

La Flèche email edition

September 2016



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The Joint Shoot and Dinner at The Tower

The Joint Shoot and Dinner at the Tower on the 21st June.

Carol and I made the mistake of arriving at the Mansion House a few minutes late (trains!) and as a fledgling Fletcher I immediately felt extremely vulnerable. This was fully justified as our Clerk Kate noted my misdemeanour just as quickly, and as penance I was invited to jot down my impressions of the first event that we had attended, namely the Joint Shoot against the Bowyers and supper thereafter, in the Fusiliers Mess.



At this stage I must backtrack a little and confess that when it became apparent that I might be accepted as a Fletcher I thought that at least I should have a basic idea of archery and had therefore enrolled upon a beginners course. During this course our tutor asked us all "why archery" and when I muttered something about the Tower Moat he was incredulous, not to mention a tad jealous; I am privileged.

The proceedings at the Tower opened with a very relaxing measure or two of an excellent Pimms accompanied by some delicious cana-

pés. Suitably fortified I stepped up to the shooting line where we were more than ably helped by the London Archers, who were generous with their gentle coaching. One particular tip was to aim not just at an area of the target but at a specific point such as a previous arrow hole. I will try to heed their advice. Emboldened I made a side bet with Tim Eltringham but could not compete with his three bulls. Tim, I owe you a pint! The competition results were Bowyers 197 and Fletchers 181, so it was an honourable win for the Bowyers. Congratulations should be recorded for those also achieving a maximum namely Lesley Agutter and Tim Eltringham Fletchers and Ben Glazier and Robert Clark, Bowyers.



To supper in the Fusiliers' impressive Mess, it was with regret that we were only able to have a very cursory look at their museum en route. Following grace from the Master Bowyer, the Reverend John Hayton, it was an excellent dinner, washed down with some of the finest from the Fusiliers cellar. We were treated to a fascinating and illuminating history of his regiment by Col. Nigel Easton. Our Master concluded with thanks to everyone who had made the occasion possible.

Those who wished to witness the Ceremony of the Keys were handed over to the tender mer-

cies of a Yeoman Warder who accompanied us round and gave us a benign RSM's (is there such a thing!) conducted tour.

Very impressive; we do ceremonial extremely well don't we!

Alan Limer

Dates for your diary

Saturday 3rd September

Tuesday 27th September

Fletchers' Day at Burnham

Wednesday 28th September Event to introduce potential new members at Guildhall

Thursday 29th September

Wednesday 5th – Sunday 9th October

Wednesday 19th October

Saturday 12th November

Monday 21st November

Monday 12th December

Tuesday 17th January

Monday 23rd January

Tuesday 4th April

Noak Hill Archery

Lord Mayor's Election Luncheon

Master's Holiday in Andalucía

Thanksgiving Service & Court Luncheon

Lord Mayor's Show, Paviors Boat

Common Hall and Dinner

Christmas lunch

Court Dinner

Visit to RAF Northolt

Installation Court

In addition there will be the Ladies Banquet and a visit to the Reform Club and lunch, both to be held in late January, sometime in February, or early March. The dates will be dependent on when Mansion House advise the Lord Mayor's availability to attend the Ladies Banquet.



Invictus Games

Below is an email of thanks from **John Flint**, a beneficiary of the trust, who was chosen to represent the UK at the Invictus Games in America in May this year.

Dear Worshipful Company of Fletchers,

I am writing to thank you for the grant awarded to me by the Worshipful Company last year, because of the grant I was able to purchase a new sight and arrows that have helped improve my scores significantly. This year, although competition for places in the team was fierce, I was also selected to represent the UK at the recent Invictus Games in Orlando (I only got back to the UK yesterday, so

I'm still a little jet lagged) and I was awarded a bronze medal in the Compound Archery Team Event (please see the attached photo, but once I've recovered from the journey a little I will send you some better pictures if you would like them). I was also the highest scoring UK archer in the preliminary round and was ranked 8th in the compound category.

Without your help I know that I would not have been able to achieve the results I did. I have spoken to my coach who is keen for me now to push on to achieve further success as I have had a massive confidence boost and want to try to maintain momentum. He believes, although America and Canada were dominant in the compound category (the UK team had huge success in the recurve and novice categories), that I have the ability to close the gap to them and challenge for an individual medal if I am selected for future games, as well as being successful in local and national events.

The Fletchers' Affiliates Lunch.

Each year the Worshipful Company of Fletchers invites its military associates to a lunch which, this year, was held on the 12th July. However, before assembling for Lunch, members of the Court met for one of their quarterly meetings.

The Court was presided over by the Master, Stuart Fraser, and attended by the Court Assistants and a number of Past Masters. Most of the business discussed was the routine of running the Company and the various committees (Membership, Communications, Finance. Charity, Strategic Planning and Archery presented their reports. The newest committee -Archery – presented their terms of reference which were accepted by the Court which formally established their existence. There was an update on the Hall and the Clerk, Kate Pink, updated the meeting on HMS Defender which is now back in Portsmouth for a refit. We also welcomed three new Liverymen, Leigh Bowman-Perks, Sian Davies and Robert Selwyn all of whom were Freemen of the Company. They were warmly welcomed by the Master and the Court.

Following the Court Meeting lunch got underway with the Master and Wardens forming a reception line to welcome Fletchers and Guests alike. We then all sat down to a summery lunch although the weather outside had greeted our guests with a torrential downpour. There was an excellent chilled watercress soup, followed by pousin confit finishing off with a summer berry jelly, coffee and petit fours.



The Fletchers' Affiliates Lunch, cont.

During Lunch, our guests were introduced and gave accounts of their particular units. Group Captain Manning, the Station Commander of RAF Northolt spoke of his task of running a very busy station with both civilian and service personnel. Interestingly they make a contribution of several million pounds to the Defence Budget from the operation of the airfield.



The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers was represented by Colonel JW Taylor who spoke of how much they valued the affiliation with the Fletchers before handing over to Lt Col Lamb who is shortly to command 1 RRF. He was also full of praise for the affiliation and the help we give by encouraging the cadet units. Indeed, two members from 197 (Fusilier) Detachment were present, Cadet Corporal Leonie Meadows and Staff Sergeant Aimee West.

The short talks finished with the Master presenting an Arrow to Leonie as she had been singled out as the best cadet due to her determination, leadership and enthusiasm. Indeed he was then asked to present her with her sergeant's stripes as she was just promoted to Cadet Sergeant a well deserved achievement. Lunch finished with Colonel Taylor thanking the Fletchers on behalf of all the guests and proposing the toast "To the Fletchers, Root and Branch and long may they Flourish, coupled with the name of the Master".



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The opinions expressed are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the Company or the Editor

Army Inter Unit Team Boxing Championships 201

Having successfully progressed through their first round and quarter final of this "knock-out" tournament our friends at the First Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers invited their affiliated livery companies (Mercers, Cordwainers and Fletchers) to support them at the semi-final against 7 Regiment Royal Logistic Corps on 14 April at a "home" match in Tidworth. Teams of seven were made up of "novice boxers" with fewer than 10 bouts "under their belts". All bouts were of four 2 minute rounds.

Unfortunately, despite vociferous home support and the closeness of the action in the ring, 1RRF fell behind 0-3. After a break and a strident display by the Fusiliers Corps of Drums a turnaround was required. One, two, three bouts went to the Fusiliers. Who said "you couldn't write a script like this"? The final bout at welterweight was taken by Fusilier Thompson to give 1RRF the win by 4 bouts to 3. Certainly a close fought match at every level and all demonstrating a tremendous spirit from the boxers, the supporters and all involved.

On to the final on 17 May in neutral Aldershot against 2^{nd} Battalion The Parachute Regiment. A good start, 1-0 the Fusiliers but then behind 1-2 and 2-3. Back to 3-3 and on to the 7^{th} bout decider – we have been here before. This time the final bout at heavyweight was taken by LCpl Sterling (taking his Army boxing record to an impressive 5 wins out of five) and the match result finished 1 RRF 4 bouts against 3 for 2 PARA. Again all this in a tremendous atmosphere of support with the competition on a knife edge with great credit to all involved.

As I said in my letter to 1 RRF Co, Lt Col Jo Butterfill, "Well done the Fusiliers".

Andrew McMillan



1 RRF Boxing Team with their trophies after the Final

Visit to The Mansion House and Lunch at The Guildhall 28th June

Having spent the night in London, I didn't want to be late for my visit to Mansion House, I rose early, had breakfast and was on the station platform by 9.30. Although the tour didn't start until 11.00am I wanted to make sure I was not late as I had to meet a friend of a friend out-



side Mansion House. In fact, all I knew about her was that she was called Julie, she was tall and her text said she was wearing 'a blue flowery number'.

On arriving at Bank station I made my way to Bank Road and had my first view of Mansion House. The building itself is very grand especially the front perspective facing Bank Road with its six columned Portico. I was immediately transported to a world of horse drawn carriages and bejewelled women in their ball gowns being escorted up the steps to attend some civic occasion.

Julie and I met up (with ease) outside entrance A, our mustering point, and soon felt at ease with each other. At 11.00 we along with other fellow Fletchers were welcomed and processed through security into the **waiting Hall**. It was all quite magnificent.

The Mansion House was designed by George Dance the Elder and build as the residence of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress. It was built at a time when other cities were considering residences for their mayors. London of course had to build a residence that was grander than the others to reflect the power and influence of the city and mansion House is certainly one of the grandest Georgian town palaces in London.

We were met by our guide who escorted us to **Walbrook Hall**, which was originally designed to be a stable for 8 horses, but was made into a private entrance. The room has some interesting portraits of past lord mayors and a chair previously used at the main entrance to the house by a footman who welcomed guests. It enabled him to sit between arrivals and to keep dry and warm. Our guide also suggested the drawer under the seat was used for hot coals to keep the footman warm in Winter and perhaps even to store his lunch!



The accommodation includes rooms for civic occasions and large entertainments as well as providing living and working space for the Mayor and his workforce. Over the years there have been internal changes and refurbishments but the grandeur has not been lost.

Visit to The mansion House cont.

We continued our journey through the building, up a flight of stairs to the first floor passing a number of Dutch painting, a mixture of landscapes, still life, portraits, town Scenes and sea-

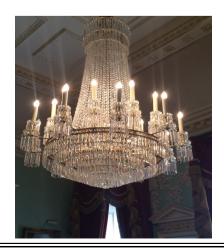
scapes which form the Samuel Collection. Paintings from the collection could be seen in all the rooms we visited.

Having negotiated the stairs, we arrived in the **Saloon and Passage room**, this room was formed by roofing over a courtyard area in 1795 and remains pretty much the same today. This area is used for meeting and greeting of dignitaries on civic occasions. The room is split into three areas, the decoration is opulent but beautiful, and each area has a spectacular Chandelier that is a focal point and floods it with light.



Just off the salon is the **Long Parlour** used for Dining and receiving guests. The room is symmetrical with a fireplace at each end, the windows on the external wall are reflected on the saloon side but the windows have been closed up. They would originally have been looking out on the courtyard. The long Parlour has a compartmented ceiling with very intricate details and once again beautiful chandeliers, and yes I do have a thing about chandeliers.

From here we passed into the **State Drawing Room**. It was originally the Common Parlour used by the officers of the Lord Mayors household. The highlights here the 'waterfall' chandelier (the best one to my mind) and the suite of furniture, better known as 'The Nile Suite' which consists of 24 chairs and 3 sofas made in 1803. The ornamentation on the chairs consists of an upturned anchor, a sword, a coiled rope. The arms of the suite have a lion's head and paws. The date of the suite and it's ornamentation links them to the navel battles of Lord Nelson – particularly the Battle of the Nile in August 1798.





Visit to The Mansion House cont.

Our final room was the largest and most important, The Egyptian Hall. It was built as a ban-

queting Hall and is still used for state banquets, dinners and receptions. The room looks Romanesque with pillars around the room supporting a vaulted ceiling, a small balconied upper level and marble statues in the niches. The stained glass windows designed by Alexander Gibbs at each end of the room were the best feature for me (no, there were no chandelier 'ere). They depict scenes connected with London's history and illustrate: the signing of the Magna Carta in1215, and Queen Elizabeth's procession by water from the city of Westminster; Sir William



Walworth, Lord Mayor slaying the rebel watt Tyler at Smithfields in 1381 and the procession of King Edward 6th to his coronation.



From here we descended to the vaults. A room full of Gold and Silver pieces acquired for the Mansion House or presented as gifts to the Lord Mayor and others. It includes the Fire Cup which was saved from the flames of the Great Fire of 1666 and The Lord Mayor's famous Gold collar from 1520. We had a very short time in here but the display was magnificent.

We then returned to the West hall to gather our belongings, but Julie and I made one final visit to the Gentleman's toilet. Why, because it contains the original Chimneypiece

and range from the Old Servants Hall!

Having bid farewell to our guide, we set out for The Guildhall and 20 minutes later were enjoying a splendid lunch. Julie's thoughts on the day, "Wonderful, just Wonderful".

Carol Kisby





Laying up of the old Colours of the First Battalion Royal Regiment of Fusiliers on Thursday 5th May 2016

Further to John Power's report on the awarding of new Colours to the First Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers – what came next?





The answer is that the old Colours, which had been carried by 1RRF for the last 25 years, were "laid up" in the Regimental Chapel, the Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula at HM Tower of London by the Colonel of the Regiment, Major General PAE Nanson.

In a moving service led by the Battalion chaplain and the chaplain to the Chapel the Colour Party, supported by a Guard from Z Company 1RRF and the RRF (City of London) Association Corps of Drums, presented the old Colours (the Queen's Colour and the Regimental Colour) for commemoration and safe-keeping.

The RRF have three livery company affiliates (Mercers, Cordwainers and Fletchers) who were all represented together with other supporters.

On a glorious Spring morning the Tower was looking at its best and the throng of tourists had a real treat seeing the Fusiliers and their Colours being paraded for the last time.

Andrew McMillan

Prince Arthur Cup Golf

The Prince Arthur Cup Tournament is an annual inter-Livery event.

This year the competition was played at Walton Heath Golf Club on 19th May. 208 players participated over 36 holes and prizes were presented by the Master Coachmaker. These included the winning pair, the Brewers, and the runners-up, the Spectacle Makers.



Next year's event will be on Thursday 18 May - for entry details, please contact the Secretary, Michael Williams at: michaeld.williams@sky.com

The Livery in Education

The Livery Schools Link has been reconstituted as a not-for-profit limited company, with a board drawn from member Companies. All Companies are invited to participate in its events, however. Anne Curry attended the Annual Education Conference on 8 June, along with representatives from 41 other livery companies and 40 teachers from 37 different schools in the Greater London Area

Opening the event, the Lord Mayor emphasised that London had the third highest youth (16-24) unemployment rate in the UK. In March 2016 five guiding principles had been devised for the City to help tackle this situation. The linked report (*The City's Business: helping young Londoners towards and into employment. A guide*) makes for informative reading and is available at www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/the city's business.

Presentations and case studies at the LSL Conference also emphasised the importance of links between Livery Companies and schools, especially in helping students to aspire and to gain the soft skills so needed in today's world. LSL is about to set up a website to make it easier for schools to request help and for liverymen to offer it.

Anne was particularly pleased to meet Zara Tippey, now head of Corelli College in Blackheath, who had been deputy principal at the City of London Academy Islington and behind the decision to name houses after companies including the Fletchers. Andrew Macmillan and Anne Curry had been delighted to visit COLAI recently and meet members of the Fletchers House – whose motto is 'Aim High, hit your mark'.

LSL Ltd produced a booklet in June 2016 outlining all livery links and activities with schools, including our own. This is available in hard copy and in electronic form on the LSL website.

Anne Curry



Births

Congratulations to Joe and Charlotte Vincent on the birth of their daughter, Camilla Antonia Bee Vincent, born 10th May weighing 8lb 2 oz.



Fletchers and Bowyers in the 16th Century

Simon Leach, who is the Chairman of the Muniments Committee of the Bowyers' Company, has sent me details of documents he has discovered which are also, I think, as relevant and interesting to those of us in the Fletchers. The first relates to the directive issued by the Court of Alderman, dated the 31st January 1516, which determined the Order of Precedence of the 48 companies existing at that time. It is fascinating to see the changes amongst the companies compared with those of today.

Another document discovered by Simon gives the positions along Cheapside allocated to the 'crafts' to witness the coronation procession of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon on the 24th June 1509, with the Fletchers featuring fourth from the bottom on the righthand side and, with the Bowyers, allocated four yards of frontage (page 15). Simon confesses that he didn't transcribe the script himself but was able to benefit from a handwritten transcription of 1836!

Lesley Agutter

Order of Precedence of the Bowyers' Company

The Bowyers' Company is 38 (The Fletchers' Company 39) in the order of precedence but when exactly was it that this position was established?

The order in which the companies walked or rode in City processions fluctuated over the years but, by the early 16th Century, the order of the Great Twelve had been settled, and the ordering of the remaining companies began to resemble that of today.

A directive of the Court of Alderman dated 31st January 1516 lists 48 companies, being the total with livery at that time, that is, with the right of the senior members to wear a distinctive gown and hood. An image of that document with a transcription is set out on the following page. Comparing this with the modern list, the following differences can be identified:

the Shearmen are listed as one of the Great Twelve in the position now occupied by the Clothworkers;

the Barbers have moved up from 28 to their modern position of 17;

the Pastelers (pastry cooks) are now known as the Cooks;

the Bowyers are 39;

the Fullers, Wyresellers, Sporyours (spur makers) and Felmongers do not appear in any modern list.

The only one of these changes which would affect the positioning of the Bowyers is the disappearance of the Fullers listed in 1516 at 18. The reason that the Fullers are not included on any modern list is that they amalgamated with the Shearmen to form the Clothworkers. The new company was granted its charter by Henry VIII on 18th January 1528 and, on that date, the position of the Bowyers was settled at 38 and has remained unchanged to this day.

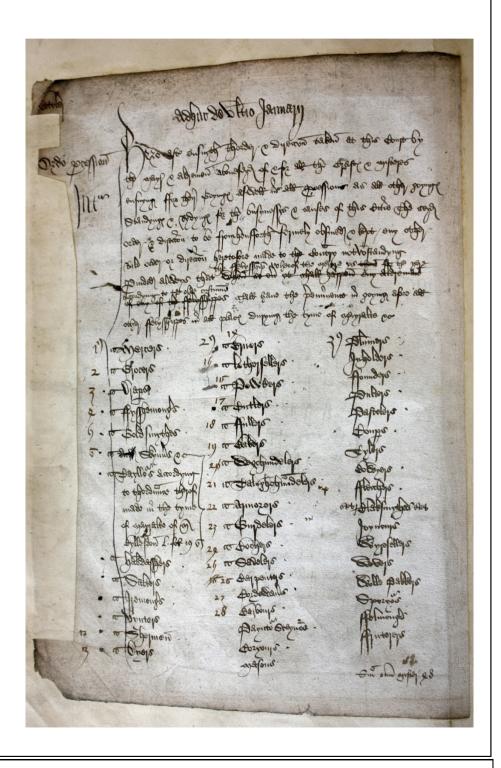
Continued on page 13

Fletchers and Bowyers in the 16th Century cont.

The Order of Precedence is still relevant, and not just for processions. If a number of masters are invited as guests to a livery dinner, it is the senior master, by the Order of Precedence, who is asked to speak and, at the United Guild Service held each Spring at St Paul's Cathedral, the companies are seated by precedence with the Bowyers (38) sharing Row 19 with the Tylers and Bricklayers (37).

Simon Leach

London Metropolitan Archive Court of Aldermen, Repertory 3 COL/CA/01/01/003 f66v 31st January 1515/16



Fletchers and Bowyers in the 16th Century cont.

Here after ensuyeth thorder & direction taken at this Court by the Mayr & aldremen aboveseyd of & for all the Craftes & Misteres ensuying ffor their Goyinge aswell in all processions as all other goynges Standynges & Rydynges for the busynessys & causes of the Citie The seyd order & direction to be from hensforth fermely observed & kept eny other Rule order or direction heretofore made to the Contrary notwithstandyng Provided alweys that the ffelysship whereof the Mayre ys (then for) the yere accordyng to the olde custumme. (When as ever yt shall happen eny aldreman of eny of the ffelyshippes) shall have the preeminence in goyng afore all other ffelyshippes in all places duryng the tyme of Mayralte &

Mercers	Bruers	Plumers
Grocers	Lethersellers	Inholders
Drapers	Pewterers	ffounders
ffyshemongers	Cutlers	Pulters
Goldsmythes	ffullers	Pastelers
Skynners &	Bakers	Coopers
Tayllours according to thordiance thereof made in the tyme of Mayralte of Mr Byllesden L folio 196	Wexchundelers	Tylers
Haberdashers	Talughchaundlers	Bowyers
Salters	Armourers	fflechers
Iremongers	Gurdelers	stet + Blaksmythes stet
Vynters	Bochers	loynours
Shermen	Sadelers	Wyresellers
Dyers	Carpenters	Wevers
	Cordeweners	Wolle Pakkers
	Barbours	Sporyours
	Payntour Steynours	ffelmongers
	Coryours	ffruterers
	Masons	Summa omnium Mistererarum

Transcription: Records of Early English Drama: Civic London to 1558 Ed Anne Lancashire Pub D S Brewer Published 2015 pp947-948

Notes:

- 1. The note alongside the Merchant Taylors refers to the dispute of 1484 with the Skinners during the mayoralty of Robert Billesden which was settled by each company taking precedence over the other in alternate years. This is the origin of the phrase "at sixes and sevens".
- 2. The entry of the Blacksmiths was deleted in error and re-instated with the marks of "stet".

London Metropolitan Archive Journal 10: COL/CC/01/01/010 f370v

The Bowyers witness the Coronation Procession of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, 24th June 1509



Hereafter appeareth the order of the crafts how they shall stand when the King and Queen shall pass by towards their coronation. The chief craft to begin on the south side of the Cheap a little from Old Change end and so forth towards the Tower and every of them to make rails at their proper costs for their standing after the order following:

.....Bowyers 4 yards

Note: The site of Old Change, which is a vanished street, was on the site of what is now the Festival Gardens, St Paul's Churchyard, on the corner of Cannon Street and New Change.

Recent research on the occupational geography of London 1400-1550

Fellow Fletchers will be interested, I am sure, in some recent research by Dr Justin Coulson of Exeter University which appeared in the Economic History Review (69:1, 2016, pp. 104-30).

By 1422 there were 111 different craft guilds or companies and over a hundred parishes in the city. Coulson drew on wills from 14,700 Londoners between 1374 and 1570 to track shifts in the location of different groups.

His conclusion was that by 1500 many of London's occupational groups were clustered. For instance, in the Bridge Street neighbourhood, 45% of testators were Fishmongers or Stockfishmongers. By contrast, Lothbury, Leadenhall and Aldermanbury, saw men from many different crafts. Bakers were everywhere (rather like we find boulangeries in Paris on many street corners).

For Coulson 'the Bowyers and Fletchers provide a case of co-agglomeration'. Both were clustered together in a distinct locations, initially around Ludgate and later on or close to London Bridge. Since the production methods and materials of the Bowyers and Fletchers were not the same, Coulson concluded that their co-location was because customers would want to purchase the two items together: a bow was no good without arrows. This was also why there was a collective move to London Bridge which had become a focus for dealers in small goods and weapons – a forerunner of the modern shopping centre?

Fellowship within the Fletchers was already important. In the late fifteenth century Robert Goldsmith, Fletcher, refers in his will to his fellow Fletcher, Henry Felde, as 'my friend'. The two men lived only 11 doors apart on the eastern side of London Bridge.

Anne Curry

RIO Paralympics 2016

Message from the chairman OF Archery GB via Michael Holden, Hon. Almoner



Members may be interested to know that Archery GB has now made their selection of the Paralympic Archery Team for Rio.

Eight of the team members (asterisked) have benefitted directly from the Fletchers Trust with grants for equipment, and all of the team through the Trusts *Road to Rio – The Rio Dream,* contributions. Those of you who met Tania at the Master's Installation will, I'm sure be pleased to see her name below, and only this week, David wrote the following to us:

'Thank you once again for your support. My journey has been remarkable since returning to Archery in 2013 and it wouldn't have been possible to achieve the standards necessary to compete at such a high level if it wasn't for the support of the Fletchers.'

Now they just have to bring home the medals!

John Cavanagh*, Honorary Freeman Archer Jodie Grinham * Nathan MacQueen * David Philips *

Jo Frith *
Mickey Hall
Tania Nadarahah *
Jess Stretton *