

CIVIC GUILD OF OLD MERCERS



Newsletter for the Year to 30th June 2004

Guild Master	A S Macpherson, JP
Renter Warden	M St John Parker
Junior Warden	R A Lawman
Apprentice Warden	A C McMillan
Honorary Clerk	N J Watson
Hon Asst Clerk	R J C Davey

The Guild Master's Report

The Guild year starts with the Master's Installation Dinner, held in 2003 at Apothecaries Hall, home to my company, the Spectaclemakers. We were pleased to welcome as principal guests the Chief Commoner, Mrs Joyce Nash and Wing Commander Michael Dudgeon, the Master Mercer. It is always interesting to hear about what is changing in the City but this year is was particularly interesting to hear about the City's outreach, Mrs Nash having recently returned from China. The Master Mercer spoke of the Company's work in the field of education and particularly for those in deprived inner city areas.

The generosity of Guildmen at the dinner meant that we were able to send £448 to the Pick's Disease support group.

The Old Bailey, more correctly known, as the Central Criminal Court is not somewhere that one might want to be involuntarily. We were escorted on an evening tour by the splendidly titled "Secondary of London and Under Sheriff High, Sheriff of Southwark". Col. Cauchi filled both title and role, in frock coat and lace, to perfection. He told us tales of those criminals who have passed through mixed anecdotes of judges and long lunches. It was a splendid evening at the end of which we were able to give a donation to the Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund.

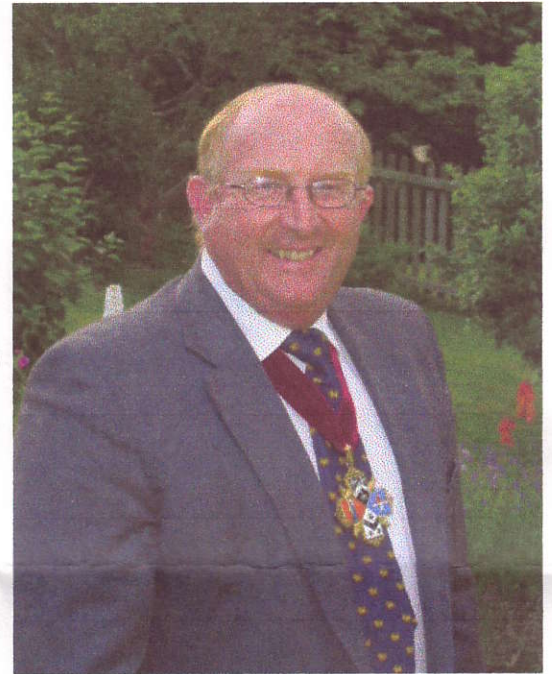
The CGOM Charitable Trust exists to support apprentices in educational projects and we were disappointed that only one application was made this year. I hope that the increased numbers of apprentices will bring more quality applications next year.

In September we visited the stained glass works of Goddard and Gibbs. We saw old skills still preserved and it was good to be shown round by someone who knew every part of every process, from choosing & matching glass, to cutting, fixing in lead and grouting. Much production now goes for export, but they also restore damaged glass such as that of the Baltic Exchange.

During the year a sub committee of the Renter Warden, Junior Warden and Apprentice Warden has been working away on a "business plan" for the future of the Guild. They have been able to share some of the exciting ideas that they have been looking at, and we look forward to the start of their implementation under my successor.

In October we experimented with a dinner for the apprentices held at Dauntsey's School. About 25 apprentices and their masters dined in the Library in some style. I was pleased that the Mercer' Company Renter Warden, Fred Hohler, accepted my invitation to address the apprentices and tell them something of the history of the Mercers Company. I hope that the fact he missed his train home was a sign that he too enjoyed the evening! The Court will consider if this should become a regular event in the calendar.

In early November Guildmen and guests supported the new Lord Mayor at his showing through the streets of London. It was largest show ever with the Swiss Guilds coming over to swell the procession. The best free entertainment in London was followed by a buffet in the former headmaster's study at Barnard's Inn, part of the old Mercers' School.



Angus Macpherson, JP
Guild Master 2003/2004