



# Guildry of Stirling News

## Summer 2024

### A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Elizabeth Roads - Dean of Guild

Dear Guild Brothers,

I hope you are all well and making the most of what has been a rather poor Summer so far. As you know, we continue to hold regular meetings in The Guild Hall, but we have in mind to re-vitalise the Autumn Court into a more social event which may be held elsewhere.

The Dean's Council views Remembrance Day as an event of national importance and all Guild Brothers are encouraged to attend. It will take place this year on 10<sup>th</sup> November in the Kirk of the Holy Rude following by the commemoration at the War Memorial.

As you may be aware, the autumn meeting of the Court of Deans will now be held each year in The Guild Hall as it is the most central location between the Guildries. The Court will still be hosted by the designated Guildry, which this year is Glasgow. They will make the arrangements and inform the Honorary Clerk of each Guildry. I hope that many Guild Brothers will be able to join us on 11<sup>th</sup> October.

The Guildry has strong links to local educational activities and awards an annual history prize to the University of Stirling and participating secondary schools across Stirling Council. We also present the Dux Medal to Bannockburn High and the Guildry Drum to the chosen pipe band member at Queen Victoria School. The new Cowie bursaries have been given to three students at Forth Valley College. We hope that this close link with the bursary scheme and Forth Valley College will continue.

Numbers of Guild Brothers now stand at 150 but the age profile continues to give concern and we really need efforts by all brothers to encourage New Entrants. The form of application is available from the Guildry Clerk.

## **DEAN'S DINNER 2024**

The annual Dean's Dinner took place at Stirling Golf Club on 9 February 2024 and was enjoyed by all who attended. This was the fourth time in a row we had chosen the Golf Club and, as in previous years, the staff looked after the guests very well and provided a delicious meal. We were delighted to have among our guests the Lord Lieutenant, Alan Simpson, OBE and the Provost of Stirling Elaine Watterson. Kenny MacInnes, the principal of Forth Valley College, was guest speaker and gave an excellent talk on his impressions of the College and hopes for its future.

## **STIRLING WALKING OF THE MARCHES**

The Walking of the Marches took place at the end of May and from now on the regular date will be the last Saturday in May. It is led by the Provost and the Dean and the route varies slight year to year taking in various historic markers around the old town. The stone unveiled this year is to commemorate the 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Royal Burgh of Stirling and ended with a lunch in the Guild Hall, addressed by the Provost and the Dean. Some photographs of the event, courtesy of Whyler photography, are on the next page.

## **KIRKING OF THE GUILDRY**

The Kirkin of the Guildry is normally held in the Church of the Holy Rude on the second Sunday in May, and it is hoped that the Kirkin of Stirling Council will be resumed in 2025 which will assure the future of this traditional combined event.

## WALKING OF THE MARCHES PHOTOS





## SPRING AND SUMMER COURTS 2024

The Spring Court was held on 27 March. The speaker was Emeritus Professor Rory Watson. He gave a fascinating talk on "Eerie returns in Scots Poetry: Hugh MacDiarmid and the haille clanjamfrìe," he spoke about the contrasting emotions evoked in MacDiarmid's work, extending even to thoughts on Einstein's work on time.

The Summer Court was on 14 August. Guild Brothers Robert Hynd and Alasdair Gammack entertained those present with reminiscences of the Guildry and their early lives.

## WHISKY TASTING EVENT

This year the Autumn Court will be a Whisky Tasting event to be held within the Curly Coo, on 11th October 2024.

There will be a total of 5 drams from a variety of distilleries and a short explanation of each dram, all for the magnificent price of £15 per head.

As the bottles are being supplied by individual Guild brothers and the capacity of the venue, numbers will be strictly limited to 25 so it will be ticketed on a first come first served basis. Please contact the secretary, Angus Annan, if you wish to attend.





## THE GRAND DAY AT QUEEN VICTORIA SCHOOL

The Grand Day is the annual prize giving held in Dunblane Cathedral followed by lunch in the school and celebratory events on the school playing fields. It is attended by parents and friends of the school and the Guildry was represented by PD Robin Iffla, MBE, who is a commissioner of the school, also PD Paul Millar, Peter Smith, and Guildry Clerk Angus Annan.



## **GUILD BROTHERS FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

Guild Brothers contribute to the Guildry finances in several ways, both to ensure the continuing viability of the Organisation and to assist with its charitable causes. The former, which includes inter alia administration, hall hire and Guildry Court supplies, is paid for largely through the annual levy, bills of entry and court attendance fees. Without these we would cease to continue as a going concern. At present the Bill of Entry (joining fee) is £50, with the annual levy for new members at £25 and the admission fee £10 at the door (which includes a drink a raffle ticket and a pie). For the annual levy, members should set up a standing order, to pay £25 annually, usually on 1 July, to

### **THE GUILDRY OF STIRLING**

**Sort Code 80-91-29**

**Account 06014174**

Guild Brothers are also encouraged to contribute to the Charitable Trust, from which we give our charitable support to worthy recipients. These include the history prizes mentioned elsewhere and other local charities. The option, frequency and amount is entirely up to the individual Brother, but typical annual donations are in the region of £25—£100. We certainly value these donations, which again individuals are asked to set up a standing order, but for these donation to the following account (normally on 1 April)

### **GUILDRY OF STIRLING CHARITABLE TRUST**

**Sort Code 80-22-60**

**Account 18443162**

## A Special Presentation

Guild Brother Robert Hynd has made gifts to the Guildry commemorating his late father Lewis Hynd's time as Dean. These included a picture of Lewis taken with Princess Anne on her visit to the Guildry on 6 August 1986.

Books included were the History of the High School of Stirling, starting as a pre-reformation school in 1120, Old Boys of Stirling High and their Stories, published 1900, The Story of the Argyle Lodging, published 1906, The Merchant Guildry of Stirling and the Life of John Cowane, published 1919 and the 1966 edition of the Guildry of Stirling. Clearly Lewis Hynd was a man of many parts.

Included was a card with a list of important dates in the evolution of the Guildry. A brief digest of these dates is King Alexander II's Charter on the 13<sup>th</sup> August 1226, Granting freedom to Stirling Burgesses on Tolls and Custom on their goods throughout the Kingdom of Scotland, John Cowanes Donation 13<sup>th</sup> February 1637 and the completion of the Guild Hall in 1661. The Burgh Trading Act in 1846 abolished all the privileges of Guild Brethren.

The Dean's Council has expressed its appreciation of these important gifts. Any Guild Brother who would like to see the full list of dates, or who would like to borrow any of the books should approach the Guildry Clerk, Angus Annan

