

# The Perth Guildryman

The Newsletter of the Guildry Incorporation

Scottish Charity no. SC008072



Tel: 01738 623195 - email: [guildryperth@btconnect.com](mailto:guildryperth@btconnect.com)

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## The Lord Dean's Comments

Here we are in Spring - the winter has been relatively kind to us. And welcome back to Past Dean Alastair from his tropical travels.

I joined the Official Remembrance Service at St John's Kirk with the Councillors followed by the usual march past by the veterans and cadets. It was as ever a splendid day and always humbling to see such a great turnout of veterans. I had the pleasure of accompanying provost Liz Grant to St John's Kirk and to the reception afterwards at the newly refurbished Civic Hall in the Council chambers in the High Street.

Back on Guildry matters the flat in High Street has now been let to a new tenant. A great deal of work has been carried out at Craigmakerran House to bring things up to scratch and a major project at Hallroom has seen the cottages given external cladding which will increase the efficiency of the heating.

We have looked closely at various options for Blairmuir Wood but we have now overseen a programme of replanting which should improve the viability of the woodland site.

I have also been involved from the beginning with an exciting new project to locate the city centre grave of 15<sup>th</sup> Century King James 1 of Scotland. The Charterhouse Project hopes to do for Perth what the discovery of the remains of Richard 111 did for Leicester, where the world wide publicity boosted tourism and commercial activity in the city. As our predecessors in the Merchant Guild were active at the time it is fitting that the Guildry should have some input into this exciting initiative.



Recently I had the pleasure of hosting the dinner for the Ex-Deans where I was able to bring them up to date on the latest Guildry news. As always they were searching with their questions and vocal in their support! My thanks to them for their helpful advice over the past year which was greatly valued and appreciated. Thanks too to Carla, Vice Dean Neil and the members of the Committee who have taken a lot of the weight off my shoulders over the past few months.

The next few months will be busy with a Guild Court planned and the Triennial trip to look forward to in June and of course I hope to see as many of you as possible at the AGM on Monday 15 May in the Royal George.

## Charitable Donations

### New Hyperbaric Equipment Installed



**Perth Hyperbaric Services** based at Perth Airport in Scone were delighted with the contribution from the Guildry and purchased new oxygen equipment which greatly reduces their running costs.



**Maggie English**, one of our local Girl Guides enjoyed a 10 country trip over 10 days with **Girl guiding Scotland**. Maggie had raised most of her funds herself through coffee mornings and the Guildry were happy to help with a small donation to reach her final target.



Perth brother and sister **Liam and Charlotte Higgins** started mountain biking 5 years ago and more recently, were delighted to be accepted into the Scottish Downhill Association Academy. Regulars in mountain biking events and this summer they are to take part in the Scottish Downhill and World Championships. The Guildry were happy to assist them with transport and entry costs for both.



Young golfer **Alex Simpson** is making a name for himself in the youth circuit. Having competed at national level for Scotland and finishing 4th in his age group at the Nick Faldo series, he is one to watch. The Guildry were happy to assist with a contribution towards his costs.

The Guildry were able to assist with travel costs for **Oakbank Primary/Perth High/Perth Academy Gymnastic team** who competed in the British Schools championships at Stoke on Trent, back in April. Whilst not obtaining any medals, the team greatly benefited from the experience.

### Non Member Education Bursary

The process for applying for Bursaries commences in April. A Bursary of £900 is awarded to successful candidates.

These bursaries are intended to assist those who would benefit most from monetary assistance. If you know of someone who would gain from such a bursary, please put them in touch with Carla Murray at the office.

### Non Member Bursary Appreciation

One of our recipients expressed his “*huge relief*” at receiving a bursary whilst studying at the University of Strathclyde. “*The course is pretty full on with lots of Maths and Chemistry in particular but the lecturers are good and I am really enjoying the practical tutorials.....I really appreciate the Guildry helping me.*”

Another Perth recipient who is in her second year at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London said “*I would just like to thank you for the sum of £900 which will go towards equipment such as books for my course. I am so grateful as it has relieved a financial burden of living in London.*”

### Guildryman Bursary Thank You

**Matthew Smith** completed his Degree in Natural Sciences, specialising in Chemistry, receiving a First Class Degree from the University of Cambridge. He has now returned to Scotland and has undertaken a Master’s degree in Software Development at the University of Glasgow. “*I would like to offer my sincere thanks to the Guildry for their support.*”

## Guildry Archives

Michael Thomson gifted papers of his time as Dean and these are available in the office, please contact Carla if anyone would like to view them. (1973-1976)

This period of time was extremely significant in the history of the Guildry as following local government reorganisations, this was when Perth's Lord Dean of Guild was no longer able to sit on any Committees of Perth Council. Papers now archived, include Perth Council Minutes, newspaper clippings etc.

The following is an extract from Michael's files from the time of re-organisation of the local authorities in Scotland.

### **THE GUILDRY INCORPORATION**

Local government reform brings Dean of Guild's civic role to an end

The Guildry Incorporation of Perth did not cease to exist on the reorganisation of local government in Scotland in 1975, but it continues today to thrive and prosper and manage its own affairs.

What did change in 1975 was the civic functions of the Lord Dean of Guild was removed. Until then he had served as a magistrate of the City of Perth, ranking second to the Lord Provost on all ceremonial and social occasions.

He was a member of Perth Town Council, but because he was not elected through the polls, he was not entitled to vote at full town council meetings and on the Perth County Council, which he attended as one of the Perth Town Council representatives.

The Dean of Guild Court was his prime responsibility.

This court was not concerned with matters of planning but served two functions; firstly, as the

building authority for the City of Perth, it issued warrants for the erection of new buildings, alterations to existing buildings and demolition of old buildings, provided they complied with the building acts and regulations. Secondly, it held common law jurisdiction relating to nuisances arising from the erection of new buildings and in the protection of the interests of adjoining proprietors against encroachment.

Under the new administration Perth and Kinross District Council has become the building authority and has delegated the function to the director of environmental health. The common law jurisdiction of the Dean of Guild Court was not replaced, leaving injured parties with the right of action through the civil court.

*Extract of article appearing in a PA 150th Anniversary Supplement written by Ex-Dean Michael Thomson.*



*Perth Town Council 1974 (Last before Local Government Reorganisation in 1975)  
Lord Dean of Guild Michael Thomson sitting on right of Lord Provost Alastair Cross*

## Triennial Assembly 17th June 2017



The trip will include a visit to Stirling Castle followed by a boat trip on Loch Katrine and a visit to Dunblane. The bus will leave the South Inch car park at 9:00 am and is expected to return at 9:00 pm approx.

Tickets for the trip and timetable will be available from the office on Tuesday 23rd May and Thursday 25th May. Please note the office is open from 9am until 2pm. If you are unable to call into the office please let me know and I will pop your ticket in the post. Thank you. Carla



### Ex-Deans Dinner

The Ex-Deans' Dinner, which was held in the Royal George Hotel, was an opportunity for Dean of Guild Louis Flood to explain to the Ex-Deans' the work he and his committee had carried out over the last year.

The Ex-Deans' and members of the committee of management are shown on left and are from Left: Ex-Dean Gordon Bannerman, Vice Dean Neil Dewar, Dean of Guild Louis Flood, Secretary, Carla Murray, Ex-Dean Michael Norval, Ex-Dean Graham Harding, Ex-Dean Bill Montgomery, Andrew Thomson, Ex-Dean Rodger Ward, David Murdoch, Michael Gaffney, Alistair Barn, Euan Begg, Gordon Sneddon, and Ex-Dean Duncan Menzies.



### Bits and Pieces

If any of you have any achievements, be it sporting, academic, citizenship recognition, then please let us know. You may feature in the Guildryman newsletter!

The accounts this year (2016-2017) have been released in an abbreviated version. Which will hopefully ease understanding. However, if you require a full copy of the accounts, these can be picked up or sent out from the office. Carla can provide you with an electronic version if required.

Thank you for your email addresses, please keep them coming in.



*Scott Miller with Flag*

**Guildryman's son Scott Miller** and his Scottish team were runners up in the **S c o t t i s h C o m m o n w e a l t h** Fishing trip to Canada in August last year. The Guildry made a donation to assist with the team's travel costs. Well done Scott and the rest of the Scottish Team!

## Dates for your Diary

AGM Monday 15th May at 7:15pm – Royal George Hotel, George Street, Perth. All Guildrymen welcome. Buffet will be served.

There is to be a Guild Court on Saturday 3rd June 2017. Please contact Carla Murray at the office, if interested.

Annual Inspection 7th June 2017 – Open to Existing Committee, Ex Deans, Ale Tasters & Meal Searchers.

Triennial Assembly – 17th June 2017 – Open to all Guildrymen. Please contact Carla Murray for tickets.