

The Perth Guildryman

The Newsletter of the Guildry Incorporation

Scottish Charity no. SC008072



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The Lord Dean's Comments

Autumn already! What a busy six months it has been.

I was delighted to officiate at my first Guild Court in June where 6 new members were introduced. It was nice to see so many family members there to support the new Guildrymen at the ceremony.

I continue to be involved with civic duties and met HRH Prince Charles at Perth Railway station. He was on his way to Rosyth, to see the new aircraft carrier. Having taken His photograph on many occasions it was a pleasure to actually be formally introduced to Him.

During the 750th Anniversary of the Treaty of Perth, I was invited by the Provost to join in the eventful day, which included a show from performers from the Edinburgh Tattoo. A large number of local people turned out to see the spectacle on the North Inch. A celebratory supper with representatives from Perth's Twin Towns at St John's Kirk finished the day off in style.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award celebrates its 60th Anniversary this year. The Perth and Kinross Association held a reception for supporters where I was delighted to hear they are in great heart and currently boast the highest rate of participation per capita in the United Kingdom. I was happy to meet some of the young participants who obviously enjoy their activities and achievements.

I was invited to attend the annual commemoration of the Battle of El Alamein at Queen's Barracks in Perth, the HQ of 7 SCOTS. The event paid tribute to the contribution made by the 51st Highland Division and the evening was rounded off with a stirring performance from the Pipes and Drums and the Highland Band of The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

Ex Dean Michael Thomson (1973-1976) kindly handed in correspondence and memorabilia from his time as Lord Dean of Guild. This correspondence related to that significant period of local government reorganisation, following which the Lord Dean would no longer sit on any Perth Town Council Committee. The papers are now being reviewed and will be stored as part of the Guildry archive.

Ex Dean Stan Carrie has decided to stand down as one of our Merchant Councillors. I have thanked Stan for his long and diligent service to the Guildry, and I am delighted that Ex Dean Roger Ward has agreed to take on the role.

The flat in the High Street has benefited from a recent refurbishment and a new tenant is required. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, please speak to Carla Murray in the office.

Thank you to the Ex Deans, Vice Dean and committee and especially Carla for their help and support over the past six months. I'm glad to say I'm working my way back to full fitness and look forward to the busy year ahead.



The Dean and Vice-Dean enjoy a dram at the inspection with Ex-Dean Michael Thomson and Graham Fenton looking on

June Guild Court



Lord Dean of Guild Louis Flood was delighted to introduce 6 new members to the Guildry. The ceremony took place in The Royal George Hotel in June.

Back Row Fraser Bayne, Ex Dean Menzies, Paul Bonthron - Middle Row Ex Dean Montgomery, Calum Bayne, Alan Sweeney
Front Row Secretary Carla Murray, Henry Rewcastle, Lord Dean of Guild Louis T Flood, Jamie Frenz.



Guildryman Ages

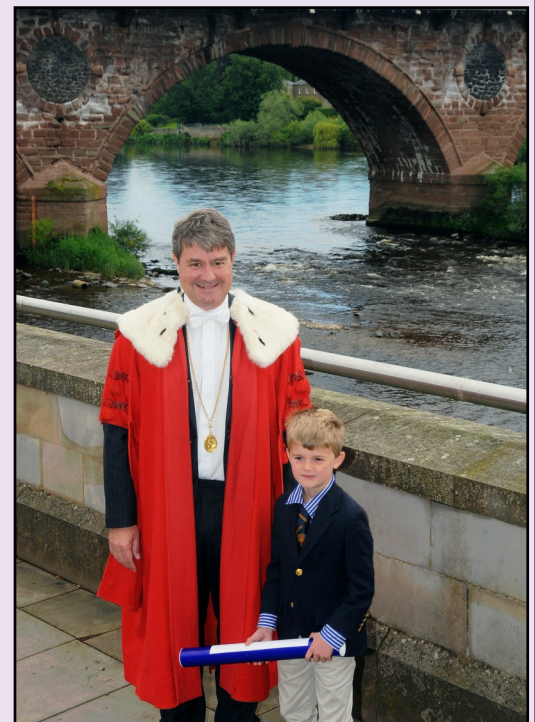
A pleasant visit to Guildryman Russell Proudfoot raised the subject of Guildryman Ages. Mr Proudfoot is 97 and continues to live independently in his Perth home. A recent fall however has resulted in a permanent neck brace and hence he has “no further need of my Guildry tie”. Having never met Mr Proudfoot I wasn’t sure what to expect as I had only a brief conversation on the telephone with him as he gave his apologies for not attending this year’s AGM. He is a very interesting character and the Lord Dean of Guild and myself were made most welcome in his home. He regaled us with tales; of his time in the RAF when at the age of just 20 he was sent to bomb a ball bearing factory during the war; his late wife’s short trip around the country on Concorde; the Perth floods of 1993 when he watched ducks paddling in his basement dining room; and his family jewellery business which was in the Perth High Street. Upon leaving we noticed that his Merchant Burgess Ticket had been given a special place hanging in the hall.

It was therefore interesting to note the breadth of support our ancient institution continues to have, when at our recent Guild Court we had our youngest Guildryman join, Master Henry Rewcastle from Northumberland, aged just 7.

Ages apart but connected by the same thread of history.

Lorna Peacock

The previous secretary has undergone hip surgery and is recuperating well. She is now off both sticks and ticking off the miles during her walks. Lorna says she is behaving and doing as she is told by the doctors and passes on her thanks for all the good wishes received during her recovery.



The Guildry has been backing the pioneering **Perth Grammar School Sports Trust** since its inception in 2008.



Ex-Lord Dean Gordon Bannerman attended the Grammar School's inaugural "Night of Champions" and presented a further £5000 cheque to sports trust chairman Mike Edwards. They are pictured along with members of staff, local councillor Archie Maclellan and Scotland's Commonwealth Games table tennis star Gillian Edwards, who recounted her experiences at the Games in Glasgow and cautioned promising sporting talent of the dedication and sacrifices required to reach the top. The Guildry's financial support has opened doors to other sources of funding for projects, including the school's climbing wall which was supported by Lottery cash.

The sports trust not only supports promising sporting talent within the school but also reaches out to under privileged families in the wider community.

Ex-Dean of Guild Gordon Bannerman stood in for current Lord Dean Louis Flood at the official opening of a garden which commemorates the remarkable contribution to science by James Croll, the son of a Wolfhill crofter.

The James Croll Garden has been created at the Royal Scottish Geographical Society headquarters at the historic Fair Maid's House in Perth.

RSGS chief executive Mike Robinson invited our ex-Dean to officially open the garden and cut a cake to mark the occasion.

Mr Croll, who died in 1890 and was buried at Cargill, overcame the poverty of a Victorian era rural background, ill-health and an array of jobs to make ground-breaking scientific discoveries which saw him corresponding with Charles Darwin and other eminent scholars of the era.

Remarkably, he delved into books and evolved his own theories and concepts on glaciology, geology and astronomy while working as a humble janitor at the Andersonian Museum in Glasgow.



That is reflected within the garden and a sculpture created on a pocket of waste ground adjacent to the Fair Maid's House. Mr Robinson has researched the life of Mr Croll, who became a Fellow of the Royal Society and received an honorary degree from St Andrews University, and plans are in the pipeline for a book to ensure his remarkable contribution to science is not forgotten.

Guildryman's Trip to Kenya

"I arrived in Kenya and was assisting with teaching in a school called The Walk Centre and also doing some renovation work within the school. The children were great and were so appreciative of the time I spent at the school. These children entertain themselves by drawing with sticks in the mud and playing with flat footballs. It was incredible to see how excited they were with skipping ropes and bubbles. These children don't have much but they were always happy with a smile on their faces. It has been an amazing experience and a real eye-opener. It wouldn't have been possible without the extremely generous donation from the Guildry and I would like to thank everyone very much for this." Mark Shaw. (Picture shows kids in St Johnstone T Shirts)



The Annual Inspection



The pupils entertained us to their usual standard

Photos by Michael Norval



The Inspection Team enjoyed the beautiful sunny day



The Dean makes a welcome appearance

The Fentons

The Angler's Inn went down well

A very warm day and welcome greeted us for our **Annual Inspection at Guildtown**. The school put on a fabulous play called "War of the vegetables" red tomatoes had to mix with green peas when they were mistakenly planted together after a mix up with seeds. Several clear messages were forthcoming from the performance and provided food for thought for us adults also. A healthy battle for coins at the scramble ensued. What a playground to have, the park area is enormous! On to the farms, where Barbara Smith had laid on a fabulous spread and the strong heat of the day meant the cool drinks on offer were devoured with great relish. At Loanhead we met a lovely new face in the form of baby Elizabeth, accompanied by Mum and the more "well kent" faces of Graham Fenton Snr, Graham Jnr and William. Onwards to the local venue of the Angler's Inn where plenty chat and a filling of the bellies took place. The day was capped off by a dram from a bottle of "Old Perth" at the millennium bridge as the sun was setting, with a surprise visit from Lord Dean of Guild Louis T Flood who was recovering from ill health. Thank you to all those Guildrymen who attended and arranged days off from work and other commitments. Grateful thanks to Michael Norval for photographs and to Neil Dewar, Vice Dean who led the day.

Dates for your Diary

AGM is always the third Monday in May, the next **AGM** is therefore 15th May 2017. All welcome.

Triennial Assembly Saturday 17th June 2017. Lord Dean of Guild, Louis T Flood invites all Guildrymen to Stirling Castle, followed by a boat trip on Loch Katrine, a stop in Dunblane to explore and then finally a meal at a local Dunblane establishment. For further information and to note your interest please contact Carla Murray on 01738 623195 or by email guildryperth@btconnect.com.