



THE GUILD OF MERCERS' SCHOLARS

From the Honorary Clerk

Dr A.C. Priest, Halfway House Farm, Tintinhull, Yeovil, Somerset BA22 8PA
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To all Guildmen and Apprentices

You are hereby advised that the 66th **Annual Meeting** of the Guild will be held at in **The Aldermen's Court Room** in the West Wing of Guildhall in the City of London on **Thursday 9th July 2015** commencing at 6pm. The agenda is shown below and the Guild Master hopes that as many Guildmen and Apprentices as possible will be present on this occasion.

Following the Annual Meeting, a three course supper with wine has been organised at The Bow Wine Vaults at a cost of £35 per head, pre-booked and payable in advance, please. It is also necessary that the names of those who wish to attend the Meeting be notified to the Guildhall in advance, so the tear off slip should please be returned or emailed to me by **Monday 6th July 2015**.

Alexander Priest
Honorary Clerk

15th June 2015

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Roll Call and Apologies
2. Minutes of the 65th Annual Meeting and matters arising therefrom (*appended*)
3. Elections to the Court for 2015/2016
4. Guild Master's Annual Report
5. GMS Charitable Trust Annual Report
6. Any Other Business

✂

To: Dr A C Priest, Halfway House Farm, Tintinhull, Yeovil, Somerset BA22 8PA
or clerk@mercersscholars.com

1. I will attend the Annual Meeting and supper and enclose my cheque for £45 *OR*
2. I will attend the Annual Meeting, but will not stay for supper *OR*
3. I will not attend the Annual Meeting. Please give my apologies to the Master.
(Please delete whichever are not applicable)

Name:

Email:



THE GUILD OF MERCERS' SCHOLARS

Minutes of the Annual Meeting

Thursday 10th July 2014, 6pm

Guildhall, The City of London

1. Attendance

The Guild Master opened the meeting at six o'clock p.m. Those present were:

Guild Master	E V Austin JP
Renter Warden	K Hubbard-Brown
Junior Warden	A J Paice
Past Masters	T W Roberts
	P F Clark
	L S Windwood
	R C Beckwith
	M St John Parker
	R T Smith
	R A Allen
	G Niblett
	B M Jones
Honorary Clerk	Dr A C Priest
Honorary Deputy Clerk	N B Chapman
Honorary Clerk Emeritus	Mrs S Shilling
Honorary Deputy Treasurer	G A Goodeve
Honorary Asst Clerk – Membership	Mrs P A Taylor
Honorary Dept Asst Clerk – Membership	A B Taylor
Social Court Assistant	S J Aylett
Apprentice Court Assistant	Miss P Hammond
Senior Court Assistant	Col Dr H V C Stephens
Collyerian Court Assistant	A Barnard
St Paul's Court Assistant	T J D Cunis
St Paul's Girls' Court Assistant	Miss Anna Harrison

together with Mark Hudson, Bernard Boreham, William Riley, Ray Anstis, Adrian Barnes, Ashay Sodha, Isar Bhattacharjee, and Jessica Bethell-Jones.

2. Apologies for Absence

These had been received from Past Masters R S Dean, N S Fosh, N J Watson, D R Griffiths, H G J Worth, M J Houghton, S M Hills and A C McMillan, Guild Treasurer Dr T L Myatt, Court Assistants C May and Miss R Moore.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the Annual Meeting 2013 were proposed by the Guild Master, seconded by Past Master Clark, and passed *nem con*. The minutes were then signed by the Guild Master.

4. Elections to the Court

It was reported that the following had been elected to the Court:

Office	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Guild Master	K Hubbard-Brown	E V Austin	A C Priest
Guild Renter Warden	A J Paice	K Hubbard-Brown	A C Priest
Guild Junior Warden	T J D Cunis	K Hubbard-Brown	A C Priest
Senior Court Assistant	Mrs J G Bethell-Jones	K Hubbard-Brown	A C Priest
Honorary Clerk	Dr A C Priest	K Hubbard-Brown	E V Austin
Hon Deputy Clerk	N E B Chapman	K Hubbard-Brown	A C Priest
Hon Clerk Emeritus	Mrs S Shilling	K Hubbard-Brown	A C Priest
Honorary Treasurer	Dr T L Myatt	K Hubbard-Brown	A C Priest
Hon Deputy Treasurer	Mr G A Goodeve	K Hubbard-Brown	A C Priest
Hon Asst Clerk-Membership	Mrs P A Taylor	K Hubbard-Brown	A C Priest
Hon Dep Asst Clerk-Memb.	A B Taylor	K Hubbard-Brown	A C Priest
Social Court Assistant	S J Aylett	K Hubbard-Brown	A C Priest
Apprentice Court Assistant	Miss P L Hammond	K Hubbard-Brown	A C Priest
Newsletter Editor	Col Dr H Stephens	K Hubbard-Brown	A C Priest

The following were then recommended to the Annual Meeting for election to the Court:

Office	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Court Assistants	H Barnes	K Hubbard-Brown	A C Priest
	C J May	K Hubbard-Brown	A C Priest
	Miss R L Moore	K Hubbard-Brown	A C Priest
Abingdonian CA	Dr T L Myatt	K Hubbard-Brown	A C Priest
Collyerian CA	A K Barnard	K Hubbard-Brown	A C Priest
Dauntseian CA	Miss P L Hammond	K Hubbard-Brown	A C Priest
Peter Symonds' CA	B Welch	K Hubbard-Brown	A C Priest
St Paul's Court CA	T J D Cunis	K Hubbard-Brown	A C Priest
St Paul's Girls' School CA	Miss A Harrison	K Hubbard-Brown	A C Priest
Thomas Telford CA	M J Hudson	K Hubbard-Brown	A C Priest
Walsall Academy CA	M St John Parker	K Hubbard-Brown	A C Priest
Independent Examiner	C P Ellis	K Hubbard-Brown	A C Priest

Those Guildmen were then proposed and seconded as above, and elected *nem con*.

5. Guild Master's Report

The Guild Master gave his Annual Report as follows:

INTRODUCTION

This annual report is submitted with the background of only being Master for a period of nine months! However despite this my year commenced with the Installation Dinner last October. Held in the magnificent Hall of the Grocers Livery Company whereby, as one would expect, the catering and service was of the best order, excellent cuisine accompanied by some delightful wines.

A brass quintet of the Royal Foot Guards entertained a 154 members and their guests during the reception and after dinner. On a personal note I was delighted that my Granddaughter played the piano to the sung grace.

My nominated charity, Canine Partners, benefitted to the tune of well in excess of £900. I, together with the charity, thank you all for your support.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership has continued to grow, showing a healthy net increase of 18 Guildmen, reaching a total of 250 by the end of this year. The Membership Committee have drawn up a new allocation allowance for School Court Assistants, with the emphasis on recruiting Guildman over the forthcoming year.

The number of Apprentices will now be nearing 100 in number by the end of the current year. Again the Membership Committee have had the unenviable task in allocating, over the eight Cluster schools, the restricted number of Apprenticeship places available. The shortage of Apprentice Masters may cause a problem with some Guildmen now having two or more apprentices at any one time.

Unfortunately the Guild is restricted to only four times in any one year that we have the use of the Chamberlains Court for ceremonies. This may be highlighted in the next two years when some 20 current apprentices complete their apprenticeship and become “free” and eligible to join the Guild.

FINANCIAL

This will be covered in the Treasurer’s Report who has put in place over the year, new accounting procedures, on line banking, chip and pin and shortly a “cloud based” accounting package!

A much needed subscription audit was successfully carried out, standing orders being sent to both members and apprentices.

The current Guild bank balances show a healthy position.

The Trustees of the Guilds Benevolent Fund have been busy making eight awards to worthy candidates who are all grateful for the Guilds’ support. The Court gave permission for recipients to use the Guild’s logo in promotional literature.

COMMUNICATION

The Guild website is now playing an integral part in communication, with more regular updates. The “eventbrite” web site is becoming more used for booking and paying for Guild functions.

It is hoped to see more regular publications of the Newsletter in the future.

INVITATIONS

During the year I have attended a number of functions held by the Cluster Schools, two of whom, Abingdon and Dauntsey’s Schools, I had not previously visited. On each and every occasion the functions were very enjoyable and the hospitality first class.

The Foundation Dinner of **Abingdon School** held in the school dining room.

Peter Symonds College Foundation Service held in Winchester Cathedral.

Annual Dinner of the **Old Collyerian’ Association** held at the College.

The Annual Rugby Awards Dinner of **Peter Symonds College** held in the Guildhall, Winchester.

Old Dauntseians’ Association Annual Dinner, the Reception being held in the Cricket Pavilion with dinner in the school dining room.

I was invited to attend the Annual Banquet of **The Society of Young Freeman of the City of London** held in Sutton’s Hospital Charterhouse.

SOCIAL

Apprentices

A number of Apprentice and Young Guildmen “get togethers”, usually in a suitable hostelry in London on Friday evenings, have been held during the year. These have been organised by our Apprentice Court Assistant and proved to be very popular.

Guild

A varied number of social events have been, or are to be held, during my year as Guild Master, the first, as always’ was the **Lord Mayors’ Show** held in November, thus heavily dependent on the

weather, as shown this year. When a group of Guild “diehards” and their families braved the cold and almost continual rain to watch the wonderful array of pageantry displayed in the procession through the City. Once again, particularly this year, we were more than grateful for the hospitality and warmth, shown by Tallow Chandlers Livery Company, to partake in their “Bangers and Mash” lunch.

Our first visit was to the **Magic Circle** known, as the House of 10,000 Secrets, in the Headquarters of the world’s most famous club for magicians. The visit combines a tour of the museum exhibiting “props” used by some of the world’s famous magicians, not to mention Tommy Cooper and Houdini. We were then treated and mystified by some amazing close up table magic, followed by a short stage show in the Magic Circle Theatre. Lunch was taken at the nearby local hotel. General opinion was that this was well worth a second visit in the future.

A day in London visiting two of well known historical buildings. Commencing with the “inside out tour” to the **Royal Albert Hall** in the morning, followed by the **Charles Dickens Museum** in the afternoon being a very interesting day.

The Tour began with a walk around the cultural quarter known as the Albertopolis, built amongst the fields of a London country estate. The jewel in the crown of Antropolis being the Royal Albert Hall surrounded by some London’s most fascinating buildings, monuments and statues. Followed by an extensive journey of the front of house areas of the Hall, taking in the stunning auditorium, the breathtaking view from the Gallery and finally exclusive access to the Royal Retiring Room.

Luncheon was taken in one of the private dining rooms prior to travelling to a Georgian terraced house in Bloomsbury to the **Charles Dickens Museum** in Doughty Street. Dickens referred to his home as “My town house in town” being an important place in the writer’s life, housing rare books, paintings, photographs and memorabilia giving a unique insight into the life and work of the author. This house is where some of his best-loved novels were written, including *Oliver Twist*.

Future Programme

With a few months still remaining before the end of my year we have three other events arranged. On the Centenary of the outbreak of WW1 on 4th August we are making an appropriate visit to the **Royal British Legion Poppy Factory** for lunch, followed by a tour showing how the many and variable wreaths are made, plus the possibility of making your very own Poppy arrangement.

Also in August (8th) we are breaking away from the normal type of event, to what may called a “**fun and social evening**” whereby Guild members will play our Apprentices at Boules on the Balls Bros. sand pit at Hays Galleria. No experience is necessary; it is a fun evening with refreshments and drinks. Friends and spectators welcome.

Finally on 22nd September in the afternoon a tour of the **Palace of Westminster** is being planned visiting, Lords, Commons, Royal Gallery and Robing Room. Full details in due course.

COURT ADMINISTRATION

I wish to thank the Clerk and his team, many of whom are younger members with long working hours, but find the time to ensure the business of the Guild is organised and conducted in a professional manner. Their guidance during the year is not only appreciated by me but all members of the Court.

In conclusion I wish to thank all members for giving me the opportunity to serve as Master of the Guild for a year which I will look back on with pride.

6. Treasurer’s Report and Accounts

The Honorary Clerk read the absent Honorary Treasurer’s Annual Report:

NatWest £00.00 (as at 15th May)
 SIBS £11,785.58 (as at 15th May)
 Barclays c/a £100.00 (as at 23rd June)
 Bus Saver c/a £455.98 (as at 23rd June)
 Total: **£12,341.56**

We now have online banking facilities for both our NatWest and Barclays accounts, and I hope to be able to integrate these with our new online QuickBooks accounting software. I have set up the QuickBooks account, and have been familiarising myself with the software and entering the Guild's expenses on a weekly basis.

I am still waiting to receive completed Standing Order forms from various Guildmen who joined at the April meeting. I have contacted them all by email, and hope they return the papers soon. Please could all Apprentice Masters and sponsors please encourage their wards to complete the Standing Order papers as soon as they are sent them, and preferably before they join the Guild.

Standing Order Mandates have been sent to all Apprentices and Guildmen who are joining at the Midsummer Court, and as of today, I only await the return of three of the forms.

The Excel spreadsheet of all our banking transactions remains the primary accounting methodology until such time as our online banking can be synchronised with our newly enabled online *QuickBooks* account. But the Guild is in fine financial health.

The annual Standing Order Payments are due on the 1st of July, and will be deposited into our Barclays account, before being automatically transferred to a higher interest account.

The Clerk has chased all those Guildmen and Apprentices who had not paid their 2013-14 subs, and we have had some success in receiving overdue subs.

Please will the Court accept my apologies for my absence at the Midsummer Court; I am sadly unable to attend. Those members of the Court wishing to make expense claims may post their forms and receipts to me, and I will send them a cheque upon my return to these shores.

I wish you all the best of the summer!

The Annual Accounts (ending 31 October 2013, follows hereafter) were proposed by the Guild Master, seconded by the Honorary Clerk and passed *nem con*. They were then signed by the Guild Master.


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GUILD OF MERCERS' SCHOLARSINCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTfor the year ended 31st October 2013

	<u>2013</u>		<u>2012</u>
	£		£
<u>INCOME</u>			
Guildmen subscriptions for the year ending 30 th June 2014	5,355		3,460
Apprentice subscriptions for the year ending 30 th June 2014	1,345		995
Social Events Net Surplus 4 events	229	6 events	427
Court suppers Net (deficit) surplus	(65)		80
Bank Interest	9		7
Sales of Ties, Brooches	78		89
	<u>6,951</u>		<u>5,058</u>
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
Installation Dinner:-			
Catering	9,897	Catering	6,423
Wines	2,953	Wines	890
Hire of Hall	1,531	Hire of Hall	660
Toastmaster	150	Toastmaster	210
Music	0	Music	200
Menu covers	65	Menu Covers	60
Sundries	<u>209</u>	Sundries	<u>165</u>
Total Costs	14,740	Total Costs	8,608
Less Ticket Sales	<u>13,135</u>	Less Ticket Sales	<u>8,065</u>
Net Cost	1,605	Net Cost	543
New Apprentice costs	1,095		529
Apprentice Functions	450		684
Adjustment to Provision for New Apprentices	475		700
Insurance	687		674
Postage & carriage	396		308
Office Stationery	167		224
Printing	0		27
Travelling	211		232
Repairs to Regalia	25		0
Regalia - Presentation	0		44
Donations	25		0
	<u>5,138</u>		<u>3,965</u>
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	<u>1,813</u>		<u>1,093</u>

GUILD OF MERCERS' SCHOLARSBALANCE SHEET AT 31st October 2013

	<u>2013</u>		<u>2012</u>
	£		£
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>			
Stock of Pre Paid Envelopes	0		80
Stock of Menu Covers	160		325
Stock of Ties, Pins & Brooches	655		943
Debtors and Prepayments	595		438
Cash - Barclays Bank	506		150
Cash - National Westminster Bank	13,907		18,316
	<u>15,823</u>		<u>20,252</u>
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
Creditors – short term	0	7,408	
Apprentice Fees received in advance	<u>1,975</u>	<u>1,575</u>	8,983
			<u> </u>
CURRENT ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>13,848</u>		<u>11,269</u>
			<u> </u>
<u>TOTAL NET ASSETS</u>	<u>13,848</u>		<u>11,269</u>
<u>FUNDS</u>			
Unrestricted Funds	10,269	9,176	
Surplus for the Year	<u>1,813</u>	<u>1,093</u>	
Unrestricted funds carried forward		12,035	10,269
Restricted Funds:			
Apprentice Development Reserve	1,766	1,000	
		<u>13,848</u>	<u>11,269</u>
<u>TOTAL FUNDS</u>	<u>13,848</u>		<u>11,269</u>

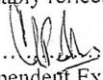
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 Hon. Treasurer :

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 Guild Master : E C Austin

I have reviewed the balance sheet of The Guild of Mercers' Scholars at 31st October, 2013, together with the Income & Expenditure Account for the year then ended. I do not have responsibility for preparing the accounts.

The review was conducted to obtain moderate assurance as to whether the accounts are free from material mis-statement. I have not performed an audit and, accordingly, do not express an audit opinion.

Based on my review, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the accounts do not reasonably reflect the transactions shown in the Guild's accounting records.

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 Independent Examiner : C P Ellis

15 FEB 2014

7. Charitable Trust Report

Chairman of Trustees, Susan Shilling, reported on the grants made by the GMS Charitable Trust to

Imogen Beresford-Bones – Dauntsey's Apprentice
Community and conservation volunteering with 'The Leap' in Tanzania

Neil Bromley – Guildman
Further support for The Swindon Fencing Club and, in particular, their community Fencing for the Future Programme

Alexander Eckl – St Paul's Apprentice
Working with Raleigh International in Borneo

Ben Edwards – Peter Symmonds' Apprentice
Volunteering in India with Development in Action

Theodor Harrison – St Paul's Apprentice
To support ERASMUS Scholarship to Heidelberg

James Kennard – Guildman
The new Bronze Collection of an anthem anthology published by The Royal School of Church Music for the Junior Choir of St Nicholas' Church, Marston

Ashay Sodha – St Paul's Apprentice
Participation in the European Youth Parliament in Rotterdam

Jungwoo Yang – St Paul's Apprentice
Fundraising in aid of The Jack Boericke Foundation

The Trustees were thanked for their time and those who had received a grant were offered the good wishes of the meeting for the projects.

8. Any Other Business

The Clerk thanked his team, Sue Shilling, Nick Chapman, Patricia Taylor, Andrew Taylor, Tim Myatt and Graham Goodeve, for their kind, hard work during the course of the year.

The essays which had been written by the Guild's apprentices during the year were praised.

9. Forward Court Calendar

Thursday 23th October 2014 – Membership Court & Michaelmas Day Court Meeting at Guildhall followed by the Installation Dinner at Mercers' Hall

15.00 Freedom & Indenture Ceremonies in the Chamberlain's Court
15.45 Guildman Declarations & Apprentice Bindings
16.30 Court Meeting
18.30 Installation Dinner

The Guild Master closed the meeting at forty minutes past six o'clock p.m.

Dr A C Priest
Honorary Clerk
15th August 2014