

ROTARY YOUTH SPEAKS COMPETITION

On 7 March, at Wallace High School, Alastair Gammack, Paul Miller and Alistair May again acted as judges for the regional finals of the competition.



As last year, the standard of debate was exceptional. The Intermediate competition was won by Kyle Academy and the Senior by St Columba's School. Alasdair Gammack, chairperson of the judges said, "All the performances were impressive and phenomenal - There were no losers on the day!"

DEANS DIARY- FUTURE EVENTS

As you can imagine, it is not possible just now to provide any certainty about the timings of any future events.

The Spring Court is cancelled, and other events are also likely to be postponed. We will be in touch to advise all Guild Brothers when something like normal service can be resumed.

In the meantime, take care and our thoughts and best wishes are with you all.



Guildry of Stirling News

Spring 2020

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Guild Brothers,

These are very worrying and testing times. Our way of life is being completely changed and for most of us this will involve physical separation from our families and a complete change to our social routine. Lockdown may mean real isolation for many. Skype and WhatsApp are excellent but we do not all have the means to use these so I do hope that your families and friends are using the excellent telephone to keep in touch. Please do let me know if a phone call, or postcard, from anyone on the Dean's Council would help the day. The Dean's Council is very aware of how difficult life will be for so many and whilst we may not be in a position to do practical things like shopping we can talk to you.



Elizabeth Roads - Dean of Guild

We are all worried about the long-term effect on the careers of family members and how some of them will cope with being isolated or restricted to a small area with a young and boisterous family. We all need fresh air so if you can I do encourage you to take a short walk each day or, if you have one, to spend a little time in the garden, even if only to sit with a cup of tea for a while. We all hope that better weather will arrive and then at least windows can be opened.

It has, of course, also meant that the Guildry gatherings have had to be cancelled. We shall, however, re-schedule these for when life returns to normal.

I hope this newsletter will give you something to enjoy and I send my warmest good wishes to you all and hope that you will stay well during the weeks, perhaps many, ahead of us.

Elizabeth

DEAN'S DINNER 2020

The annual Dean's Dinner took place at Stirling Golf Club on 7 February 2020 and was the usual most enjoyable evening. The staff of the Golf Club looked after the guests exceedingly well and the chefs produced an excellent meal.



The Dean with the Guildry Officer and some of her VIP Guests and Speakers

We were delighted to have as our guests the Lord Lieutenant, Alan Simpson, OBE, the Provost of Stirling, Christine Simpson and the Lord Lyon King of Arms, Dr Joe Morrow, CBE. The Provost gave a most illuminating talk which showed that she had dug into the archives of the Council to produce some interesting and entertaining facts. Dr Morrow spoke of his role as Lord Lyon and the place of heraldry in the life of Scotland. He entertained the guests with both knowledge and merriment. Robin Iffla, now the Dean's Chamberlain, gave the Vote of Thanks in his customary manner. A good evening was had by all as was vouched for by the most gracious letters of thanks from our guests.



WINTER COURT AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The AGM was held on 5 December at the Golden Lion Hotel,

It was well attended and witnessed the installation of Elizabeth Roads as our new Dean. This was an historic event as it was the first time a woman had become Dean. She advised us that she was thrilled to become Dean and was enthusiastic about the future of the Guildry.



Those attending were also entertained by an excellent talk on Bannockburn House given by Guild Brother Stuart Campbell, who was presented with a Guildry Goblet in the customary fashion. Guildry pies were enjoyed by all.

COWANE'S HOSPITAL TRUST

Many will have seen that work has progressed on the exterior of the Hospital. It has been painted a warm golden and the statue of Auld Stanley Brecks has been restored. It had been hoped that interior work would progress relatively but, in view of the present situation this will probably take much longer. We are unlikely to be able to return to the Guildhall until late in 2020 or early 2021.



It has been decided that the 4th March Stone, commemorating the Guildry, will find its home below the Guildhall on the grass to the west of the drive up to the Church of the Holy Rude. It is almost ready to be placed in position but again this may well be delayed. Once in position a small ceremony of dedication will take place.

MASS AND RE-INTERMENT OF THE GOOSECROFT FRIAR

On 29th February 2020 the Dean attended a Requiem Mass in St Mary's RC Church for a Dominican friar, whose remains had been found when excavations works were being undertaken in Goosecroft Road in 2014.



After a very moving service, the congregation moved to the Snowden Cemetery where a grave had been prepared. A headstone, carved from a rock given by Cowane's Trust that came from the Abbey Craig quarry, was suitably inscribed. The rock was one of 2 not used in the construction of the Wallace Monument.



As the friar was alive at the close of the 13th century the link with William Wallace, was emotive. He may have witnessed the Battles of Stirling Bridge and Bannockburn. Dominican Friars also tried to negotiate with Wallace ahead of Stirling Bridge and hosted Edward I of England after The Battle of Falkirk. All this when the Guildry was only approaching its second century.



After the interment, invited guests were then entertained by the Provost and Council at a reception in the Tolbooth after which presentations were made on the friary and excavation work and the work of the Dominicans.



SUMMER COURT 2019

The Dean presenting our speaker Julie Christie with the traditional goblet. Julie from Start-Up Stirling gave a passionate talk about her role and what they provide to the needy in Stirling. A donation to Start Up Stirling was also given.

Spittalmyre Bowling Club 24th August 2019



The Guildry sponsored an anniversary tournament at Spittalmyre where members from the club, together with some Guildry members in the teams, played through some dreadful weather. However it didn't spoil the enjoyment of the day. Past Dean Paul Miller was on hand to present the prizes.

THE STIRLING DINNER - CELEBRATING OUR NONACENTENARY

The Dinner, held on 25 September in The Great Hall at Stirling Castle, was a very special occasion. It celebrated 900 years of the Stirling Guildry, making it one of the oldest continuous organisations in the UK. Guests were greeted by a display from the Pipe Band of Queen Victoria School and the drum newly presented to the band by the Guildry was on display.

It was wonderful that our Guild Brother, HRH The Princess Royal was kind enough to grace us with her presence. She circulated among the guests on arrival and was introduced individually to the Guild Brothers in attendance. It was also good to welcome representatives from other Scottish Guildries and prominent local organisations. The Great Hall looked particularly impressive and was a fabulous setting for the occasion. The Dean, Alasdair Gammack, welcomed the guests and the former Makar Clive Wright gave a recitation of the Guildry poem.

Following an excellent meal, Her Royal Highness gave a thoughtful and well researched speech on the life and role of the Guildry, which was well received by all present.



Princess Anne with the Lord Lieutenant and the Dean.



The Dean with some of his top table guests at the Castle



The Princess Royal greeted by the Provost on arrival at the castle

Photos courtesy of Whyler Photography

The evening concluded with The Princess being presented with a length of Guildry Tartan and a Guildry Pie. She had clearly enjoyed herself as she stayed much longer than expected.

PRESENTATION OF GUILDRY DRUM TO QVS.

On 13 December the Dean and the Clerk to the Guildry were invited by the Headmaster of Queen Victoria School to join the pupils at the junior Carol Service and make a formal presentation of the drum, which was presented to the band by the Guildry.

The drum, suitably inscribed with the Guildry arms and an appropriate legend, was accepted by one of the snare drummers in the band. The occasion was very enjoyable and the pupils impressed the Dean and Clerk with their musical abilities.



DEANS COUNCIL 2020



Back Row —R. Iffla; A. May; N. Black; J. Mailer; J. Richardson; T. Johnston; P. Smith

Front Row —L. Mair; A. Gammack; E. Roads; P. Miller. Missing —T. Pollock