The
Perth Guildryman
The Newsletter of the Guildry Incorporation
Scottish Charity no. SC008072

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The Lord Dean's Comments

Welcome to our Spring edition. This will be my final contribution as Lord Dean. The past 3 years have been eventful and enjoyable. It is a privilege to serve the Guildry in any capacity but particularly so as Lord Dean. I have been fortunate to represent the Guildry, attending civic functions and the Court of Deans. Unfortunately many of the normal events over the past year have had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. Particularly disappointing was having to cancel our triennial assembly. This is certainly a highlight of any Lord Deans term and an opportunity to meet our fellow guildrymen.

The Guildry Office stairwell hasn't seen much footfall since lockdown

There has been a significant amount of work to ensure our estate is in good heart. We have upgraded farm dwellings and improved our maintenance planning. I reinstated our property committee to assist us in this project. We have as part of our future estate management appointed Bell Ingram to act as our land agents.

There have been a number of Guildry firsts this year, our first conference calls, then our first zoom committee meetings I have also attended the first zoom meeting of the Court of Deans Scotland.

I should like to thank my committee for all their help and support. It is a team effort and I have been extremely fortunate to have a great team. Our property committee also deserve a mention in despatches for their hard work. Finally I must of course mention our indefatigable, multi-tasking secretary/treasurer Carla Murray. Carla has ensured we continue to function during these difficult times. On behalf of myself and the Guildry thank you for all you have done on our behalf. I should like to extend my best wishes to you all and hope you can attend our virtual AGM on the 17th of May. Neil Dewar, Lord Dean of Guild.

Photo - Alan Rorrison

Profile on Guildrymen during lockdown

George Ford

Charlie Robertson

Name?	George Ford	Charlie Robertson
Age?	19	83
Place of Residence?	Perth	Corfe Mullen
Occupation?	Artisan Baker at Casella & Polegato	Ex Air Force, Retired Plessey Co
How has the pandemic affected you?	The pandemic has made me really miss seeing my friends at the football and having a laugh in the pub with them however it has given me time to see a lot of my nephew Liam growing up	Missing the country dance club and the snooker. Also a Pint @ British Legion.
How have you passed your time during lockdown?	I've been passing time by being fortunate enough to still be working and on my days off I've been going on walks with my family or friends	I've a clean house! Fed up during the winter. I enjoy a weekly meal in the family bubble. Plenty reading. Local walking.
Any new hobbies developed over this past year?	I've also started running with my Dad and we try to manage 3 days a week.	Painting my Scottish doorstops which were badly needing it. Doing a lot more reading and swapping books with pals. I like my weekly zoom call with the Bournemouth Caledonian society where I was twice president.
Any plans post lockdown?	As soon as I can will be back at the football every Saturday and hopefully get down to Wembley to see Scotland at the Euros.	Looking forward to meeting up with my Scottish relations in Yorkshire hopefully in September.

Presentation Quaich

"This quaich was presented to Ex Dean W R Montgomery on the Triennial trip to Aberdeen in 1993 by James Wyness the Lord Provost of Aberdeen.

On this trip Jean McCormack, the Provost of Perth was present and this was the first attendance by a representative of the Local Government since the reorganisation of 1974 which broke the tie established by the Burgh Reform act of 1832 of the Lord Deans position as a non elected member of the council.

A private train was arranged for the day. A civic reception was arranged in the county hall and Guildrymen enjoyed a lunch followed by a visit to Duthie Park winter gardens and a high tea served at the Pavilion on the Esplanade."

Dam Builders

Photo: Alan Rorrison

Perth has become the first UK city to see resident urban beavers for several hundred years. Signs of activity have been seen on the River Tay at Moncreiffe Island and the North Inch.

Beavers had been hunted to extinction in Britain in the 16th Century for their fur, meat and scent glands.

The animals were reintroduced in Scotland in 2009 and are valued for their impact on ecosystems and ability as "natural engineers".

Photo shows damage to mature tree on North Inch

St Johnstone Win The Scottish League Cup

Perth's own St Johnstone Football Club won the Scottish League cup on Sunday 28th February 2021 for the first time in their history. Livingston were the opponents on the day and 1 goal by Shaun Rooney secured the trophy. Despite the pandemic and no fans allowed at Hampden Stadium, the city itself proudly displayed St Johnstone colours in windows and Perth Bridge was alight with blue and white. This title adds to the Club's previous silverware of the Scottish Cup in 2014 and the challenge cup in 2007.

Photo - Rory Flood

For those of you further away here are some winter photographs of bonnie Perthshire

View of Tay from Binn Tower road towards Friarton Bridge

Photos by Carla

The sun breaks through on the snow clad Perthshire Hills

Non Member Bursary Thanks

"*Thank you so much for awarding me the bursary! I am so grateful.*

Thank you very much for the bursary. I am honoured to be one of the lucky individuals to be awarded the money

Thank you so much for supporting me through the first year of my studies. This really means a lot and will be an amazing help."

Guildryman Appreciation

"*Dear Perth Guildry,*
Once again, I would like to pass on my sincere thanks for granting me a bursary for my second year of Chemical Engineering studies. The money has assisted me with the cost of transport to and from University and for required laboratory equipment which I am very grateful for.

The bursary has not only helped me with my studies, but also the Coronavirus pandemic resulted in the closure of my place of work meaning a temporary stop to my part time income, and the bursary helped to support me financially during this time. It has been a very challenging year for us all, but I am extremely grateful for the assistance the bursary has given me.

Yours Sincerely, Cameron Ritchie

The C200 fund was most grateful for their donation and the Guildry were mentioned in their tweet

AGM - This will take the form of a virtual AGM on zoom on 17th May at 7:15pm. you will be passed as normal, a copy of the annual accounts and a list of donations together with the AGM Agenda. Further instructions will follow.

Website Forms

Member Education Bursary forms are now available on the website under "Forms".

Non member Education Bursary forms are available on the website from April when the process commences.

New Estate Managers

After a 30 year working relationship with Bidwells, the decision was taken to provide a fresh perspective on the properties and activities at Craigmakerran Estate. As of June 2021 the Guildry's new land managers are Bell Ingram. The Guildry looks forward to working with the new provider.

Mental Assistance

The vaccines are providing hope at the end of a long tunnel. This hasn't been easy for anyone. There are several local help groups for anyone struggling mentally. In Perth these include Mindspace, Lighthouse for Perth, Andy's Man Club. They have several methods of contact, phone, Email, Facebook, Messenger. Take care.

The annual visit to Guildtown Primary School did not happen last year due to the pandemic but the school operated as best they could with a virtual Christmas show and Santa appearing in the playground. As Guildtown has a small school it was able to have ALL pupils return to the school in February. The nursery has 8 kids enrolled which will have a positive impact on school numbers for future years. This year's June visit is looking unlikely but they look forward to the Guildry visit in 2022.