



The Worshipful Company of Fletchers

650th Anniversary Banquet

and

Presentation of the Royal Charter

by

HRH THE PRINCESS ROYAL

The Mansion House

Monday 7th March 2022





Celebrating 650 years

Before 1371 Fletchers were part of the Bowyers, but, by 7 March of that year, following the Fletchers' petition to the Mayor and Aldermen, the two trades had been formally separated. Demand for armaments was at its height thanks to the Hundred Years War and the Wars of the Roses. The Company was granted its distinctive arms in 1467, with a crest being added in 1484, and had its own Hall in St Mary Axe (opposite today's Gherkin) from at least 1518.

Ongoing warfare, and the emergence of recreational archery, took the Company to 130 members in 1570 but thereafter the rise of gunpowder weapons led to decline. By 1641 there were only 20 liverymen. By 1747 financial difficulties necessitated the letting of the Hall. After a fire and rebuilding in 1893 it was finally sold in 1933. By this time, despite an increase to 50 liverymen, the Company remained the third smallest in the City, but none the less endeavoured to live up to the motto it had adopted in 1873 - 'True and Sure'. By the late 1930s a strong link had been established with the Royal Toxophilite Society.

In 1971 the Fletchers celebrated their 600th anniversary with a banquet in Mansion House, ushering in a period of growth in numbers and activity. Preparations for this anniversary led to the reinstatement of a Master with two Wardens as in the historical past. Thought began to be given to a new Hall from 1978, finally achieved with the opening of Farmers and Fletchers Hall at 3 Cloth Street in 1987.

The Company was honoured to have HRH the Princess Royal open both this Hall and its refurbished successor in 2015. From 1975 the Company welcomed women as liverymen by patrimony, extending this to by redemption by 1998, and in this 650th year sees its third 'lady master'.

The Fletchers are the mother company of Alderman Sir David Wootton, Lord Mayor 2011-12. The Company is now over 200 strong, with 150 liverymen, freemen and freemen Archers drawn from a wide variety of backgrounds.

Support for disabled archery became the main focus of charitable activity from the mid-1970s, a formal Fletchers Trust being established, and we are proud to have been able to support both the National Disability Championships and the Paralympic teams as well as many individuals and clubs. We are proud, too, of our military affiliations, including a succession of ships - currently HMS Defender -, the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, and RAF Northolt. The Company was a founder member in 1878 of the City and Guilds Institute, and is delighted to have its current educational affiliations with the City of London Academies at Hackney, Islington and Southwark, and the City of London Freemen's School at Ashted.

In our 650 celebrations we have, through the College of Arms, regularised the supporters on our coat of arms. We were pleased to welcome 65 other Companies to our anniversary service at St Vedast which was held as close as possible to the Decollation of St John the Baptist, the feast day on which the Company ordinances of 1484 obliged all Fletchers to attend at Austin Friars. Our 650 celebrations have included publication of *The Fletchers Company of the City of London 2010 to 2020*, and *The Worshipful Company of the Fletchers of London: The Early Centuries c. 1371-1571*, as well as an on-line 'History in 65 Objects' on the Company website.



A Royal Charter

The Company was unusual among the ancient Warrior Companies never to have sought a Royal Charter, being a Company by Prescription. With the 650th anniversary in sight, a Working Group was established in 2018 led by Stuart Robbens, Master 2020-21, to put together all the necessary paperwork - the draft Charter itself, the By Laws and the Ordinances, all of which needed to gain the approval of the Fletchers Court and the Court of Aldermen so that a petition could be put to the crown on behalf of the Company.

After initial scrutiny by the Privy Council a formal notice of the request appeared in The Gazette on 9 October 2020. The pandemic caused some inevitable delays, but finally, at a meeting of the Privy Council on 26 May 2021, HM The Queen was graciously pleased to grant our petition for a Royal Charter. We are honoured that HRH the Princess Royal is presenting the Charter to the Company at this our 650 anniversary banquet.



Court of Assistants

Honorary Assistants

- *Mr AN Taylor
- *Mr CA Coward
- *Mr JAB Redgrave
- *Mr JR Garnett
- *Mr LS Johnson
- *Maj Gen APW MacLellan
CB CVO MBE
- *Mr RH Upton JP
- *Mr HR Vogt
- *Mr CJ Brown
- *Mr JR Fenner OBE
- *Mr JL Dumbrell
- *Mr FA Neal CMG
- *Alderman Sir David Wootton
- *Mr IKR MacLellan
- *Capt AM Poulter RN
- *Mr BRH Hall
- *Capt DC Goodall RN
- *Mrs LA Agutter
- *Mr AC McMillan
- * Past Master

Assistants

- *Mr AJ Scott Knight
- *Mr SJ Fraser CBE
- *Dr R Watson
- *Mrs CD James, Deputy
- *Mr DAC Garland
- Mr TJM Sanders-Hewett
- Baron de Styrcia
- Mr PMD Harris
- Mr JM Averns
- Mr SJ McMenemy
- Co-opted Assistant
Mr PH Beard
- Co-opted Assistant
Mr JM Stephenson





The Livery

Honorary:

*MR RSG Hewett JP, Sir John Dellow CBE DL, Mrs LJ Head

Mrs VP Clarke	Mr AGF Dyke
Mr WMR Ramsay	Mr MD Williams
Mr MV Roberts	Ms AJ Mortimer
Mr RE Webb	Mr MJ Tadman
Sir John Dellow CBE DL	Lady Howard JP
Mr D Boehm	Mrs HM Crosfield OBE
Mr JE Sharpe	Mr GC Bailey
Mr JJ Coward	Mr DR Griffiths
Mr JCFB Byllam-Barnes	Mr PL Nolan
Mr G Coward	Mr JD Leatherdale
Mr PA Gerrie	Mr LGD Williams
Mr M Hallam	Mr PG Hollins
Cdr PW Cox RN	Col JC Power QVRM TD
Mr PP Crossan	Mrs S Martin
Mr DP Allam DL	Mr GA Kingsbury
Mr V Parnis	Mrs JW Bootheirstone
Mr NJ Watson	Mrs R Regan
Mr GO Loveland TD	Mrs AJ Masoan
Mr NJE James	Mr DF Hall
Mr M Aish	Mr MJJ Singleton
Mr WJ Lovell TD	Mr MRK Holden
Mrs LJ Luder	Mr J Tomlinson, Deputy
Mrs Ann Spain MBE	Cdr TJ Eltringham OBE, RN
Miss D MacLellan	Mr AW Palmer
Mr K Hubbard-Brown	Miss AP Gale MBE
Mr GM Prout	Mrs LM Salisbury JP

Mrs GC Cue	Mr AG Sharp
Mr EF Hoefling	Ms M Anton
Miss AJ Wilkie	Mr I Krasniqi
Mr MDG Seton	Mr RJ Slatem
Mrs EC Galloway	Ms R Bhowmick
Mr BJ Scott Knight	Mr DN Swanson
Mrs CSA Markby	Mr AN Gerver
Mrs W Stringer	Mr MN Prout
Mrs GC Benton	Mrs PA Lovell
Mrs CM Heath	Mr JY Lewis
Mrs E Redcliffe	Mr MJ Mitchelhill
Mr RD Cossey	Mrs AJ Keaveny
Mr BM Jones	Miss ED Scott
Ms KS Eberwein	Dr H Kleineke
Alderman Mr RPS Howard	Mr AGC Downing
Mrs LJ Head	Mrs HF Gibson
Dr T Griffiths	Dr SJA Rogers
Mr IJ Wadhams	Wg Cdr JI Chappell MBE
Mr JM Norton Doyle	Mrs CA Campbell
Mr JH Foster	Mrs NJ Coney
Mr Ivan Ferguson	Col JW Denny MBE
Mr MC Whatley	Mr VJ Gowler
Mrs CA Kisby	Mr JCN James-Crook
Mrs JL Gowler	Miss FB Brown
Mr TN Johnson	Mr JC Head III
Mr AFJ Limer	Mr TJ McNally
Mr MF Richards	Dr DJ Spencer
Mrs LS Davies JP	Mr I Burpitt
Mr RP Selwyn	Miss ARM Burrell
Mr MA Hoffman	Mrs SAJ King
Dr CL Scott	Professor KR Dark
Mr HW Simmons	



Freemen

Mr HJH Bandet
Ms A de Burgh
Dr D Brown
Dr AM Burnett CBE
Lt Col SP Burton MBE
Mr J Cavanagh
Ms MH Chaisty
Mrs A Chapman MBE
Mr JDF Chislett
Ms MA Clarke
Mr WB Clarke
Mr OD Craig
Mrs K Critchlow-Smith
Mr PJ Crossan
Mr NG Fletcher
Mr HD François-De Vos
Ms J Frith
Mr RGC Gallop
Mrs J Gerrie
Mr CNF Green
Ms J Grinham
Ms A Harkness
Cdr SW Higham OBE RN

Col J Lamb MC
Mr JHC McMillan
Mr CET McMillan
Ms T Nadarajah
Mr PD Nye
Mrs B O'Boyle
Mrs M Parke
Mr P Pocock
Mrs NM Scott Knight
Mrs A Sharpe
Mr RJ Smith
Mr H & Mrs V Soar
Mr J Stephenson
Miss J Stretton
Mr JS Stubbs MBE
Mrs P Swift MBE
Mr PP Thacker
Mrs M Trapnell
Mr OT Trapnell
Mr RW Trapnell
Mr AB Wiggins
Mr & Mrs HJ Williams

Menu

*Smoked salmon & avocado millefeuille, miso cream,
yuzu gel & furikake shard*

*Aged fillet of beef, smoked creamed potato, **king oyster**
mushroom, braised leeks & pencil carrot*

*Mansion House raspberry, elderflower & champagne trifle
cake with pistachio & elderflower macaron*

Wines

Vino Vispo, NV, Enrico Bedin, Veneto, Italy

White: Le Pionnier Blanc, France

Red: Los Caminos Merlot, Chile

Port: Vieira de Sousa, Fine Ruby, Portugal, NV



Grace

'Laudi Spirituali'

AD. 1545

For these and all Thy mercies given
We bless and praise Thy name O Lord.
May we receive them with thanksgiving,
Ever trusting in Thy Word;
To Thee alone be honour, glory,
Now and henceforth, for evermore.
Amen.

Toast List

The Queen

The Prince of Wales, the Duchess of Cornwall
and the other members of the Royal Family

The Lord Mayor and the City of London Corporation
and the Sheriffs

Speeches

The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor

Presentation of the Royal Charter by
HRH The Princess Royal

The Master

Programme of Music

The London Banqueting Ensemble
Musical Director: Steve Fletcher

The Guard of Honour is formed by
cadets from 135 RRF Det ACF and
1921 (Lewisham) Squadron ATC

Photography: Liveryman John Leatherdale





Soloists

Professor David Owen Norris has performed on pianos both ancient and modern all across the world, with concerto appearances in the BBC Proms, concert tours of Europe, Australia and North America and a discography of 60 commercial CDs. His compositions include a Symphony, a Piano Concerto, and the oratorio *Turning Points*, which celebrates the Agincourt anniversary.

He was the regular presenter of *The Works* and *In Tune* on BBC Radio 3, where he has just presented his 32nd *Building a Library*. His television work includes the long-running BBC2 series *Chord of the Week*, and programmes about authentic performance, English composers, and historical pianos. He is Professor of Musical Performance at Southampton University.

Mark Wilde has performed many tenor operatic roles, including Ferrando (*Così fan Tutte*) at Glyndebourne and Welsh National Opera, and has appeared at all the major opera festivals in the UK. He has a particularly close relationship with English Touring Opera for whom he has sung Albert Herring and several other roles.

His recording as Monsieur in Sir Malcolm Arnold's *The Dancing Master* with the BBC Concert Orchestra received many accolades including Best Opera Recording of 2020. His recordings included Britten, *Complete Scottish Songs* (Naxos), Handel, *Ode for St Cecilia's Day* (Naxos), Rossini Songs (Opera Rara), Sullivan, *The Prodigal Son* and *The Golden Legend* (Hyperion).

Songs

At the Court on 26 January 1818 at the City of London Tavern in Bishopsgate Street, Samuel Arnott, a former Upper Warden (the equivalent of Master) presented the Company with four songs, the words of which he had written for use at the Fletchers' four quarterly dinners following each of the quarterly meetings (St Paul's Day, 25 January; St George's Day, 23 April; St Mary Magdalen's Day, 23 July; St Edward the Confessor's Day, 13 October. In 1820 Arnott presented a fifth song for a meeting on 9 December. These songs were to be sung to popular tunes: 'Rule Britannia', 'A Cobler There Was', and 'The Roast Beef of Old England'.

Our thanks to Professor David Owen Norris and Mark Wilde for recording all these Fletchers' Songs for us, which are now on our website. Tonight we shall hear a selection as well as two other songs:

Roger Quilter (1877-1953)	<i>Drink to me only with thine eyes</i>
George Arthurs (1875-1944)	<i>I want to sing in Opera!</i>

13 October and 23 April (sung to 'A Cobler There Was')

This season our country with plenty is blest,
 From the scourges of war we most happily rest,
 And the day of Saint Edward the Fletchers invite
 To a sumptuous repast with much joy and delight.
 Derry down, & c.



The summons our Brethren with pleasure obey,
 In friendship and harmony pass the gay day;
 Each dainty in season will cheerfully share,
 In sparkling good wine will soon banish dull care.
 Derry down, & c.

On all parts of our island his friendship they court,
 Without his assistance can gain little sport;
 May each brother Fletcher this maxim pursue,
 For their comfort and ease keep his Sovereign in view.
 Derry down, & c.

23 July (sung to 'The Roast Beef of Old England')

Once more with great pleasure each brother we meet,
 On the day of Saint Magdalen share a choice treat;
 Let Friendship and harmony dull care defeat,
 And sing oh the good Saints of the Fletchers,
 And sing oh the gay Fletchers good Saints.

The comforts of life may they happily share,
 In Fortune's blest smiles shun sad trouble and care,
 On this long kept-day feast on England's best fare,
 And sing oh the good Saints of the Fletchers,
 And sing oh the gay Fletchers good Saints.

Now to our worthy Wardens a bumper display,
 With thanks for their care of us on each Saint's day;
 May the Fletchers' good company never decay,
 And sing oh the good Saints of the Fletchers,
 And sing oh the gay Fletchers good Saints.





Officers of the Company

Master

Professor Anne Curry

Upper Warden

Mr Philip Shears QC

Renter Warden

Andrew Trapnell Esq.

Deputy Master

Stuart Robbens Esq.

Clerk

Miss Kate Pink

Honorary Chaplain

The Reverend Paul Kennedy

Beadle

Mr Ernest Brocklehurst

