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and meetings at Barnards Inn will begin later this year.

The first of our visits took place at Windsor, when a large group of Guildsmen and guests had a private tour of the kitchens and were able to inspect the results of all the restoration work carried out after the fire. This visit was followed by a visit to the house once occupied by Benjamin Franklin, close to Trafalgar Square and a visit to the Royal College of Surgeons, where we had a conducted tour by Simon Chaplin, who gave us an insight into the history of the Museum. After both of these visits, we were able to have supper together. I would like to thank our retiring Social Court Assistant, Humphrey Ball, for his help in organising these events.

One of the bonuses of my year was, with the approval of the Court, that I was invited to wear the Master's badge at all the events of my Livery Company, our badge had a more than average airing and engendered much interest amongst the members of the Livery.

During the year I have been able to accept all the invitations from the various schools. Tricia and I attended the dinner of the Old Collyerians', where we celebrated the year of President Anthony Barnard, now a Guildsman and Collyerians' Court Assistant.

I attended the Old Dauntsians Dinner in March at the School, which gave me an opportunity of catching up with the changes that have taken place since I left over fifty years ago.

For the first time for a number of years, the Master was invited to the Abingdonian Foundation Dinner at the School, the first time I had been to see this ancient foundation, where we were regaled by a string quartet and school singers.

The annual lunch at the Mercers Hall with the Old Mercers' Club, was the first of two visits to the Hall during the year, to be followed by my last event, the splendid Associated Companies Dinner, where I had the pleasure of sitting on the top table with Past Master David Vermont, this was a suitable swan song for an extremely busy and eventful year.

Finally, I record for posterity, that a subtle change took place during my year in the name of The Guild, as part of our progress in repositioning the Guild in relation to the Schools and the City, we have become the Guild of Mercers' Scholars, which more exactly describes our current situation.

I would like to thank all these Guildsmen and friends who have supported me throughout my year in office

and wish my successor Bob Smith an equally successful, enjoyable and interesting year as Guild Master.

**Richard A Lawman**  
**Guild Master 2005/6**

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#### **Livery**

One of the main objectives of the Guild is to encourage Guildmen to become members of a Livery Company. Past Master Peter Clark has done a lot of work in establishing links with many of the Livery Companies which are prepared to welcome Guildmen in to their Liveries. If you are interested in joining a Livery Company Peter will be pleased to help. His address is: 7 Eccleston Close, Cockfosters, Barnet, Herts EN4 9EZ. Phone: 020 8441 3539.

#### **In Memoriam**

The Court was advised of the deaths of the following Guildmen during the year:

Guildman J D Wheatcroft, Mercers' 1934- 1942.  
Past Master F B Angier in Jan 2006  
Past Master B L Jacobs on 11th Feb 2006