

LA FLÈCHE

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THE MAGAZINE OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FLETCHERS

THE MASTER'S HOLIDAY IN PORTO 2023



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Dear Fletchers

Contents

I must first thank those who commented on the new look of La Flèche. It is good to receive your comments especially if they are positive, but if you have further ideas about the magazine I would like to hear from you.

Last time I spoke about myself but now I would like to introduce my Deputy Editor, Liveryman James James - Crook

James has been a Freeman of the City of London since 1998 and was admitted to the Livery of the Fletchers' Company in July 2021. .

His late father was Master Bowyer and his paternal grandfather an Honorary Court Assistant, Bowyers' Company. James is a Governor of The Aldenham Foundation which encompasses Aldenham, his old School, along with two Prep Schools where he sits on the Education and Estates Committees. Other responsibilities include being President of the Old Aldenhamian Alumni; past Chair of The Letchmore Trust also a former Editor of his alumni magazine, the *OA Review*.

James' interests include tennis, architecture, gardening and travel.

In the last edition of La Flechel put out a plea for Fletchers to volunteers to write an article and I am pleased that thanks to the hard work of The Clerk and Deputy Editor we have another 6 members of the Company who for the first time have written articles for this edition of La Flèche. They are Josie, Jesse, Celia, Anthony, Susan and Arthur.

However we are still looking for more of you to take the plunge and writ an article. Which article can be short or long or indeed, a poem, or a story. The choices are endless.

Well all that's left now is to say is to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

From Carol and James



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Porto – Masters Holiday 2023

40 Fletchers arrived in Porto on the 4th October and made their way to The Porto Bay Hotel Flores on the Rua das Flores an historic hotel with a new modern wing though keeping many of its original features. Early evening the Master welcomed everyone into the internal courtyard for drinks and canapes. There was time to chat with friends old and new, before we trooped down the hill to Vinha d'Alho, a family run restaurant on the waterfront.

We received a friendly welcome followed by an unexpected first course followed by a large portion of traditional salted cod with Potatoes and Green Vegetables then traditional pastry dessert. The summer was delicious and very filling! We occupied five tables and the entire room with others wondering who we all were.

Our first morning saw the division into the 'walkers' and the 'tuk-tuk riders'. The tour guide, Pedro, took the walkers on a 3 hour up and down hill excursion with a welcome coffee break at the top of the hill near the old prison and site of two churches adjoined by a small doorway. The two tuk-tuks in convoy visited the usual tourist site-seeing viewpoints on both sides of the river, the highest point being the monastery of Serra do Pilar.

Meeting up again at the Ferreira Port Cellars, the tour encapsulated the Port wine production process and of course concluded with a tasting. Left to our own devices for lunch, the local market area proved popular to choose our own menu.



At short notice The Master had arranged a visit the British Factory, a private members' club for British directors of British Port companies which reopened its doors in 1811 following the Napoleonic Wars. Two groups took up this optional extra. It was very worthwhile and some thought it

the highlight of the holiday. We were shown around by the Factory House Manager, Cecilia Silva, and were surprised by the large collection of artefacts and books donated by members and each Treasurer over the years which include a photo album of the late Queen Elizabeth II visiting Porto in 1957 as well as the stunning Port Cellar!

A short break to return to our hotel before a very special evening at the Yeatman Hotel. We were greeted by the Quinta do Bulas family who showcased their excellent wines, starting with a white port on the terrace overlooking the Douro and the historical city. We went into the 'tented room' for dinner prepared by the 2

Michelin-star chef, and Isabel Vieira, the Sales Director, visited each table to tell us about the wines we were having.



Our second day took us on a coach tour out to the Douro Valley where we had a brief stop to walk over a bridge across the Douro, before we visited Quinta da Pachecca, a small Quinta that still treads grapes in the traditional manner. We had an interesting tour and a generous buffet lunch overlooking the vineyards, with their own red and white wines being served.



We had time on the return journey to visit the town of Lamego for a stretch of legs (some making it to the top of the 686 steps of the baroque staircase up to the Church overlooking the town). Followed by a free evening where a group of us in need of rest ended up in the hotel bar!

Our last full day meant a leisurely breakfast followed by Pedro taking us to the Church of Saint Francis, with a Baroque decorated interior. The Crypt and Treasury meeting rooms were also of interest. We proceeded from there to the quayside for a boat ride to the six Porto bridges, an interesting trip with a welcome breeze along the river on a hot day.



A free afternoon until heading out to Graham's Port House for dinner. The pre dinner tour explained the new method of treading grapes using rubber feet paddles! Many of us familiar by this point with the Ruby Port and Special Vintage methods of storage, the scale of the Graham's operation (part of the Symington family group) was noticeable. We tasted the Graham's Port wine where Past Master Jeremy Garnett thanked the Master for the research into making the holiday unique.



We rolled into the VINUM restaurant where we indulged in the most enormous steaks, all cooked on the fires of the kitchens visible through the glass wall and accompanied by magnificent Symington wines. A fitting end to an incredible few days which showcased the generosity of the Portuguese hospitality.



Melanie Trapnell

Noak Hill Archers



A perfect day dawned for our first visit this year to Noak Hill Archers on the 18th May and as we arrived it was obvious that the Club members had been hard at work on the course with targets laid out at varying distances and Fletchers allocated to ones compatible with the abilities of each person, with at least one instructor per target and additional Club members at the ready to offer further advice to those amongst us who had never shot before or who were essentially beginners. As everyone grew in confidence, with arrows reliably hitting the target, the business of scoring began in earnest!

An early break for lunch followed and was, as usual, much enjoyed by all and with the inner man or woman duly fortified, sun hats were donned we went out into the field, still in our small groups, to do battle with some pretty terrifying and dangerous wild (foam!) animals with, in some cases, much smaller prey close which must not be hit before the hunter animal or a minus score would result! The challenges were further extended with some shots being taken from a high scaffold or through dense undergrowth, so the chances were high that additional time would be taken searching for lost arrows along the way - and a delay to indulging in tea which awaited us in the Clubhouse at the end of the course!

Excitement mounted as the results were announced with the best male trophy going to Tim Eltringham and the Mistress Fletcher, Melanie Trapnell was awarded the trophy for the best lady archer in a tightly fought contest. Regardless of the scores, everyone was in total agreement that our day at Noak Hill continues to be one of the most enjoyable ways of indulging our love of archery, not least thanks to the incredible effort of Kathy, Dennis and the whole team at Noak Hill Archers to whom we are so grateful. Roll on our autumn visit on Thursday, the 21st September when I look forward to seeing many Fletchers including, hopefully, some new faces for a convivial day of archery.

Further photos of the day can be accessed on the Fletchers website.

Lesley Agutter



Kensington (!!)

Family Archery Day at Guildford AC

On 29 July, 14 Fletchers and friends visited Guildford Archery Club for an afternoon of instruction and light-hearted competition. Friends included Sam and Katharine Chadd, Master and Consort of the Guild of Young Freemen and Elise Rasmussen, Master Tobacco Pipe Maker.



Stuart Edwards and Steve Tully of GAC were our friendly hosts, along with their coaching colleagues. The sun shone, and despite a breeze most of the arrows hit the targets!

Beneficiaries of the coaching were Celia Campbell and Samuel Chadd (Master of the Guild of Young

Freemen), who won the ladies' and men's beginners' competitions.

Among the experienced archers, winners were:



Men's Recurve – Andrew Trapnell,
Ladies' Recurve – Melanie Trapnell,
Longbow – Gordon Sharp,
Barebow – Roy Campbell

We finished the day with a fun shoot at figures on a mini medieval castle, using longbows donated to GAC from the Agincourt Appeal. GAC also have two Agincourt inscribed benches at their clubhouse, from the same appeal. We then enjoyed coffee and cakes with our hosts. All agreed that this event should be repeated (but perhaps avoiding school holiday times).

Gordon Sharp.



Shooting at the Palace of



Members of Team Fletchers arrived on a gloriously fine June evening at Perks Field, Kensington Palace for our annual Shoot against the Bowyers Company.

The Tower of London moat remains a wildflower meadow and therefore unavailable for our Shoot.

Team Fletchers comprised: Team Captain:



Graham Potts,
The Master and Consort,
Anthony Rich,
Tim Eltringham
Tim Sanders—Hewett,
Andrew McMillan,
Hilda Gibson,
Alex Gerver,
Alastair Mitchelhill
Gordon Sharp.

The Clerk was on hand to provide much needed support.

This year the Bowyers' had arranged to supply the traditional Longbows and Arrows made by Richard and Lindsay Head, respectively members of the Bowyers' and Fletchers' Companies. A slight challenge as some members of the Fletchers team had not done much barebow shooting. Nonetheless in a spirit of friendly competitiveness we had our warmup arrows and then the serious business commenced.

Each member of the team had their scoring shots carefully recorded by our hosts at The London Archers. Tension mounted as we neared the end of the shooting.....who had won??

To find out, the scores will be revealed at our Joint Shoot dinner at HM Tower of London on 28th June!!

I can also confirm from a health and safety perspective, no serious injuries were sustained, and we all missed the Palace!!

Andrew Trapnell

Pan Livery Day at Royal Military College Sandhurst



The day started with arrival at the College for 10am sharp for 30 Livery Companies with a drinks reception in the Entrance Hall of the Old College. This gave people the opportunity to catch up with friends in both their own and other companies.

The aim of the day was twofold: primarily to update the Livery on British Army Officer Training giving us access to a behind the scenes look at an internationally acclaimed Military Academy and secondly as a fundraiser for the Army Benevolent Fund and the Sandhurst Trust. After the drinks reception a Pan Livery photograph was taken on the steps of the Old College before we moved to a lecture theatre for the first of two presentations.



The first presentation was by a previous Major-General of Sandhurst who spoke about the RMAS curriculum, its overseas influence and setting the scene of how the British Army trains and prepares young officers for life in the Army. The second presentation was by a recently Commissioned Officer demonstrating the practical application of his skills on operations and exercises. This was concluded with a Q&A session for both presentations.

This was followed by a 3 course lunch with a Raffle in the Indian Army Memorial Room., which was the original Chapel in the College. The Tour of the College which followed after lunch which focused the Old College, which is the oldest building at Sandhurst

Above the steps of the Old College on the façade is a relief of Mars and Minerva, something that all the Cadets will see that as they arrive and leave. reminding them they must combine the virtues of both war and wisdom. The College is fronted by a series of cannon which were captured in various battles, including two from Waterloo and one from the Russians during the Crimea.

The steps up from the Parade Ground lead up to two huge black doors, through which is an impressive entrance hall with a high ceiling, a large lantern suspended from the ceiling, high enough so that the Adjutant on his horse doesn't ride into it, and walls of paintings and flags. The most striking painting is by the Russian artist Sergei Pavlenko, who painted the royal family at the time of Prince Harry's commission into the Blues and Royals (Part of the Household Cavalry).



This is the first royal family painting ever which includes the Duchess of Cornwall, (Now HM Queen Camilla) albeit slightly obscured and in the background.

A small portrait above a door is of in the building, that of Dr Alexandra Mary Chalmers Watson, one of the few female portraits in the College who graduated in medicine in 1891. She was a suffragette who enrolled 70,000 women into

the Women's Auxiliary Force, of whom 14,000 served in Flanders as drivers and other roles away from the front line.

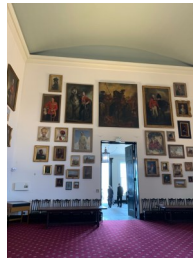


From the main entrance we then moved on to the Le Marchant room which is used as the smart dining room. It is named after Major-General John Le Marchant, one of Britain's finest military Cavalry Commanders of his generation and founder of the first British Military College. He fought in the French Revolutionary Wars and the Peninsular War. His experience showed him that the British army was poorly equipped, poorly trained and that the soldiers were poorly led.

At that time, officers bought a commission in the Army, they were not trained soldiers or leaders. Britain was the only Army which did not train its soldiers (except Artillery and Engineers who were trained at Woolwich, who needed training due to the technology involved.) Le Marchant went to the treasury with a proposal for military training at Staff and Cadet level. Le Marchant designed a new sword after hearing the disparaging remark of an Austrian officer. Le Marchant's sword was lighter, stronger and more deadly and revolutionised the way the British Army was trained, educated, looked after and conducted battles.



As we entered the International Room The display shows that overseas Cadets come from four distinct groups – the Commonwealth, NATO allies, the Middle East and a disparate group from countries such as Chad, Paraguay and China. The room is filled with display cases of gifts given by their overseas cadets and families. The majority of these gifts come from the Middle East, including a golden sword, given by the Sultan of Oman.



Cadets have regular International Evenings, where they all try to outdo each other producing the best of their national cuisine, with Cadets and Staff trying everything from goat's head to crunchy locusts.

The next tour was the Indian Memorial Room which was originally the college chapel. After the Indian Mutiny of the 1850s, the British took over the running of India from the East India Company, the Army had to expand, and so a new chapel was built. There are stained glass windows from the National Army Museum in Chelsea, a huge chandelier of 10,000 pieces of glass, display cases filled with silver and medals, and the walls are covered in paintings and regimental badges.

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Excellent news!

The Fletchers' have brought the trophy home.



When the original Chapel became too small as the amount of Cadets increased, it meant that a new Chapel called the Memorial Chapel was built in 1921. The Memorial Chapel acts as a Memorial to dead officers and has 40,000 names inscribed within, most of the names being Infantry or Cavalry .



The Chapel contains several Memorial books. There are 3,400 names of those who died in World War I. For World War II, there are 19,700 names of officers, as it includes those from across the Commonwealth. It took a single person 5 years to complete writing this book. Every Sunday during the Service, a Cadet wearing white gloves turns over a single page, taking six years to go through the whole book. There is a much smaller book of deaths since 1945 and there is also a Chaplains book on the High Altar

which contains the names of 390 Army Padres killed in action which dates back to the 1700s.



The services in the Chapel are ones of traditional Christianity in nature. There is no compulsion for Cadets to attend the Services, but many do, even those of other faiths. The items within the Chapel have come from a variety of places with a font from the King of Sweden; marble steps from WestPoint Academy (The US version of Sandhurst) in the USA; a cross from the old Staff College; wood panels from the Indian Army and a silver font at the back of the church made from melted down Regimental silver of the Machine Gun Corps, which was disbanded in 1922.

A striking mosaic over the altar was made by the White Russian, Boris Anrep, with colours which change as you move around. Above the main door is a plaque which includes the phrase, 'serve to lead', the motto of the Academy and something which is integral to an Officer's training.

The Roman Catholic Chapel was added in 1948 when Sandhurst had a Roman Catholic Commandant who said the Academy must have a Catholic place of worship, so an old lecture room was converted, with an altar of Portland stone using decommissioned graves from CWGC and a font of Irish marble. Catholic chapels traditionally have 14 depictions of the Stations of the Cross, this one has 15, with all of the paintings on the wooden lids of packing crates, which have drilled holes in the corners, as it was the late 1940s and austerity was still a factor of British life. Beautiful stained glass windows show life at Sandhurst, with depictions of the porter, chef, the Cadets commissioning on the steps, poppies and gravestones, all signifying the values of the Academy. A ship's bell stands in a corner, from HMS Sandhurst which was given to the Academy by Dartmouth College, the Naval equivalent of Sandhurst.

Once the tour was over we all met in the Entrance Hall to say our goodbyes before leaving what had been a thoroughly enjoyable and educational day.

Carl Schiess

On a balmy summer's evening, in the true spirit of fellowship, Fletchers and Bowyers gathered at the Tower of London for the Joint Shoot Dinner. The evening began with a private tour of the Tower by Fletcher and City guide Sue King. A fount of knowledge we were treated to an interesting, educational and, in places, gory history; after all no tour of the Tower is complete without the inclusion of torture, beheading and ghosts.

Following the tour, we were welcomed at the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers' Mess for an aperitif followed by a delicious three course meal and most importantly the results. Brigadier Andrew Jackson CBE, Governor of the Tower of London, was tasked with opening the sealed envelope and there was palpable tension in the air. Despite being given longbows to compete with at Perks Field the Fletchers' team, which included our Master Andrew Trapnell and his Consort, Melanie Trapnell, stood strong and united. The final score was 221 points to the Fletchers' against 196 points to the Bowyers'. There were two individual joint top scorers one of which was our Master who achieved the top score of 38 points, clearly the purchase of his longbow paid off.

Also known as the Governor's Trophy, the Boleyn Box holds the results of the annual Joint Archery Shoot of the Fletchers' and Bowyers' and is given as the prize. This unusual little gem is a replica of the arrow box used as a coffin for Anne Boleyn. Inside is a painting based on the Luttrell Psalter. The Boleyn Box can now be found in the rightful possession of the Fletchers' Company.

The Joint Shoot has been running since 1991 and originally held in the moat of the Tower of London. For the last two years it has been held at Perks Field, a patch of grassland in the grounds of Kensington Palace ordinarily reserved for Royal family helicopters and for air ambulances to land and refuel, due to the rewilding of the moat though hopefully it will return to the Tower in due course.

The Trophy was originally presented by Major General Christopher Tyler CB on 27 June 1991. Governor and Keeper of the Jewel House of the Tower of London from 1989 to 1994, he was the first Roman Catholic to hold the post since the Reformation; also the first international rugby referee to be wired for sound on live television when the England team played Japan in 1971. He passed away in 2017 aged 82.

The evening wound up with the ancient Ceremony of the King's Keys, a nightly ritual during which the gates to The Tower of London are locked. The ceremony has taken place every night since the 14th century, except for one evening during WWII when the Warders were slightly late due to a bombing. The Chief Yeoman Warder is escorted by King's Guard soldiers as he locks all the doors of the Tower. The Ceremony is said to be the oldest extant military ceremony in the world.

Court Assistant Celia Campbell



Fletchers Fletching Again



The art of making and fletching arrows is very old indeed, dating back deep into prehistory and developing independently in many cultures. In our modern, post industrial, automated age it is sometimes difficult to understand the skill and care that our forebears in the mediaeval guild brought to their craft.

This is why it was such a privilege to take part in the experience arranged by the Company with Richard Head and Hector Cole MBE at Hector's Forge in Great Somerford, near Malmesbury in Wiltshire. Richard is a traditional bowyer, whose bows we regularly shoot in competitions with our Bowyer friends (and, dare one say it, rivals). Hector is a specialist in the archaeology and research of ancient smithing techniques. He then reproduces metal artefacts using the old techniques. A better team to give us a taste of the ancient craft it is hard to imagine.

There was space for only a few on each day course, allowing for close personal supervision. We were divided into two groups. In the morning one group worked on making and fletching an arrow with Richard, whilst the other group worked with Hector in the forge to make a replica mediaeval bodkin point arrow. After lunch in the very agreeable pub opposite the groups swapped over. Then we were together for the final test: fitting the arrowhead we had each made to one of the two arrows we had each also made and fletched.

Making the arrow started with a square rod which had to be planed down on a jig to become both round and the right diameter. Remember this is the simplest design. No tapering, bobtailing or complex profiles for us beginners, even if our forebears would have taken such complexities in their stride. Then to fletch the arrow, a difficult task even with a modern "jig" to ensure the shaft is correctly marked and with modern adhesives to hold the fletching in place before it was bound on.

Oh all right, we did cheat and use microtape, something not actually available in C14 London. But for me the hardest part was binding the fletching in place whilst maintaining a consistent distance between each turn of the twine. Definitely a knack that requires skill and patience to acquire. Hard enough, too, on a bright summer day; goodness knows what it was like in an unlit workshop in the gloom of a foggy, wet, mediaeval November.

After refreshment, onto the forge. Never having worked hot metal this was an eyeopener, but under Hector's skilful tuition we all made a socketed arrowhead capable of being fitted to our arrows (with a little fine tuning of the arrow shaft).



So what did we all get out of it? Well for me making two arrows and an arrowhead was great fun and very instructive, especially in such good company. But the lasting impression was to make me respect even more our predecessors in the craft.

They were working to fulfil royal orders for supplies expressed in the tens of thousands of arrows. The modern day's work of three of us could only produce enough arrows to keep an archer supplied on the battlefield for less than a minute. Clearly our forebears were indeed masters of skills in a way it is difficult to understand, and fully justified the high status of a livery company, with the lengthy apprenticeship to master the craft and produce arrows that would fly effectively and accurately. True and Sure indeed!

I do hope these trips will be repeated and thoroughly recommend them to all involved with the Company.

Anthony Rich



The July Court Lunch



Having travelled for about an hour and a half on a busy train I was relieved to get out into the fresh air and continue my journey on foot. I arrived at the Farmers' and Fletchers' Hall as the reception started. I found a space to sit and was offered a glass of Champagne. 15 minutes later the Bell summoned us for lunch.

Guest and Masters processed to the Top Table took theirs. Once they were seated members and guest also to their seats.

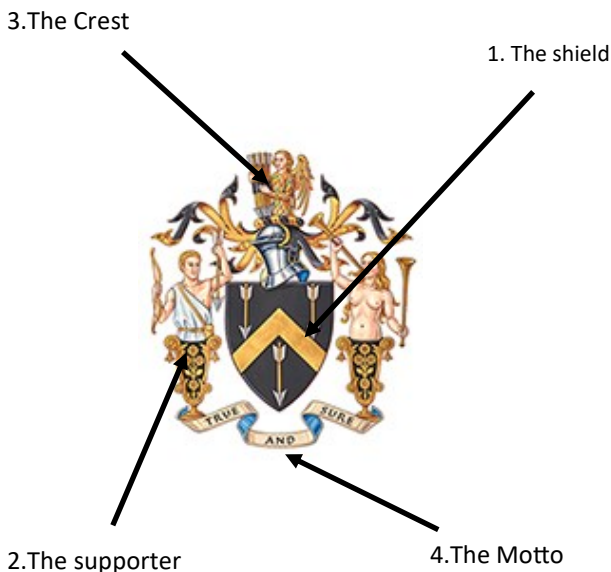
The Master welcomed us and we stood for Grace which Renter Warden Baron Michael De Styrcea spoke in Latin. It was the longest Grace I have heard and as I have not studied Latin I didn't understand a word.

As ever the Lunch was delicious. The Master introduced the new Liverymen, Freemen and Honorary Freemen and the meal continued. With toasts and the introduction of the Guest Speaker, Mr William Hunt TD BA FCA, who spoke about The College of Arms. I was captivated immediately. Below are a few of the highlights of his speech; also details of the official Registers of the College of Arms and Pedigrees which can be made for the livery companies and individuals.

The arms are granted on behalf of the Crown by the Kings of Arms, 3 Senior Officers of of the College of Arms and a copy of the Letter Patent by which they granted is recorded at the College.

The earliest known grant of Corporate Arms in England belongs to The Drapers Company in 1439. Other Companies, 15 in total adopted Arms without authority including the speakers Company but I won't divulge which but between 1970—1980 they were persuaded to do the right thing.

How do we design a coat of Arms?



1. The Shield is divided into sections. Each section has an image to represent the family or livery company the for whom the Coat of Arms is made.

2. Either side of the Shield there can be items that look as if they are holding it up.

3. The Crest is a special object worn on top of a helmet to identify the wearer..

4. Below the shield is a phrase or Motto, often in Latin to reflect a persons belief.

The Fletchers' have been using Arms legitimately since 1467 and their Crest since 1530 but thanks to Past Master Stuart Robbens who discovered the Supporters were not granted but used for two centuries. Thanks to Stuart the Grant was made 3 years ago.

New Members of The Worshipful Company of Fletchers

July Court

Admissions to the Livery:

Anne Kaiser.

Anne specialises in Project/Programme Management, Operational and Transformation. She has had experience across multiple sectors including Advertising, Finance, Trade Exhibitions and Government in Melbourne, Sydney, London and Hong Kong working closely with global and Asian regional offices in matrix management structures.

Ellie Pomeroy.

Ellie has had an interest in Archery since school and rediscovered the sport upon leaving university. She bought a bow and some arrows and subsequently became a member of both Archery GB and briefly, the London Archers. Ellie works in the City of London, based in Fleet Street working as a Financial PR Account Executive, specialising in the Financial Services sector.

Rufai Ajala.

Rufai graduated from Plymouth University with a BEng in Electrical and Electronic Engineering and has an MSc from the Defence Academy of the UK. He is a highly disciplined, reliable, versatile and enterprising finance professional with experience in Enterprise Risk and Operations with strong leadership, management and interpersonal skills. A veteran of the Royal Navy, Rufai has seen tours of duty in Sierra Leone and Iraq. He has also served in the Navy Command and the Ministry of Defence and is a keen sportsman and musician



Fletcher's' Golf Day 2023

New Members of The Worshipful Company of Fletchers

July Court

Admissions to Freeman:

Jesse Singleton.

Jesse is a Software Engineer with strong analytical and creative problem-solving skills. He is currently facilitating the expansion of industry-leading enterprise Risk Software at Moody's Analytics. Previous experience with a global Human Performance company included project lead on a .NET Core API for a major US sports league. Jesse has four and a half years' experience with a versatile skillset including .NET/C#, JavaScript, ASP.NET/MVC and SQL alongside the ability to adapt and master new tools and technologies.

Dr Nathan Hill.

Nathan has a passion for combining biology and computer technology whereby 10 years' study at Cardiff University culminated in a PhD in Pharmacy, specialising in exploring genetic markers and their relationships to the effectiveness and resistance of certain treatment regimes for breast cancer patients. Nathan is a volunteer for Macmillan and works at their information centre at the University Hospital, Cardiff. He is an avid music collector and plays the piano.

Admission as an Honorary Freeman:

John Walker MBE.

Inspired by London 2012, John took up Archery as a hobby after watching American Sports star Matt Stutzman competing and his talent for the sport soon began to develop. After he was first selected to join the GB Para Squad in 2014 he went on to shoot two European records and four world records. After a rapid rise through the ranks, John made his Paralympic debut at Rio 2016. He won a Gold Medal in both of his events: Men's Individual Compound (W1) and the Mixed Team Compound (W1) where he competed alongside teammate, Jo Frith. Away from the Paralympic stage, career highlights include Individual Silver and Mixed Team Gold at the 2015 Para World Championships in Donaueschingen, Germany; Mixed Team Gold at the 2016 European Para Championships in Saint-Jean-de-Monts, France; Bronze Medal with Phoebe Pine, Mixed Team, 2017 Para World Championships, Beijing. John was awarded an MBE in 2017 for services to Archery.



On 25th July, ten golfing Fletchers and nine guests assembled at Royal Ascot Golf Club where the Master and his Consort, Melanie Trapnell, are members. After a putting competition in the morning, won by Michael Seton, we sat down to an excellent carvery lunch accompanied by wine generously provided by the Master who also topped up the (liquid) prize fund.

Eighteen holes of golf then followed in glorious weather. The course was in excellent condition with fast running fairways and very true greens. The McLellan Trophy for the best golfer was won by the Master with a very good Stableford score of 40 points. The second man was Michael Whatley with 38 points and third was Michael Seton with 35.

The best lady was guest Pauline Campbell with 38 points and second was another guest Irena Tucker with 35.

The straightest drive on the 10th hole was also won by Irena Tucker. Rob Cossey who had travelled down from Cheshire for the event won the nearest the pin prize on the 8th hole and also took home the Scott Knight Trophy.

After the golf, the club provided us all with sandwiches and chips. The Master presented all the prizes except his own, which was presented to him by the organiser of the day, Mike Williams. Mike also thanked Melanie Trapnell for assisting him with the arrangements with the Club.



Mike Williams



Fletchers' Elite Archers Day

Saturday 2 September was a glorious day, after a soggy August, on which to hold the 2023 Fletchers' Elite Archers Day at the Royal Toxophilite Society. With a full complement of archers on the shooting line, all thoroughly enjoyed a relaxed and (reasonably) friendly shoot at Archers' Lodge.



Gentlemen's Recurve: Callum Piggott



Gentlemen's Compound: James Beckett

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 Andrew Trapnell 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:

All four received Fletchers' engraved glasses presented by the Master on behalf of the Fletchers' Trust. Saira, as Ladies' Recurve winner, was also presented with the tea set for the year.

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.



Ladies' Recurve: Saira Chaudhr



Ladies' Compound: Lydia Sinnett-Smith

Golf Fletchers vs Founders

After last year's disappointment when this match had to be cancelled, this year's annual encounter with the Founders' for the F-Off Kup (Festival of Founders' and Fletcher') took place at Tandridge Golf Club on 12th October. Each company is represented by 6 players although on this occasion the Fletchers' fielded only 5 due to last minute unforeseen circumstances. We were represented by Messrs Mike Williams, Ted Hoefling, Mike Seton, Gordon Sharp and Rainer Vogt.

As usual the match was played in very good spirits and we were again comfortable winners thus retaining this much coveted trophy.

The format of the match is four ball better ball played to the end as the match is decided on total holes won and lost. First pair out were Mike W and Ted followed by Mike S and Rainer. Poor Gordon drew the short straw and had to play on his own against two formidable opponents from the Founders'. Notwithstanding the disadvantage the Fletchers' prevailed convincingly.

The match was followed by an excellent lunch at the Golf Club and we are looking forward to next year's encounter, which has been scheduled for 17th October 2024.

Rainer Vogt



Fletchers' RAF History Tour

London, 4th September 2023 – Fletchers, friends, and aviation aficionados gathered in Central London on a wonderfully clear-skied Monday afternoon, for a unique and enlightening experience. Organized by Fletchers John Chappell, Sue King, and special guest presenter Bob Shaw, the Royal Air Force Historical Monuments Tour offered an intimate journey through time, celebrating the legacy of the Royal Air Force (RAF) and its historic monuments across Westminster and beyond.

Commencing at the RAF Memorial - a stone's throw from Embankment – the guided tour took participants from Victoria Crosses to Viscounts in Whitehall Gardens, through Horse Guards and Pall Mall. Along the way our learned guides highlighted RAF titans Hugh Trenchard, Viscount Trenchard – and his miraculous recovery from paralysis on the Cresta Run and Sir Keith Park – whose leadership and strategic defence were widely considered critical to the Battle of Britain. With a brief stop on the mall at King George VI's statue highlighting his pioneering service in the Royal Naval Air Service (subsequently the RAF), the tour concluded at the poignant Bomber Command memorial in Green Park, showcasing the hidden history of the recycled Halifax Aircraft used in construction.

As the sun began to set, our intrepid participants were treated to a warm welcome at the RAF Club by our host and fellow Fletcher Wing Commander John Chappell. The group was subsequently treated to a comprehensive tour showcasing the myriad of aviation paraphernalia, portraits, and incredible collection of Squadron Coats of Arms. The night finished with a delightful curry supper in the Hodges Room and very well-earned tipple in the wonderful Cowdray Lounge. This provided the perfect opportunity to share stories and bask in the camaraderie that comes naturally to members of the Fletchers' community over a very well-earned curry and beer!

A wonderful day all round.

Jesse Singleton



Sheep Drive and Livery Fair, Southwark Bridge



A group of 18 Fletchers, Freemen and their families attended the event on 24th September.



The sheep Drive is organized by the Worshipful Company of Woolmen assisted by the Guild of Young Freeman of the City of London.

Liveryman Jon Aherns organized the Fletchers contingent very efficiently and we had detailed instructions of where and when to register.



Once we had registered and been given our badges and guest passes, we were able to visit the stands from various Livery Companies including the Wheelwrights, Woodturners and Bakers, who were

selling excellent Jam Doughnuts! There was also a demonstration of sheep shearing.

The Fletchers' party was divided into two groups, one of eight and one of ten. We all then made our way to Southwark Bridge for the sheep drive, passing through security.



The Master of the Young Freemen of the City of London gave our group an informative talk on the history of the Sheep Drive, and what being a Freeman of the City means including: being able to be hung by a silk chord; and we cannot be pressganged; and should be taken home if found drunk in the City.

A flock of eight sheep arrived and we set off across the Bridge.



The Master and his Consort led us off. We then took it in turns to be directly behind 'driving' the sheep. The sheep were well behaved for the seven-minute drive but were guided by the shepherds to stop them bolting or jumping off the bridge.



At the end of the Drive most of the group went to the Little Ship Club, located close to the bridge, for a lunch organized by Jon Aherns comprising of Lamb Moussaka followed by Lemon Tart.



It was a very enjoyable day. A big thank you to Jon for organizing it all.

Susan and Arthur Dransfield



It's a small world!

October Court and Affiliates' Lunch.

At the lunch I was seated opposite our Fletcher Arrow awardee from RAF Northolt, Corporal Luke Halstead – an interesting character and, most definitely, a worthy recipient of our award. We chatted a lot, but halfway through the meal we made a startling discovery!

"So, Luke, where do you come from?" I asked.

"Oh, a little place in Lancashire that you'll never have heard of," he replied.

"Try me" I said, "Even though I come from the other (proper) side of the Pennines, I have to admit to knowing some bits of Lancashire!"

"Whitworth" says Luke.

"No ... you're kidding!" I exclaim. "My wife's sister lives there – has done for decades!"

"What's her name?" asks Luke.

When I tell him, he nearly falls off his seat! It turns out that, not only is Jane's sister a friend of his Mum, but she looked after him quite a few times when he was a small child and that he knew, and was friends with, her children!

It was then great fun introducing him to Jane, who was equally flabbergasted. Once over the initial surprise, the two of them then spent the rest of the afternoon having enormous fun comparing notes! As he left, Luke said what an amazing and special day it had been – and what a brilliant bunch the Fletchers were.

It's a delightfully small world sometimes

Tim & Jane Eltringham



New Members of The Worshipful Company of Fletchers

October Court

Admissions to the Livery

Mrs Anne Poulter.

Anne came to know the Fletchers' Company many years ago when she was employed by PM Jeremy Garnett as his PA. The connection came about through Liveryman Angela Mortimer. A major part of the job was to keep the Fletchers' Company running smoothly. In those days it was a smaller company, with no lady members, and Anne knew every member by name. Through Jeremy's generosity PM Tony Poulter often came to Fletchers' events when he was not protecting the country from under the sea. Anne met Tony six weeks after starting her job with Jeremy.

Tony & Anne loved holidaying in Crete with its extraordinary history, amazing hospitality and marvellous beaches and climate, there were other holiday venues too, Antigua, Australia, Madeira, Malta, Santa Domingo, the Norfolk Broads to name but a few. Prior to settling down with a 'grown up' job, Anne had previously worked as a chalet girl, cooked for Michael Hesletine, nursed, indeed quite a variety of occupations. Anne is honoured to become a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Fletchers.

Mr Justin Stephenson.

Justin was born and raised in South Africa. His father is British but grew up in Kenya and his Mother was British and in South Africa. Justin attended a Steiner school in South Africa. As part of the curriculum students were encouraged research a project in their final school year. Justin decided to research and build a longbow with arrows. Justin attended University in South Africa before moving to the UK in 2015. While at university he was active in several community projects and charity events and developed his interests in history and classical studies. Justin enjoys travel and in 2005 climbed Mt Kilimanjaro with his father and sister. Justin has a strong interest in the City of London as his great grandfather was an Alderman for Coleman ward and an active member of The Basketmakers.

Mr Robert Brown.

Robert worked for Lloyds Bank for nearly 37 years mainly in branches in various roles ending as Branch Manager and running branches in the West End and City of London. He then went on to join the HR team in Commercial Banking where he ran his own team responsible for promoting and advising on the reward package available to colleagues which included Pension's Share schemes and salary replacement options until taking redundancy to look after my mother who suffered from dementia in 2016. Robert is a keen supporter of both the London and Kent air ambulance's and have completed various charity challenges for his local hospice. He enjoys golf, cycling and chess.

Admissions to Freeman

Mr Simon Samuels. Simon has had a close relationship with the City of London for over 50 years and has long considered membership of a guild. Simon has a track record as a general, line and functional manager in regulatory compliance in both Fundraising and Financial Services. Within the third sector he has worked for Mind, Barnardo's and Mountbatten an Isle of Wight based hospice and within the financial sector he has experience with Barclays, Standard Chartered Bank and The Knightsbridge Group. He has conducted extensive strategic planning and business development with experience in change management and the implementation of change across organisations.

Mr Iain Thompson.

Iain has been interested in the work and history of livery companies in the City of London for a number of years and has been involved in number of organisations based around fellowship and benevolence (Round Table GB&I, the Freemasons). Iain believes it is important to actively contribute to any club, society or organisation that he is a member of. His personal interests are beekeeping, field archery and golf so the opportunity to be a Fletcher with activities so closely aligned with his hobbies seemed a logical choice. Iain's father is ex-RAF and is pleased to note the link that the Fletchers have with the military. Professionally, Iain works in the pharmaceutical industry and is a devoted father of three children (23, 20 & 17).



FLETCHERS' VISIT TO FUSILIER BOXING CHAMPIONSHIP

The First Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers has a formidable record in Army Boxing, going through to the Army Finals last year. The highlight each year is their own Battalion Championship when relatively inexperienced boxers from each Company compete in what is known as the Hart's Medals. This is a big event in the Battalion Calendar, especially when combined this year with their Commemoration of Minden Day, one of their many Battle Honours. Fletchers were honoured to be invited, and were represented by Past Master Andrew McMillan and Colonel John Power, who were relieved to find themselves as VIP guests rather than in the ring! Colonel James Denny was also there in his Fusilier capacity.

The event started in civilised fashion, joining the Officers for drinks on their Mess lawn on a fine July evening, serving officers resplendent in their traditional scarlet mess dress, others in black tie, with a multiplicity of medals indicating a great deal of operational service. We then moved on to the large gymnasium, with the opportunity en route to inspect one of the impressive new Boxer armoured vehicles that will replace their Warriors later this year. The CO and his VIPs then entered the massive gymnasium, to be met by a wall of sound from about four hundred highly enthusiastic young Fusiliers in Company groups, many with flags and stage props for vigorous emphasis of their competing loyalties, all singing *Sweet Caroline* as a warm up. One word from the Regimental Sergeant Major brought instant silence as he marched across the ring to request permission to start the event from the CO, Lt Col James Fern, after which the Colours marched on to the Regimental Band. Then commenced a massive display of sound and light, with professionally coordinated lasers, flames, glitter and loud vibrating sound more akin to a major pop concert! building to crescendo as the curtains rose on a separate stage to reveal in turn the first pair of boxers, each escorted round the ring to competing cheers from supporters – a performance repeated for each bout.

Each bout comprised three rounds, arranged in various weight categories, ascending to the heavyweights, but it has to be said that soldiers of all categories fought with impressive courage and determination, slogging it out to the end, all a great credit to their Regiment. There was a break for refreshments at half time and presentation of well deserved prizes on conclusion, after which the Officers and Guests adjourned to the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess for a splendid curry and more drinks to round off a magnificent and memorable night.

This was an ideal opportunity to present our Fletchers' Top Gun Trophy to the champion WarriorCrew who had scored most highly firing the vehicle's 30mm Rarden Cannon. Photos show 1&2) Andrew presenting this to Sergeant Morrison and his crew of Fusilier Scott and Fusilier Hicks, and John presenting cruiserweight prizes to 3) Winner Craftsman O'Dowd (REME) and 4) Runner-up Fusilier Proctor. The Award for Exceptional Achievement was announced in his absence to Colour Sergeant Howarth for his succession of exceptionally tough challenges to raise funds for worthwhile and relevant causes.

The Hart's Medals are boxed in memory of Captain Hart of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers. He was killed in action during a major German offensive on 8th May 1915 at Ypres. Despite being surrounded and running low on ammunition, when called upon to surrender Captain Hart responded "surrender be damned!" The original medals were presented by his family in his memory. Coincidentally, John Power is very familiar with that particular battle site where his Great Uncle was killed the same day. Both names are on the Menin Gate.

Fletchers' military affiliation is to the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers which has two Battalions: First (Regular) and Fifth (Reserve). Also to 135 RRF Cadet Detachment.

John Power

1)



2)



3)



4)





The Past Masters' Lunch



By tradition Past Master Fletchers gather on the Anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt, 25 October, which is also the Feast of Saints Crispin and Crispianus. Thanks to the excellent organisation of PM Adrian Scott Knight, Master in the Agincourt 600 year, fourteen Past Masters, the current Upper Warden and Master enjoyed a lunch in the Hall on 25 October 2023. It was great to see representatives from every decade from the 1980s onwards and also to hear news of those not able to be present in person. The Master gave a splendid battle speech though somehow we think Shakespeare got there before him!

Warden, Past Masters.

Thank you for inviting the Upper Warden and I to this Past Masters' lunch. Adrian kindly invited me to say a few words, so if you will forgive me, I have borrowed a few, suitably amended, which I suspect you will recognise.

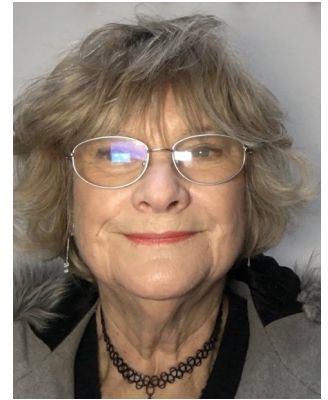
This day is call'd [the feast of Crispian](#).

We that dine this day, and come safe home,
Will stand a tip-toe when this day is nam'd,
And rouse at the name of Crispian.
We that shall dine this day, and see old age,
Will yearly at the lunch feast our fellow Past Masters
And say "To-day is Saint Crispian."
Then will we draw our napkin, and raise our glass
And say "This lunch I had on Crispin's day."
Old age forget; yet all shall be forgot,
But we'll remember, with advantages,
What lunch we had this day.

Then shall our names, Familiar in mouth as household words—
Andrew the Master, [Shears](#) and [Curry](#),
[Wootton](#) and [Taylor](#), [Coward](#) and [Garnett](#)—
Be in their flowing cups freshly rememb'ed.

This story shall the good Past Master teach his Fletchers;
And Crispin Crispian shall ne'er go by,
From this day to the ending of the world,
But we in it shall be rememberèd—
We few, we happy few, we band of Fletchers;
For you to-day that dine with me
Shall be my Past Masters; be you ne'er so vile,
This day shall gentle your condition;
And Past Masters in England now at home
Shall think themselves unfortunate they were not here,
And call their meal cheap whiles any eats
That dined with us upon Saint Crispin's day Anne Curry

Life with The Fletchers'



Valerie Clarke is one of the longest serving Members of the Worshipful Company of Fletchers' and is the longest serving Female Fletcher having joined the Livery in January 1975. She has some happy memories which she would like to share with you:

My Mother did not enjoy good health so I started to accompany my Dad (Mr Raymond C Deith) to Fletcher events when I was 15. Dad's life was the City, Farrington Ward Club, endless committees, Court of Common Council as well as Masonic events. His biggest pleasure was to bring upstanding friends into the Fletchers'. He was Master twice and had the symbol/ emblem of the original Hall on the wall of his office in Queen Victoria Street. He was very upset when the original hall had to be sold. I think it was for economic reasons. All this happened when I was young so forgive me if any facts are incorrect.

The day I was admitted was chaos. Everything was in place, but I hadn't been made a Freeman of the City of London ! I think Dad's pace of life caught up with him and after a few frantic telephone calls, we dashed to Guildhall and had the ceremony. Incredible, he must have had influence !

The most embarrassing happening was at a formal dinner at Mansion House in the wonderful Egyptian Hall. The Master was welcoming me and then there was lots of applauding. All my family were there and Jeremy Garnett was kindly keeping an eye on me. 'Stand up' he encouraged, smiling. But the zip at the back of my strapless dress had popped. I asked a waiter to get my coat - I was very calm. My mother reprimanded me, 'you can't be cold - you're just trying to get more attention! I had to press my back hard against the chair to stop the dress from falling down. Panic set in, but someone gave me some safety pins. But I still needed my heavy coat to cover myself and I nearly fainted with the heat.

Another happening which was difficult was losing my piece of paper on which I had written details of people, not always complementary. It was usually safely in my handbag and helped me remember personal details of Fletchers. One entry read 'very boring, could only talk about his diet and his mother' so I could avoid sitting next to this gentleman again ! Fortunately Peter Reid (very tall and nice and worked in cardboard, I had written) found it on the floor and gave it back to me !

I have so many fun recollections so I will write another screed for the next La Flèche .

Valerie Clarke



Visit to the College of Arms

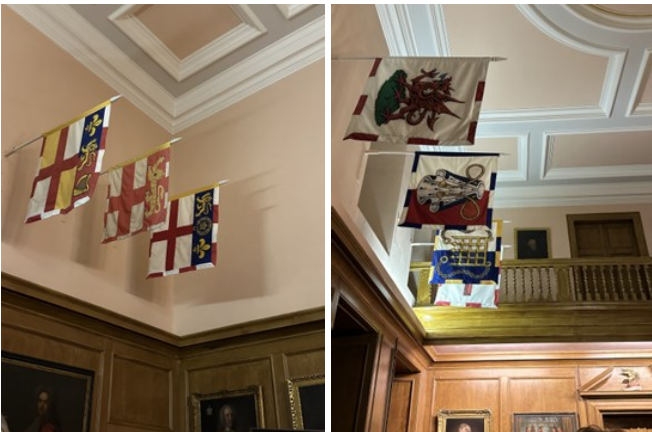
As the bells of St. Paul's struck six, twenty Fletchers were ushered through the gates of the College of Arms to begin a fascinating tour of this venerable institution. We were greeted by Bluemantle Pursuivant of Arms in Ordinary, a junior officer of the College of Arms in London. Our visit began in the high-ceilinged Courtroom, which he explained hadn't exactly been busy, having heard two cases in the past two hundred and fifty years.



Bluemantle Pursuivant is also College Librarian and treated us to a wonderfully tailored tour of the Collection in the Record room, which was added to the building in 1842. We admired many Livery Company coats of arms in addition to our very own 1467 Grant of Arms.

Many Liverymen were also excited to see the Coats of Arms of Admiral Lord Nelson, with the fact that his statement and signature were written left-handed – after he had lost his right arm in battle – adding a poignancy to the viewing.

The College has been on the same site since 1555. I think everyone's hearts were in their mouths when we heard about all the Records being moved as the flames of the Great Fire of London approached in 1666 – and good job they did, as the original building burned down. The records were also moved during World War Two – first as the Blitz raged and later during the Doodlebug Raids.



We moved on admiring the flags of the thirteen Officers of Arms – Kings of Arms, Heralds and Pursuivants. We proceeded to the next room, where we settled in with a glass of wine to hear more about the Officers' responsibilities at the State Opening of Parliament, Coronations and State Funerals, and the Annual Service and Procession of the Order of the Garter. We were able to spot our very own Arundel Herald (Past Master Professor Anne Curry) in the photos.

When looking at the Royal Family's livery, we noticed the family tree below the Prince and Princess of Wales' Coats of Arms are curiously blank. Bluemantle Pursuivant explained It looked scruffy if we have to add to it later therefore we are waiting to be sure they've finished having children before it is completed

After a pleasant buffet and a chance to catch up with Fletcher friends and quiz Bluemantle Pursuivant further, we departed into the rain of Storm Cieran, heads full of Rouge Dragons, letters Patent and Lions Rampant.

Josie Gowler



Para-Archery update

With outdoor archery starting in April, the Para Athletes have been busy with some major events in these first couple of months.

European Grand Prix – 1st Leg. Held at Lilleshall National Sports Centre from 3rd to 8th April 2023.

An early and important date in the calendar which, while not strictly a Para event, saw a number of the Great Britain Para Team taking part as the hosts of a European Grand Prix are allowed to have more athletes competing. This enabled the athletes to get some strong competition early on in their quest for medals later in the season.

Those competing at the event, and their individual placings, were as follows:

Jamie Harris	Compound Men	33 rd
Nathan MacQueen	Compound Men	17 th
Phoebe Paterson Pine	Compound Women	9 th
Cameron Radigan	Recurve Men	57 th
David Phillips	Recurve Men	116 th
Jess Stretton	Compound Women	17 th

In addition, Nathan shot as part of the Men's Compound Team, and they made it to the Quarter-Finals where they were beaten by Germany in a shoot-off, while Jess Stretton shot in the Women's Compound Team for GBR, and they succeeded in winning the Gold Medal!

With the event being in early April, the weather of course threw up some surprises – being cold, very cold, and bitterly cold at times, as well as wet.....However, when finals day dawned on the Saturday, the weather decided to behave and the finals were shot in warm sunshine weather!

The Fletchers' were in attendance – Hilda Gibson was present all week in her role as a World Archery Europe Executive Board Member, Past Masters Chris Brown, Andrew McMillan and Ian MacLellan were present on the finals day as guests and also presented medals/prizes. I was present all week as the announcer/commentator!

Para-Archery European Cup 2023 – 1st Leg – Held in Nove Mesto, Czech Republic, from 14-20 May 2023.

With this event starting a day or two after the Fletchers' Day for Archers with a Disability (FDAD) at Lilleshall, and the GBR team needing to travel in advance, it did give the opportunity for other athletes to attend FDAD this year – more of that later.

In addition to the GBR team, also present was Hilda Gibson, Technical Delegate on behalf of World Archery Europe. This role is most important, as the delegates work with the organisers to ensure the requirements of the athletes and teams are met; the schedule of shooting is effective and all services such as transport, accommodation and food are delivered successfully.

As this was a Para event, all the relevant Para Classes were in competition. The following is the list of individuals on the GBR team and their team and their final individual placings:

Jodie Grinham	Compound Women Open	8 th
Phoebe Paterson Pine	Compound Women Open	7 th
Jess Stretton	Compound Oen Women	4 th
Jamie Harris	Compound Open Men	17 th
Nathan MacQueen	Compound Open Men	1 st (Gold Medal)
Dave Phillips	Recurve Open Men	7 th
Cameron Radigan	Recurve Open Men	9 th
Victoria Kingston	Women W1 Open	5 th
Martin Saych	Men W1 Open	9 th

In Para only events, teams are now called 'Doubles' with only two athletes in a team (previously it was three), and there is also a Mixed Team event in every category. The move to Doubles was to encourage more competition in the team events, with some countries having more opportunity if a team comprises only two athletes.

So, to go with Nathan's GOLD Medal – which he won by one point in the fifteen arrow match (143-142), and Jess's 4th place, losing out on the Bronze Medal by three points (134-137), there was also some team success:

Dave and Cameron finished 4th in the Recurve Open Men's Doubles;
 Jamie and Nathan finished 7th in the Compound Open Men's Doubles;
 Nathan and Jess finished 5th in the Compound Open Mixed Team;
 Martin and Victoria took home the SILVER medal in the W1 Open Mixed Team, losing by 5 points in the final to Turkiye (131-136);
 Jodie and Phoebe took home the GOLD medal in the Women's Compound Open Team, beating Turkiye by three points (152 -149);

Overall, it was a highly successful event for the GBR team. Once again the weather was cold and wet for much of the week.

Fletchers' Day for Archers with a Disability (FDAD) –Held at The Royal Toxophilite Society Ground, Archers Lodge, on 13th May 2023.

In keeping with the variable weather we seem to be having at the moment, just when we thought we might get a nice sunny day, we ended up with an overcast day but happily no rain when shooting.

With the main GBR team on its way to compete in Nove Mesto (see above), it was an opportunity for other athletes with a disability to shine, and there were a total of 16 competitors in attendance ably supported by their assistants also with 'Royal Tox' members there to help too. It was good to see Lindsay Howard, Carlene Wright (Lorimer) and Mark Dunn whom the Fletchers' Trust have recently supported.



(Continued from page 20)

Annual Carol Service with the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers

The competition is split into 4 categories:

- Recurve Archers shooting an 'Albion' Round (36 arrows at each of 80 yards, 60 yards and 50 yards)
- Compound Archers shooting an Albion Round (same as for Recurve Archers)
- A 'Burntwood' Round for Archers with Visual Impairment. They shoot a total of 108 arrows at 30 metres, but start with a 60cm diameter target face for the first 36 arrows, an 80cm diameter target face for the second 36, and a 122cm diameter target face for the last 36 arrows. In effect this replicates the idea of the target moving nearer to them but avoids the need for realigning or resetting of their tactile sights that they use to help ensure they are hitting the middle.
- A 'Fletchers' round – 108 arrows at 30 metres for archers with a disability who have not been shooting for very long.

There was much camaraderie in evidence along the shooting line during the day, and it seemed that everyone enjoyed the day, including the lunch and tea which was provided.

The winners were:

- Albion Round for Recurve Archers – Bethany Dexter
- Albion Round for Compound Archers – Lindsay Howard
- Burntwood Round – Debora Wrigh
- Fletchers Round – Carlene Wright (Carlene Lorimer)

This event also sees the presentation of two annually awarded trophies, as follows:

1. The Des Clarke Trophy, awarded to a novice archer who would benefit from encouragement. This was awarded to Piangfan Naksukpaiboon. Piangfan travels only using public transport, and has to be very precise in planning her competition schedule to ensure public transport can deliver. This has proved very challenging with the ongoing rail strikes, but she has made a fantastic effort to be present at events.
2. The Frank Steiner Trophy, to be presented to someone who has provided outstanding support for Disabled Athletes. This year it was presented to recently retired Trustee and Chairman of the Fletchers' Trust, PM Chris Brown, who has been a driving force in supporting Disabled Athletes during his time as a Trustee.

About a dozen Fletchers attended the event during the afternoon, partaking of tea and sandwiches shortly before the Prize Giving, with the Master Andrew Trapnell presenting each of the individual winners with a 'Fletchers' Pen'.

The Fletchers' Trust is indebted to the Royal Toxophilite Society and in particular, Gemma Underwood, who organises the event on the Fletchers' behalf, for their hospitality and support for this event.

Graham Potts



The Fletchers gathered at 6pm outside the Tower of London and walked through the ancient grounds bedecked with Christmas trees to The Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula within His Majesty's Tower of London. The Fletchers were joined by the Gunmakers and, along with the Royal Regiments of Fusiliers, completely filled the Chapel.

Before the Carol Service began, Canon Roger J Hall MBE welcomed everyone to the Chapel Royal and explained the history of the Chapel and, as the Tower was a Royal Residence, that members of the Royal Family are buried in the Chapel including Anne Boleyn, Catherine Howard and Lady Jane Grey. Many other people were buried in the Chapel however, on the instructions of Queen Victoria, have subsequently been exhumed and reburied in the Ossuary. Canon Roger Hall announced that last year the congregation raised £900 for their charity and urged us to do better. This year the collection money will be donated to the Tower Hamlets food bank and also reminded us that the Chapel is open to the public for regular Sunday Services.

The Festival of six Lessons and eleven Carols began with, *Once in Royal David's City*, with the first verse sung by an amazing soprano from the Chapel choir. The six Lessons were read by representatives of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and the Fletchers' Company. The first Lesson was read by Court Assistant, Liveryman Hilda Gibson. Past Master Professor Emeritus Professor Anne Curry read the second Lesson and the Master, Andrew Trapnell, read the Fifth Lesson. The Lessons were interspersed with traditional Carols sung by the congregation and the choir.

The Service finished with, *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*. The choir and Canon Roger Hall processed out of the Chapel. The congregation then left and made their way to the Regimental Headquarters of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers Officers' Mess for a Fork Supper and wine.

The Worshipful Company of Fletchers thanks The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers for their hospitality.

Susan and Arthur Dransfield



The Master's Holiday

A New Members Perspective

As we are new to the Fletcher's Company, we were advised by our friends that the best way to get to know people was to go on a Master's holiday. They were right!

We were sent a detailed itinerary and an information sheet on flights and taxis from the airport to the hotel, so we knew our travelling companions. Throughout the holiday we kept in touch with each other using WhatsApp.

On the evening of our arrival at the Porto Bay Flores Hotel, the Master and Melanie welcomed us with drinks and canapés in the courtyard. This was followed by a short walk for dinner at Vinhas d'Alho, a local restaurant adjacent to the Douro River front.



The next day we met our guide Pedro who took us on a walking tour of the old City of Porto and a 'Tuk-Tuk' tour was organised for those who didn't want to walk. We walked uphill to begin our tour, so it was downhill to the river afterwards.



We then walked across the bridge to Vila Nova de Gaia and the Ferreira Port House for a tour and Port tasting before lunch. We learnt about the different types of Port and how they have produced them since 1751. Large vats for Ruby Port and smaller casks for Tawny. After lunch some of the group visited the British Factory House, an 18th century Neo-Palladian building, while others had a free afternoon.



In the evening we were treated to a fabulous fine dining experience at the 2 Michelin Star Yeatman Hotel Gastronomic Restaurant, with panoramic views of the River Douro and the historic Centre of Porto. We enjoyed a special four course meal

with paired wines from the Bulas Estate in the Tented Room.



On Friday we took a coach tour down the Douro Valley to visit the Quinta Da Pacheca vineyard, established in 1738, where they use traditional methods for Port making, including treading the grapes and, of course, we tasted their Port.

Afterwards we visited the town of Lamego where some brave souls climbed the 686 steps of the Sanctuary of Nossa Senhora dos Remédios.



On our last full day Pedro took us to see the San Francisco Church, the most prominent Gothic monument in Porto with its outstanding Baroque inner decoration. Construction on the church began in 1383 and was completed in 1425.

A trip on the river followed, where we saw the six famous bridges and the seaside at Foz.



The final evening was a tour of W and J Graham's Port House established in 1820 then Dinner in the VINUM Restaurant. The Restaurant & Wine Bar is the result of two families and two passions, gastronomy and wine, combining to create a

unique experience. The Symingtons are a British family with a Portuguese heart producing Port and Douro wines for more than 130 years. Along with co-founders Sagardi from the Basque region today they run a global network of thirty two restaurants.

On the Sunday excellent departure arrangements were made for us with well timed taxis and minibuses for each of the various scheduled flights.

A big thank you to the Master and Melanie for making us feel so welcome also to Debs for her skilled organising. Thank you to those who shared their photos.



Arthur and Susan Dransfield



Diary Dates

January 2024 — November 2024

Those Marked with an F are open to freemen, Liveryman may attend all events. The event marked with a C is for Court and invited Guests				
16th January	Court and Lunch		Lunch for Court Members and Livery at Wax Chandlers' Hall.	Clerk
24th—26th January			Inter Livery Skiing	CA Celia Campbell
30th January	Tuesday	F	Late Burns Supper	Clerk
6th February	Thursday	F	Online Lecture—Steven Gunn	Master
7th February	Wednesday	C	Extraordinary Meeting of Court, Details to follow	Clerk
11th February	Sunday		Deer Park Inclusion Shoot	Liveryman Tim Elington
20th February	Tuesday		Fletchers Quiz Night	Liveryman Gordon Sharp
7th March	Thursday	F	International Woman's Day Details to follow	CA Celia Campbell and Liveryman Natalie Coney
11th March	Monday		Anniversary Banquet at Haberdashers' Hall	Clerk
15th March	Friday		United Guilds Service	Clerk
23rd March	Saturday		Masters away day at Bisley — TBC	Clerk
24th April	Wednesday		Installation Court	Clerk
Spring	Date TBC		Noak Hill	PM Lesley Agutter
16th May	Thursday		Prince Arthur Cup Golf — TBC	Mike Williams
18th May	Saturday		FDAD	Graham Potts, Peter Probert
24th May	Friday		Possible event TBC	Peter Beard
10th June	Monday		Reception on the Golden Hind	Liveryman Tim Eltringham
20th June	Thursday		The Brigantes	Brigantes Committee
24th June	Monday		Election of Sheriffs	Clerk
1st July	Monday		18th Inter Livery Golf Day	Livery
10th July	Wednesday		Fletchers Golf Day at Royal Ascot DC	Mike Williams, Andrew Trapnell, Clerk,
19th July	Tuesday		Court and Dinner	Clerk
Autumn	Date TBC		Noak Hill	PM Lesley Agutter
7th September	Saturday		Elite Day Royal Tox	Graham Potts, Peter Probert
14th-15th September	Saturday/Sunday		National Disability Championships	Almoner Hilda Gibson
27th September	Friday		Admissions of the Sheriffs	Clerk
29th September	Saturday		Woolman's Sheep Drive and Livery Fair	TBC
30th September	Monday		Election of the Lord Mayor	Clerk
1st—4th October	Monday — Friday		Master's Holiday TBC	Master
15th October	Tuesday		Court and Affiliate Lunch	Clerk
17th October	Thursday		FOFF Golf Match (the Founders)	PM Rainer Vogt
25th October	Friday		Past Masters' Lunch	Adrian Scott -Knight
8th November	Friday		Admission of the Lord Mayor	Clerk
20th November	Wednesday		Ladies Lunch TBC	