

Membership

At the Summer Court on 28th May 2002 the Honorary Clerk reported that membership of the Guild was as follows:

Liverymen: 32 Guildmen: 110 Apprentices: 56

Total: 203, a new record high for the Guild.

The Court was pleased to admit to membership during the year 2001/2002 the following Freemen of the City of London:

Geoffrey Charles Baxter – Former Apprentice – Abingdon

Colin Anthony Hart – Dauntseys

Charles George Stephen Smith – Mercers

James Digby Peterson – Former Apprentice – Abingdon

David Richard Northover – Former Apprentice – Dauntseys

Charles Robert Lowe – Abingdon

Timothy Glenn Simmons – Dauntseys

Andrew Thomas Peter Hine – Family Member

Guildmen are reminded that their wives and children over 21 are eligible for membership of the Guild provided that they are free of the City. Children under 21 are eligible to become apprentices. A short descriptive booklet which includes application forms is available from the Honorary Clerk who also has freedom application forms.



The Guild Master presents the bird bath to Past Master Arthur Hall to celebrate his one hundredth birthday in August 2001.

Arthur died on 16th March this year. He was born in Islington and attended Mercers' School from 1912-1918. He embarked on a successful career in librarianship when he joined the Guildhall library as a junior assistant in 1948. In all he spent 48 years in the library service. He served as Deputy Librarian from 1943 and then as Guildhall Librarian, Curator of the Museum and Director of the Art Gallery from 1956 until his retirement on 1st April 1966. He was a fellow of the Library Association and of the Society of Antiquaries. He was a Liveryman of the Gardeners' Company and an Honorary Liveryman of the Clockmakers' Company. Arthur joined the Guild in 1953. He served as the Honorary Clerk from 1965 to 1974 and was Master in 1974/1975 after which he spent some years as Honorary Assistant Clerk.

This newsletter is published and printed by the Civic Guild of Old Mercers'. The Honorary Clerk's name and address can be found on page 5. Membership of The Civic Guild is open to all former pupils of schools in the Mercers' Company cluster. Former and current pupils under 21 may join as Apprentices.

In Memoriam

The Court was advised of the deaths of the following Guildmen:
H Winsley-Stoltz on 20th March 2001
Ralph A Alexander on 1st November 2001
Arthur H Hall – Past Master – on 16th March 2002

It is with great sadness that we also learnt of the death of Michael J Cummergen on 1st June 2002. Michael was a Senior Court Assistant and Junior Warden elect.

Past Master Peter Clark represented the Guild at Michael's funeral and wrote to the Clerk as follows:

I thought you might like to know how matters went today. The service was held at St Denys' at Rotherfield. The Church was packed and they were sitting in the aisles. Vast traffic jams outside all morning there were so many in church.

Graham Ives read Revelation 21 vs 1-7.

Humphrey Ball gave an excellent dissertation as did one of the locals. MJC was quite a guy and I am sure that everybody in the Church had a tear in their eye.

Mercers' School was well represented with Messrs Ball, Ives, Allen, Gardner, Price, Whiteland and lady, Roberts and lady, Gransbury, Davey and lady plus Carol and me. Of course Graham Anderson and Jane's sister were there. We should have formed a guard of honour but it was not to be.

I passed on condolences to Jane on behalf of the CGOM and the Fletchers' Company. Jane bore the events well. We shall miss Michael, he would have made a good Guild Master.

At Jane's request there were no flowers so the Trustees sent a donation to the Hospice in the Weald in memory of Michael.

Guild Web Site

Just like all modern organisations we have a web site and this is maintained by our web master Guildman James Hughes.

Our address is: www.civictom.com
James posts all the forthcoming functions on the site and will be pleased to post your news. His address is on page five.