



La Flèche

email edition

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Fletchers Christmas Lunch – 5th December 2017



This year, the Christmas Lunch took place after a Court Meeting in the morning and the Master was exemplary in closing the meeting in ample time for the drinks before lunch. The lunch was well attended with 83 sitting down as many Fletchers had brought guests.

After a time to exchange pleasantries and to renew friendships, helped with a glass or two of prosecco, we sat down for a traditional Christmas Lunch albeit with a new look. The starter was a medley of Sottish

Salmon and Blinis, with the Main Course following with Roast Turkey and the trimmings. Dessert was a trio of Christmas Pudding, a slice of Yule Log and a Mandarin and Orange



Sorbet. Coffee and mini mince pies were then served after the traditional toasts.

The Master welcomed the guests and thanked everyone for attending in a brief speech that also extended Christmas Greetings to all present. An enjoyable lunch!!



RIB Experience—A Guernsey Wetting

On Sunday morning, 12, largely unprepared individuals, set out on the RIB, otherwise known as a rigid inflatable boat. It was billed as the RIB experience and so it proved.

We arrived at the harbour and immediately saw that this trip was likely to be quite a lot wetter than we had thought. A group of school children returned and were very soggy! The one person who had foreseen the inevitable was Roger Watson; the rest of us were provided with a jacket, thankfully with a hood.

Our guide was a lovely girl who said to sit at the front for less spray (questionable) and a bouncier ride or at the back for the reverse. The Harbour tour was also setting out, and, we followed each other all round the harbour and nearby islands. We had the same seas, but they were mostly inside, and dry.



We were taken to various outcrops of rocks, where we saw birds and a number of seals bobbing up and down on the increasing swell. They seemed quite surprised to see us which was hardly surprising as the seas were becoming a bit rough.

We were shown the island owned by the Barclay brothers, and went around the rather wonderful island of Herm. As the journey progressed, the weather deteriorated, and it was reassuring to see, some British holidaymakers (one assumes), gamely sitting on the beach at Herm, defying the wind.

It was both exhilarating and exciting. We all got off with huge grins and extremely wet clothes, except of course for Roger!

Prue Allen

Fletchers' Golf



"The Goblet" is a fine silver trophy which is fought for by Fletchers golfers in an annual knockout competition, and presented by the Master to the winner at the end of season golf dinner held at Fletchers and Farmers Hall.

To my great surprise, I found myself receiving the trophy in November and it now sits in pride of place on my newly designated trophy shelf in my study (needless to say it is all alone on the shelf!)

When I say, "fought over" what I really mean is very sociable golf matches, perhaps with lunch and

a small glass of wine. This year I had a bye in round one, then a match against Jeremy Garnett (who inaugurated and originally presented the Goblet in 2007) at the wonderful Royal St Georges Golf club in Kent. Noted not just for its course, "RsG" is also renowned as the best lunch in golf and I enjoyed both immensely.

My next match was against Rainer Vogt, at my own club at Rye in East Sussex. Rainer was unlucky, not at the golf but with the weather. Coincidentally Rainer and I also played at Rye last year in a gale force wind. Not nice, but still better than this June in a similar wind, but with the added pleasure of horizontal rain as well.

So on to the final round, against Rob Cossey, again at Rye, with Rob making the considerable journey to the South coast from Swaffham in Norfolk. Rob and Pippa decided to make a mini break of it and I understand enjoyed the history, scenery and shopping of the ancient Cinque Port.

Many thanks to all my opponents for very enjoyable and memorable fun days out. Looking forward to more of the same next year.

Andy Wiggins



PERCHING STOOLS

Perching stools are used by impaired archers who have difficulty standing. However, they are not made commercially and are often bespoke, individual projects. This makes them difficult to acquire and often expensive. Bob Smith, Chair of the Disabilities Advisory Group knew of the need for these stools and decided to do something about it by bringing together the expertise of REMAP, the generosity of Worshipful Company of Fletchers and the services of the British Wheelchair Archery Association.

The archery stool was designed and made by Roger Thorn, a volunteer with REMAP, a charity based in south Buckinghamshire. REMAP provides custom-made equipment for people with disabilities, free of charge. Its volunteers use their inge-



nuity and skills to design and make pieces of equipment to help

disabled people achieve greater independence, or to enjoy leisure opportunities previously closed to them. Not only did Roger design the stool he also persuaded the company he works for, Kellform, to batch produce them!

The Worshipful Company of Fletchers generously gave a grant to fund the production costs and the first batch of 10 stools was delivered in October. Archers were able to try them out at the BWAA's training weekend and picture shows John Walker checking his out before buying it. When the first batch is sold the money will be used to fund the production of the next batch and so on.

The stools are being sold at cost price from the BWAA's base at Stoke Mandeville and if you are interested please contact Bob Smith on BWAACoaching@talktalk.net They have already sold 4 of the 10!



The Lapel Pin

Our lapel pins in the shape of the Fletchers' shield are selling well. They measure 2cm across and 2.5cm long (3/4"x1") and come in a presentation box. Our picture shows three of them. They are nicely executed in enamel and make a suitable gift for partners or can be worn to show you are a member of our livery. They cost £5 each including post and packing and any profits will go to the Fletchers' Trust.

Some enterprising Fletchers have made them into cuff links.

We still have a limited number available, please order by post from the Clerk enclosing a cheque for £5 made out to the Worshipful Company of Fletchers.



The Fletchers Trip to Guernsey

My alarm clock went off at 4:15am on Friday 8th September; it was time to get up to go to the airport to catch our flight to Guernsey. Mrs Shaw had given me permission to miss one day of school so I could join this special trip with the Worshipful Company of Fletchers.

The Fletchers Company is one of the ancient Livery Companies of the City of London. Fletchers made arrows and in medieval times bows and arrows were important weapons used in battle. Today, the Fletchers Company supports the sport of archery.

This year my mother is the Master Fletcher and so I was particularly excited to be going on this trip to Guernsey, having helped her plan some of the activities we would be doing.

When we landed at Guernsey Airport we were met by two coaches, which was our mode of transport to all the various stops on our itinerary over the next two days. We visited many interesting places including the Little Chapel, the German Occupation Museum, Castle Cornet, Sausmarez Manor, St Peter Port and we also went on a coach tour around the island.

The Little Chapel was built by a monk and is a miniature version of the famous grotto and ba-



silica at Lourdes. It is decorated with brightly coloured broken china and shells and is an amazing structure to explore. We were told that the Little Chapel had been re-built twice, the first time because people did not like the original version and the second time because the Bishop could not fit through the door!

Little Chapel

In the Second World War Guernsey was occupied by the Germans and in the German Occupation Museum I learned about what life was like for the islanders during the occupation. It must have been very frightening living in Guernsey at that time; there was a curfew when people had to stay inside their homes and there was not much food and so some people ate their pets!

Castle Cornet is in St Peter Port and has guarded the harbour for 800 years. Today you can walk inside the ancient ruins of the castle and visit the air force, naval and military museums. There is an interesting display about Guernsey archers. There are also panoramic views out to sea towards Herm, Sark and Alderney, which are some of the other Channel Islands. At noon, every day, men dressed in red military uniforms, fire a big cannon from Castle Cornet;

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the noise is absolutely deafening!

Some brave Fletchers standing close to the 'noon day' cannon

The Sausmarez family is a famous naval family in Guernsey. Peter de Sausmarez gave us a tour around his house and gardens. He explained how different members of the family had extended the original house. We saw Chinese dragon wood carvings commissioned by one member of the family who had been to Hong Kong. He also showed us the "widow's walk"

at the top of the house where the ladies could watch for their husbands to return to St Peter Port in their merchant ships. There was also a sub-tropical garden with lots of different intriguing sculptures.

The tour guide who took us on a coach ride around the island explained the history and told us some facts about Guernsey. Guernsey is one of the Channel Islands and most of the land was originally owned by the Duke of Normandy, which explains why the street names are all in French. Guernsey recognises our Queen as Sovereign but it is not part of the United Kingdom or the EU and has its own laws. The capital is St Peter Port, which has a large harbour. The south of Guernsey has many bays surrounded by high cliffs with wonderful views out to sea, for example, Jerbourg Point, and the north has many beautiful beaches, for example, Pembroke Bay, which is my favourite beach.

I learned that many famous people have stayed in Guernsey including Renoir, who painted the view from Moulin Huet Bay. I heard about what life is like today on Guernsey including about Guernsey's farming industry. Traditional Guernsey produce includes butter, ice cream, tomatoes and fresh fish, all of which I enjoyed eating during my visit – delicious!

The days went by so quickly and I could hardly believe it was already time to return to the airport for our flight back to London on Sunday afternoon. It was an amazing weekend during which I visited many places and learned a lot. There was even time to have fun making my own candle, playing mini golf and doing some duty free shopping.



If you have never been to Guernsey before, I would definitely recommend a visit. It was extra special for me to visit Guernsey this time as a member of the Master Fletcher's family accompanied by about 40 Liverymen of the ancient Worshipful Company of Fletchers. As we stood together beside the ruined walls of Castle Cornet, me holding my bow and arrows, I could imagine the medieval archers of old standing with us too, transcending the mists of time.....

. Sam James

PHOEBE'S SUCCESS

Some of us have met Phoebe Pine, one of the youngest archers to have benefited from the Company's Road to Rio Pathway funding. Phoebe is now 19 and an established international archer, balancing her career with university programmes! We also met Phoebe's mother, Alison, at Stoke Mandeville this summer and her club - Deer Park Archers in Cheltenham - runs an annual competition for disabled archers that the Worshipful Company of Fletchers supports. Phoebe has kept us in touch with her achievements and writes;

"I have had an exceptionally successful year as I have been able to compete internationally as a part of the GB team five times, two of which were world championships – one para and one able bodied.

The events I have attended this year were: the Fazza Archery Championships in Dubai where I won a silver medal; Puerto Rico WRE where I won bronze; Czech Nove Mesto WRE where I won



bronze and gold; Beijing Para World Championships where I won bronze and finally the Youth World Archery Championships where I won silver. In Czechoslovakia, I was a member of the Women's Compound Open Team who set both a new European Record and a new World Record.

In September this year I started university in Worcester as well, taking a degree in Sports Studies. Passing my A levels was a massive achievement for me as I have had such a busy training and competing schedule. So far, I am balancing the study / training workload well. I have a whole day off to train each week as well as a few half days. I fit my training schedule around my lecture timetable – but the university and the lecturers have been very supportive. Worcester University is only an hour driving time from Lilleshall and about 45 minutes from my club ground, Deer Park Archers.

I am extremely proud of what I have been able to achieve this year and really appreciate the support I have been given by the Worshipful Company of Fletchers to do it."

Phoebe Pine October 2017

P.S. I passed my driving test too !!

Some Notes for Contributors

We are delighted that more and more people are contributing to La Flèche and both Carol Kisby and I thought readers might find it useful to have one or two guidelines if you wish to contribute. Articles of any length are welcome and, where possible, we include the whole article but sometimes we need to edit them to fit a particular space. Don't worry about whether your contribution is suitable, it is better to send it in and leave it to our judgement!! We would rather have too much copy than not enough.

Photographs can give us some problems but they are essential to make La Flèche interesting. However please do not include them in a "word" document as, if you do, we have to extract and edit them to make them suitable for printing. It is much better to send them as separate images. We can cope with most image files and a picture size of 15cm and 200dpi is sufficient for a reasonable print. Please also give the picture a file name we can understand—for instance "JohnSmith" is much better than "CD2345" and tells us what the picture is. Please send articles and pictures to me. If necessary you can send an actual photograph which will be scanned and returned to you.

Above all—please keep the articles coming in—we need your material!!

John Dumbrell (dumbrelljl@btinternet.com)

Hauteville House

The Away Weekend in Guernsey offered many opportunities for side trips and the "Literary" enthusiasts made the following excursion. The efficiency of the Master in making our booking a full year in advance paid off handsomely with an intriguing guided tour of Hauteville House, Victor Hugo's home whilst in exile in Guernsey.

The ten literary lovers in the group enjoyed Victor Hugo's artistic flair, especially the tapestries covering every wall and even the ceiling in his parlour. We were impressed by the fact that while creating the work



of art that was his home, as well as classics such as *Les Misérables*, Monsieur Hugo found the time personally to serve a meal to up to 40 local poor children each week.

After enjoying the stunning views across the harbour from the upstairs sun-room, we all headed outside to admire the peaceful garden.

Josie Gowler.

The Fletchers' Annual Carol Service



On Thursday 14th December some 60 Fletchers gathered at St Magnus the Martyr, in the City of London, for the annual carol service. St Magnus was originally built in the 11th century, but was one of a number of churches rebuilt by Wren after the great fire in 1666. Until 1831, when a new London Bridge was built 30 yards upstream of the old one, anyone walking northwards across the bridge would pass under the great clock of St Magnus and the church was very well known to Londoners.

St Magnus was the Earl of Orkney and was executed on the island of Egilsay in 1117, 900 years ago. The victim of a local power struggle, St Magnus had a reputation for piety and gentleness but, despite that, his statue in the church has him leaning on a fierce battle-axe. The church's other claim to fame is that it holds a magnificent, 4 meter long, model of the

old London Bridge and it is worth a visit to see this alone!! Of more significance to Fletchers is that on the 23rd November 1415, a triumphant Henry V processed across the bridge past St Magnus after his victories in France.

Our own dedicated service of 5 lessons and carols, conducted by Father Philip



Warner, began at 6pm. Lessons were read by members of the company.... Nigel James the Master's consort; Kate Pink, the clerk; Michael Holden, the Honorary Almoner; Anne Regan, liveryman and Steward; and Keith Hubbard-Brown, the Honorary Independent Examiner of our accounts.

After the service of the lessons and five enthusiastically sung carols, those present enjoyed a splendid buffet supper, which included mulled wines and mince pies.

The Master's decision to have a dedicated Fletchers Service was much appreciated by those who attended

Adrian SK



Tania Nadarajah

Those members who attended the Stuart Fraser's Installation dinner last year, will recall the inspirational speech given by Tania, here is an update from her.

The 2016/17 season was a rewarding but challenging one for me. Following the Paralympic Games, I spent a lot of time working on my technique which proved to be a long and painstaking process involving shooting thousands of arrows at a blank boss. The hard work seemed to pay off, however. The outdoor season started with a trip to Puerto Rico in May where I won my first individual international medal – bronze, and in an able-bodied competition no less!

The Para-specific competition ran alongside this wider tournament and I went on to win the gold medal later on that week. It was a great start to the season!

Just a month later, I was invited to compete in the UK Masters for the first time. A fantastic ranking round saw me qualify in third place with a new personal best score and I ended up finishing the competition in 6th place overall against the best archers in the country.



Sadly, I picked up an injury shortly after the Masters which caused a great deal of pain and affected my performance somewhat. I continued competing as much as the injury allowed and went on to win 4 more gold medals and a bronze medal at various able-bodied domestic record status competitions as well as gain my highest international qualifying score at the Para European Cup in the Czech Republic.

The milestone event of the year was the Para World Championships and unfortunately, I didn't make the team for

that competition. However, this allowed me to take some time out from training to get physio treatment and give the injury some much-needed healing time.

The GB team's training year has restarted once again and, while I need to rebuild some strength and stamina, I'm feeling confident that I can build on the successes of last season to make the coming one my best yet.

I remain thankful to the Fletchers for all their support.

Tania

We are getting more and more stories from the Archers that our Charity supports and we hope to have even more in our paper edition in May and already have an article from Hazel Chaisty and this will be coupled with more information on our Charitable Trust and the way it works.

All our members are expected to contribute to the Trust and we hope the extra publicity will stimulate more income.

Editor