

Guild of Mercers' Scholars



Newsletter for the Year to 30th June 2006

THE GUILD MASTER'S REPORT

It was with some trepidation that I took over the mantle of Master from my predecessor, Michael St John Parker, as I had previously offered my continuing support for the negotiations that he had spent much time on during his year as Master with Gresham College. I am pleased to report that further progress has been made during this last year and there are real prospects of a role for the Guild in brokering the links between the College and the schools associated with the Mercers Company.

For my Installation Dinner, we returned to our "birthplace" at the Tallow Chandlers, which appropriately enough, is one of my favourite Livery Halls. Our evening was graced by the Guild's Guests who spoke at the Dinner, firstly the Master Mercer and secondly the Chief Commoner, our Junior Warden David Harvey welcomed the Guests. I was pleased to have as my guests Philip Willoughby, a past Chief Commoner and the Master of my own Livery, the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers, Brian Rawles and their wives. I was also delighted to see so many Apprentices attending the Dinner.

A new innovation this year was the Court Dinner sponsored by Past Master Michael St John Parker at The Athenaeum, the Dinner was well attended and we were fortunate to have as our guest, Michael Marchant the Education Practice Manager of the Mercers Company. Before and during the Dinner, an informal discussion took place regarding the extension of the Guild work with the schools associated with the Mercers Company and it was agreed that an Education Committee would be founded, chaired by the Apprentice Warden. A number of meetings have been held since and, amongst other matters, new arrangements have been set up with the Schools and our relationships with Gresham College have been fostered. As part of this, the Master, Apprentice Warden, the Immediate Past Master and Past Master Angus MacPherson, made a presentation to Lord Sutherland and a board of Gresham College in February, which we believe was well received and, as a result, the relationship has been cemented

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Officers 2005 / 2006

Guild Master	R A Lawman
Renter Warden	R T Smith
Junior Warden	D J Harvey
Apprentice Warden	A C McMillan
Honorary Clerk	N J Watson
Hon Asst Clerk (Finance)	G A Goodeve
Hon Asst Clerk (Membership)	S Shilling

Change of Name

At the annual meeting of the Guild held 1st June 2006. The change of name to Guild of Mercers' Scholars was announced to the Membership.

This was not the first time the Guild has changed its name but the previous name has served the Guild well for more than 50 years.

In 1948 The Guild was founded as the "Old Mercers City Liverymen", on 17th Oct 1949 it was officially re-titled "The Old Mercers Civic Guild" this was to extend membership to Freeman of the City of London as well as Liverymen. In May 1951 The Guild was remodelled along the lines of a Livery Company and again the name changed to the familiar "Civic Guild of Old Mercers".

The most recent change reflects the wider nature of the Guild and its membership drawn from the cluster of Mercers' schools and associated Mercers' Company educational connections (including the Arkwright Scholars) and not just from the original Mercers' School, which closed in the 1950s.



The Guild Master in receiving line