

Apprentices report on their projects sponsored by the Charitable Trust

Sam Hole is an apprentice who was financially supported by the CGOM charitable trust during a trip to Bosnia-Herzegovina this summer. He wrote the following account of his experiences:

In July I was supported by the CGOM charitable trust on a two-week long project teaching English in Bosnia-Herzegovina. A two-week long summer university has run in Tuzla, a city about three hours drive north of Sarajevo, every year since the war in Bosnia ended. European and American academics and students volunteer to teach various classes, and each year six Cambridge students travel to Tuzla to lead English classes in the university.

We prepared lessons for and taught a number of students aged between 14 and 43, providing group activities, small group work, and finding dramas a particularly useful tool for improving our students' spoken English. All gained in ability and confidence during the course, while the teaching practice was especially useful for me, since I have just begun a secondary PGCE. We also spent some time leading English classes at the town orphanage - a stark reminder of the effects of the war, but also a well-funded place as far removed from the stereotypes of Eastern European orphanages as could possibly be imagined.

Two weeks was by no means long enough to understand the hugely complicated political, historical, religious and cultural nuances of this intriguing meeting-point between Europe and the Muslim world, but I enjoyed the eye-opening experience of meeting numerous people who could provide a small insight into the complexities of this region. I would like to thank the charitable trust greatly for their support for this project.



Some of the grateful students

Photo from the 2005 Installation Dinner and further information about the Tallow Chandlers Hall



Tallow Chandlers' Hall is set deep in historic London. It sits on the buried walls of the Roman Governor's Palace, and is but a stone's throw from the London Stone, ancient heart of London.

The Tallow Chandlers originally moved into a Dowgate Hill property in July 1476. They bought what was probably a merchant's house from Dame Margaret Alley for £166 13s 4d. However, it was burnt down during the Great Fire of London in September 1666. Two large beams of the predecessor medieval hall that survived the Great Fire remain in the cellars under the present Beadle's office.

Today's Hall dates from 1672. Designed (it is believed) by the Company's Surveyor, Captain John Caines under the guidance of the Surveyor and polymath Robert Hooke. Construction and decoration work continued until about 1677.

Much refurbishment work has been carried out since then. Over the years, the original musicians' gallery has been sadly lost. Bomb damage in World War II also necessitated repair and rebuilding of parts of the Main Hall.

However, the basic size, shape and layout of the Hall has changed little since 1672. It is now one of the most well preserved - and certainly among the most popular - of the London livery halls.

<http://www.tallowchandlers.org>