's superior shooting skills - this time, I hear Tim shouting! The Ladies Trophy was won by Melanie Trapnell at the spring event and, fortuitously, given she had forgotten to bring it with her to return, last week as well. Remarkably, the difference in scores between the highest scorers was nothing more than single figures, a real accolade to everyone.

This year marks our fifteenth at Noak Hill and we are immensely grateful to Dennis Oates who has masterminded each visit and incredibly managed to devise a different - and more challenging course - on each occasion. The complexities of each course means it is handicapped according to the experience of every person shooting to give a level playing field for all abilities. As already mentioned, a great deal of work is involved in planning our visits and each and every one of the twenty or so Noak Hill members involved has contributed significantly to the enjoyment of our day and to whom we owe a real debt of gratitude.

I am now embarking on fixing the dates for next year, so please watch on the website for the publication of the Calendar of Events for 2023 and note the dates so that you can join us and enjoy this unique experience.

Lesley Agutter

Fletchers' Day for Archers with Disabilities

Saturday 14 May was a glorious spring day on which to hold the 2022 FDAD (Fletchers' Day for Archers with Disabilities) at the Royal Toxophilite Society. All agreed that it was wonderful to be getting back to a normal calendar of events. Although there were fewer entrants than previously, we all thoroughly enjoyed a relaxed and friendly shoot at Archers' Lodge.

After enjoying a leisurely pub lunch nearby (kindly organised by Peter Beard), the Fletchers contingent moved on to the "Tox" to admire the shooting and talk with the archers. Before presenting the prizes, the Master, Philip Shears, thanked the Society members for organising the competition and for their hospitality, and also thanked all the archers and their supporters for attending to make the day a success.

Four categories were competed for this year. Congratulations went to the following prize winners: Albion Compound - Tamas Gaspar; Albion Recurve - Dave Philips; Burntwood prize - Debora Wright; Fletchers prize - Sherry McBain. Two other awards are made at this time of year. The Des Clarke Memorial Cup was awarded to Sherry McBain, UK gold medal winner in the Novice category during the recent Invictus games, and UK archery captain.

The Frank Steiner Salver was awarded to Andy Rikunenko who has been UK Para Archery Pathway coach for many years, assistant coach to the recent Invictus games team. He had recently returned from Uganda where he was delivery coaching seminars.

Our particular thanks were given to Gemma Underwood, Match Secretary at the Royal Toxophilite Society, for all her hard work in organising another successful day's competition.

The Sheep Drive



A lovely blue skied Saturday greets us as we approach Monument Street to register our arrival and participation in this quirky, fun and unique activity. Exercising our right as freeman of the city of London to take livestock across London Bridge without tolls being paid. Today we are driving our sheep. The livery fair is in full swing with stalls from numerous Livery companies demonstrating ancient crafts and modern relevance to the crowds of visitors who are a mixed bunch rubbing shoulders with various masters and dignitaries fully robed and looking resplendent. A chance meeting with our own Upper Warden starts the day with joy.

Our time has come and stewarded by our hosts of young freeman we set off to meet our sheep. A well behaved and friendly bunch (as are the sheep). Setting off across the bridge (going south but a minor detail) we slowly drive our furry friends past the bewildered tourists keeping a steady pace and good order. 15 minutes later walking back across the bridge to a well earned pint and lunch and a quick

catch up with our previous clerk Kate. A great day and being able to meet new people, engage with other freeman and liveryman and be a part of history what more could a citizen and Fletcher want.

Ian Burpitt

(Continued from page 12) Visit to Northolt

then treated to a demonstration of the training which was very impressive, particularly given the heat on the day which was up to 30C. In short don't mess with a RAF Police Dog or handler for that matter ! Equally, if not more impressive, was the enthusiasm and commitment of the two young RAF Police Dog Handlers that briefed us (both highly intelligent and articulate – more so than the author I hasten to add), one of whom had recently come top in a Military Working Dog Handlers competition. Both truly inspiring individuals I thought.

The final element of the visit was the Churchill Hangar, the largest building on base and one of the oldest - now listed and named of course in honour of the great man himself - the hangar housed his personal transport plan during the War. Will we be naming one of the modern hangars after Boris I wondered – perhaps not. More sobering was the training facilities for the repatriation of military dead by RAF C17 aircraft and also potentially members of the Royal Family, a duty conducted and frequently practised by the Queen's Colour Sqn, aka 63 Field Sqn RAF Regiment who's land rovers for their field role are also stored in the hangar, along with an old Rapier Surface to Air Missile System, a hark back to the days when the RAF Regiment provided Short Range Air Defence on airfields.

We finished the visit with a light sandwich lunch and cake back in the Mess in the historic dining room used by the Air Force Board for its annual dinner, during which we were joined by the Acting Station Commander Wing Commander Victoria Fulton, currently Officer Commanding Operations Wing, who was able to tell us a little about current operations at the airfield (we have all been sworn to secrecy – “keep Mum – she's not so dumb !”) and how busy the station is at present. I look forward to a return visit next year to find out more about the Station, old and new. My thanks to all Fletchers who supported the visit.

John Chappell

Fletchers Visit to RAF Northolt 12 July 22

Every time I visit RAF Northolt I always learn something new about the history of the Station and so it was when we visited on Tuesday 12 July. On this occasion the history of the Polish Air Force at Northolt and the significance of the Churchill Hangar. Nine Fletchers true and sure (left to right James Crook, Andrew McMillan, Alistair Mitchelhill, Hilda Gibson, Master Philip Shears, , Chris Brown, Gordon Sharp, Nathan Hill and John Chappell) visited our Affiliate RAF unit for the first time since 2019 and lockdown. It was great to get re-acquainted with the Station and its personnel again after a break of over two years.

After arrival and coffee in the Officers Mess, we were briefed on the Polish Air Force at Northolt and in particular 303 Sqn one of the highest scoring fighter Sqns of the Battle of Britain – see the film “303 Sqn” on Netflix, visit the Station and get the T-shirt (2 out of 3 now achieved). "Had it not been for the magnificent material contributed by the Polish squadrons and their unsurpassed gallantry," wrote Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding, head of RAF Fighter Command, "I hesitate to say that the outcome of the Battle (of Britain) would have been the same." A history exhibition had recently been set up in the Mess to display artifacts left to the Station by former members of the



Polish Air Force and the local Polish Community and it is great that they are not forgotten. Indeed the modern Polish Air Force visit the Station each year to lay wreaths at the Polish Air Force Memorial and engage with current serving RAF colleagues. The talk was given by the Station Media and Communications Officer Mr Ian Rushforth and was very informative.

The next visit was to the RAF Police Dog Section which plays a key role in the security of the base as well as providing search and sniffer dogs for tasking in London and beyond. In days gone by (pre political correctness) RAF Police Dog handlers were not best known for their intelligence, indeed the joke was that the dogs were brighter than the handlers, but this is no longer the case in the modern Royal Air Force. The differences between the three main types of role and training required (Police Dog, Patrol Dog, Sniffer Dog) were explained and we were

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Fletchers v Bowyers 1 July

As I took the train to London on the 1st July, I wondered why so many people? And then, on the underground across to Queensway, again, why so many? And then as I walked towards the London Archers Ground, I realised – of course – they hadn't come to see our match with The Bowyers, but Adele, who was performing nearby!

And so, along with the rest of the team, I duly arrived at the established ground of London Archers sitting just in front of Kensington Palace – a great backdrop to any Archery Field! We took a bit of time to get to know one another, and to meet our “opponents”, who appeared carrying longbows and arrows – what was going on here then? London Archers had provided us with a number of targets and more modern composite bows and aluminium arrows to warm up with – The Longbows were for the match!

Following introductions and welcome from The Master of the Bowyers, David Laxton, we were given a safety briefing and general instructions from Steve who headed the team who were going to help us in our quest to battle with The Bowyers for the annual bragging rights of who won! We all had the opportunity to warm up with the beginners equipment if we wished, or to tackle a longbow straightaway. After about 30-40 minutes, it was time for the match.

All those taking part were to shoot 6 arrows with a longbow at a target some 15 metres or so away, and these would be scored by The London Archers. The top 7 scores from each team would count towards the total, but the result remains unknown until the 2nd November when all be revealed at the Dinner at The Royal Fusiliers Mess at the Tower of London. So how did we think we did? Well, some of us managed a few hits and scored some points – Rob Slatem managed 6 hits and lots of points _ Take a bow (or is that a bow!) Rob ! There was a lot of looking across at how the opposition were doing, but it was difficult to work out who might just be ahead – I think the final result could be very close.....

Once we had all shot the match arrows, there was time for a bit more practice, and others to have a go as well. Debs shot some arrows – but did comment that she couldn't quite get the hang of shooting something without both a back and front sight.....As the evening outside drew to a close, most of us retired to the aptly named “The Champion” pub, just across the road, and enjoyed a splendid buffet together with The Bowyers, a few drinks and forever talking about the “one that missed.....”

Our grateful thanks go to London Archers for hosting the event for us all, and as ever, the friendly rivalry continues, as we await with much tension for the final result!

The Result

Being unable to hold our Joint Shoot in the Tower of London this year, the shooting had taken place at Perks Field, Kensington Palace on July 1st, but the result had been a closely guarded secret until the evening of November 2nd, when Bowyers and Fletchers came together to dine at the Fusiliers Mess in the Tower. This was a splendid Black Tie dinner. It fell to our Master to say a few words ahead of the official result, and having consulted his bookie, ‘Will Scarper’ and having received odds of 1371:1 against the Fletchers, he was not hopeful of the result. And so it transpired. The Governor of the Tower of London, Brigadier Andrew Jackson presented the result being:

Worshipful Company of Bowyers: 269

Worshipful Company of Fletchers: 226

Notable high scores from the Fletchers included: Rob Slatem – 51 (also the highest score of the competition): John Chappell – 43; and Tim Sanders-Hewett - 40. Wait till next year !!

Andrew Trapnell

WELCOME

We welcome the following who have joined us in the last few months;

At the July Court: Liverymen

Honorary Liveryman Keith Lawrey JP. His mother Company is the Worshipful Company of Chartered Secretaries but, in 2001, he registered the Guild of Educators with the City of London and subsequently as Honorary Foundation Clerk, he took the Guild through to Worshipful Company status in 2014. He then retired but seized the opportunity to assist in the launching of the Guild of Nurses when it was offered in 2015. He has much to do with some other Companies through his work at the Foundation. He greatly assisted in the work of obtaining our Charter and we are delighted that he agreed to accept this honorary position.



Keith Lawrey



Melanie Trapnell

Liveryman Melanie Trapnell. Has a wealth of experience within the pensions consultancy field and worked internationally during her career. More latterly she has had a career change and now works in the Third Sector pursuing a number of charitable interests and has transferred from our Freeman's list.

Liveryman Richard Kitchen. Liveryman with the Worshipful Company of Lightmongers. He has worked in engineering, hospitality and care home sectors. He currently owns Springfield House & St. Johns Nursing Home and has planning permission for a 40 Bed Nursing Home in Rownhams, Southampton.



Richard Kitchen

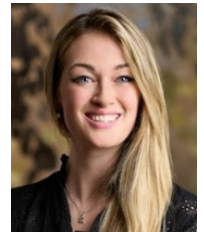


Ted Powell

Freemen

Dr Ted Powell (to be a Liveryman in due course). Ted is an academic, author and solicitor. His academic career started at Merton College Oxford where he gained a first in Modern History. He went on to specialise in Medieval History and has published books on "Kingship, Law and Society: Criminal Justice in the Reign of Henry V" and "King Edward VIII: An American Life".

Ms Ellie Pomeroy (to be a Liveryman in due course). Ellie had an interest in archery at school and rediscovered the sport upon leaving university, bought a bow and some arrows, then subsequently became a member of both Archery GB and, briefly, the London Archers. Ellie works in the City of London and is based in Fleet Street, working as a financial PR account executive, specialising in the financial services sector.



Eleanor Pomeroy



Amal Shah

Mr Amal Shah (to be a Liveryman in due course). He graduated with a degree in Business Management Accounting from Brunel University and went on to become a member of the Associate of Taxation Technicians in 2011 and qualified as a Chartered Tax Adviser in 2013. His work mainly focuses on providing tax advice to clients, from high net worth individuals and personal tax clients to non-resident landlord companies.

Mr Andrew Mansfield (to be a Liveryman in due course). He started his career in the City of London in 1984 at Phillips and Drew and latterly at UBS where he went to the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. A head dealer at Savoy Investment Management where he was responsible for fixed income dealing.

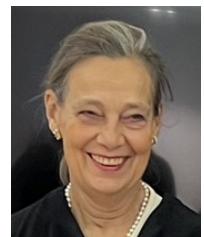


Andrew Mansfield

(Sadly Andrew passed away shortly after being admitted to the Livery)

At the October Court Liverymen

Honorary Liveryman Lady Tessa Brewer OBE. Appointed an OBE for her voluntary work to Arts and Culture in London, Lady Brewer has a long history with the Livery and City of London. She is a former PA to the Chairman of Lloyds of London where she met and married her husband, David and went on to support him throughout his time as Master Merchant-Taylor in 2021, an Aldermanic Sheriff 2002 and onwards to Lord and Lady Mayoress in 2005. She became a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Musicians in 1999, was clothed as a Liveryman in 2003 and became



Tessa Brewer

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the Master in 2017. Lady Tessa has pursued a committed and tireless support of charity and voluntary work including Chair of the Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund, Chair of the London City Festival a St John's, Smith Square Trustee and Patron of Treloar's.



Arthur Dransfield

Liveryman Arthur Dransfield retired after 40 +years in the computer industry, in both public and private sectors. Starting in 1968 as a programmer and finishing in 2010 as a senior international software and IT systems auditor, quality systems manager, quality assurance consultant and risk manager. For over 10 years he has served on the BSC/BSI/IT Industrial steering committees for software and auditing standards (TickIT): with 6 years as Chair of the BSI technical committee for TickIT/TickITplus (JTISC). Since 1980 he has been an active member of the British Computer Society, The Chartered Institute for IT, rising to Chartered Fellow (Eur.Ing,CEng,FBCS, CIPT). Retirement interests include industrial archaeology, transport heritage, family history railway modelling and computer conservation. Arthur and his wife, Susan enjoy travel, walk-

ing and fine dining.

Lt Col Christopher Head MBE MC is an operational planner for the Field Army, working at Army Headquarters in Andover and the Ministry of Defence in London. Lieutenant Colonel Head commanded the First Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers in Tidworth from January 2019 to April 2021. This included a large-scale exercise in Canada, commanding the UK led multinational Battle Group in Estonia as part of NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence in 2020, and supporting UK homeland resilience operations in 2020 and 2021. Lieutenant Colonel Head has served at Regimental Duty with First and Second Fusiliers in Germany, Cyprus, London and Tidworth, including numerous operational tours of duty to Iraq and Afghanistan. On return from Operation TELIC (Iraq) as a platoon commander in 2003, he was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in the face of the enemy. In 2016 he was appointed a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for services to British Army leadership development. Lieutenant Colonel Head is a graduate of the UK Advanced Command



Chris Head

and Staff Course and has earned both a Master of Science degree in Leadership and Management and a Master of Arts degree in Defence Studies. Formerly a Freeman he has now moved to Liveryman. He is married to Helen who is a BBC journalist, and they have two young children.



Robert Linnegar

Liveryman Robert Linnegar works and lives in Swindon. Robert has a degree in Environmental Science from Plymouth University where he developed a deep interest in fishery boats, in the waste disposal industry and woodland estates. He later took a role working as a forestry supervisor for the National Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of Young Offenders, teaching youngsters about forestry and providing basic literacy and numeracy courses. Robert went on to take a Post Graduate Certificate in Education from Bath University. He taught at Greendown

Community School for 21 years being promoted to Pastoral Leader and Head of Faculty before moving into teacher training and development, working closely with Bath University providing initial teacher training for trainee teachers and to those who were newly qualified. He also developed Higher Education MSc courses for established teachers. In his latter career he was appointed Deputy Head and then Headmaster of The Commonwealth School in Swindon. He has a lifelong passion in history and drama.

Liveryman Graham Potts was brought up in Staines, Middlesex, and moved to Bracknell, Berkshire in 1985 when he married Sue, and where they still live today. His career spanned 40 years in the Banking Sector and he took early retirement in 2018 to enable he and his wife to devote more time to their elderly parents. His sporting interests have included playing rugby, football and hockey at club levels, but his principal activity has been Archery, which he took up in 1966. He has held many volunteer posts at club, county, regional and national level. Graham took up Archery Judging in 1995, and in 2006 became an International Judge – this has provided some significant highlights including officiating at the London (2012), Rio (2016) and Tokyo (2020 / 2021!) Olympic Games!



Graham Potts



Peter Thacker

Liveryman Peter Thacker is Headmaster of Bishopsgate School in Surrey. Before this he was Headmaster of Prince's Mead in Hampshire, Deputy Head of Lambrook School, in Berkshire, and Deputy Head of Daneshill School in Hampshire. After university he attended The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Commissioned into The Royal Dragoon Guards he spent eight years of his service in a variety of roles serving predominantly in Germany, Canada, Cyprus and the Middle East. Peter is a passionate advocate of holistic education, celebrating academic excellence and

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the acquisition of skills. As a Mountain Leader, he has led several school expeditions, be it the Three Peaks Challenge or to Transylvania; regions to which he is well-acquainted. Peter completed a Masters Degree in Educational Leadership in 2017. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, a member of IAPS, and an ISI Educational Quality and Compliance Team Inspector.

Freemen

Honorary Freeman Hector Cole MBE is a master arrowsmith and bladesmith from Wiltshire. In the New Year Honours List 2014, he was appointed an MBE for his services to heritage crafts. Hector has a lifelong interest and passion for history and was especially interested in the English Longbow as a teenager. He forged his first arrowheads from six-inch nails. He is now the foremost Arrowsmith in the country and rediscovers ancient British metal-working techniques. He has worked on commissions for both the Museum of London and the Mary Rose. Hector offers a range of Courses at his Forge in the rolling Wiltshire countryside, near Malmesbury.



Nailesh Mehta

Freeman Nailesh Mehta (to be a Liveryman in due course) is a Pharmaceutical professional with several years experience in a range of customer facing roles at GlaxoSmithKline both as a Medical Science Liaison professional and a Business & Market Development and Hospital Therapy Specialist. He has extensive experience in delivering non-promotional science education as well as pharmaceutical sales with a strong academic background. He has been successful in market development of new and established medicines in different therapeutic areas.

Freeman Carl Schiess (to be a Liveryman in due course) has 10 years of project management experience in the banking industry before he moved into education where he worked for 11 years. More latterly he has moved back to into industry and works for the London Ambulance service. In corporate banking roles he was responsible for the management and delivery of all technology aspects of IT infrastructure projects, for any business area in the bank as well as managing the project team. The projects were not only in London but also those with a global basis, which had been initiated from the London office. In the LAS his role is to identify, plan, coordinate and evaluate a broad range of IT programmes and projects.



Carl Schiess



Jasmine Song

Freeman Yanyan Song (known as Jasmine)(to be a Liveryman in due course) was born in Inner Mongolia, in north China. She was educated in China but her postgraduate education was in the UK. She began her career working for an international charitable organisation that focused on endangered animals' welfare. She went on to work for a company that acted as a subsidiary of the French consulate in the UK, in the areas of procedure management and cost control. Yanyan went on to be the assistant to the CEOs of a German industrial conglomerate as the company was expanding their operations in Asia, and later worked for a Chinese conglomerate that made investments of £700m in real estate development in the UK. Through this most recent experience, Yanyan has built knowledge and experience in the management of foreign investors' interests and the processes of real estate development in London.

gion investors' interests and the processes of real estate development in London.

Notes for Contributors

Articles on any subject connected with the Fletchers are welcomed especially if they are accompanied by pictures. An article of 350-500 words with pictures will usually fill about a page but longer or shorter pieces are equally welcome. Pictures should not be embedded in the article but sent as a separate jpeg. To ensure a reasonable quality the resolution should be at least 300dpi. The picture must be one you have taken or one that you have permission to use to illustrate your article. This is most important for copyright reasons. The picture needs an identifiable title and if any individuals are shown they should be named. Send your contributions in to our Clerk—clerk@fletchers.org.uk.

Finally Farewell

Having started La Flèche with John Owen Ward in the 1990s and edited it for the first few years and having taken over again in 2014, I have decided it is time to hand over the pen to my successor. I have enjoyed my time as editor and my thanks go out to all those who have helped by contributing articles and to the Clerks who have corrected my many mistakes and ensured that the facts were correct.

John Dumbrell, Past Master.