



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Guildhall on Thursday 27th June 2019. Those present were:

Guild Master:	Mr G Edwards
Renter Warden	Mr R Thompson
Past Guild Masters:	Mr D M Williamson
	Mr A H Curtis
	Mr R T Smith
	Mr E V Austin
	Mrs M Heylin
	Mr C Cullen
Honorary Treasurer	Mrs P A Taylor
Honorary Assistant Clerk – Membership:	Mr M Edwards
Safeguarding Lead	Mr T J D Cunis
St Paul's School Court Assistant:	Dr H Bailes
St Paul's Girls' Court Assistant	Mr J Armitstead
Social Court Assistant	Ms H Moxon
Court Assistant	Mr B Fraulo
Clerk	

**Master called the meeting to order at 6pm**

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Past Masters P F Clark, R J C Davey, N J Watson, R C Beckwith, D R Griffiths, H G Worth, A S McPherson, M St John Parker, S M Hills, G Niblett, B M Jones, K Hubbard-Brown, A Paice, J Bethell-Jones and Apprentice Warden O Drew and Court Assistants C May, W Jackson, W Skjott, N Weller, B Welch, M Hudson and B Wood.

2. Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting and Matters Arising

These were presented and signed by the Guild Master.  
No further matters arising.

3. Election to the Court

The following were voted on and passed as being elected to the Court:

Guild Master	R P Thompson OBE
Guild Renter Warden	G Edwards
Guild Junior Warden/	Dr H Bailes
Honorary Archivist	
Honorary Treasurer	C Cullen
Clerk Emeritus	Mrs S Shilling
Hon Clerk-Membership	Mrs P A Taylor
Hon Asst Clerk-Membership	A B Taylor
Safeguarding Lead	M Edwards
Social Court Assistant	J Armitstead
Apprentice Warden	S O Drew
Court Assistant	Stephen Carville
Court Assistant	Julia Tucker
Court Assistant	Edward Le Good
Court Assistant	Michael Creamer
Court Assistant	Brendan Musgrove

4. Guild Master's Report

Although it is not long since the Lady Day Court meeting much has taken place with the Guild. The Renter Warden has invested a considerable amount of time progressing the new members' database and website to the extent that the end of the initial phase has almost been completed. I would like to thank the Renter Warden and his team for taking on much more than they ever expected but with the result that our procedures have been now fully documented for the first time and with all now being written down in the same place. A great achievement for any organisation.

Court will recall my desire to encourage more Guildmen into the Livery and I was therefore delighted when the Master of the Worshipful Company of Wheelwrights, James Tucker, suggested that his Company would like to encourage some Young Guildmen to consider taking up the Livery. To take this further James joined us for our Bindings Ceremonies prior to the Lady Day Court and joined us for Supper afterwards. Additionally, James was kind enough to invite my wife and I to the Wheelwrights Banquet at Mansion House on the 22nd May where I was made one of the Guests of Honour much to my surprise! This was a wonderful gesture and I was delighted to be able to talk to several Liverymen there and who were very interested in how our Guild works. I think it very likely that the Guild may soon be fairly well represented at the Wheelwrights! Both young and old!

Just before the Lady Day Court meeting, I was invited to a Young Guildmen's Evening in the City and was able to talk to the fairly large number present about their possible progression into the Livery. It was a very rewarding evening in that these younger Guild members fully intend remaining members for many years, and several had an interest in Livery progression.

On the 13th May the Renter Warden and I visited Mercers Hall to talk to the Archivist about all GMS documents and effects being held with the Mercers' Archives. Court will remember agreeing to this at its last meeting. Their initial response is that they are very happy to do so, and several boxes will be deposited there in the coming weeks. We await final details of the accessions process.

On the 5th June a good number of us visited the Wilkins and Sons Jam Factory in Tiptree, Essex where we were given a good tour of the fields and orchards by tractor and a fascinating tour of the factory itself. It is sobering to know that even in this day and age of extensive automation there is still a very large element of human hands required for making jams, marmalades and Christmas puddings! After a very well-presented lunch in a marquee members roamed the Factory shop where much produce was purchased!

Our next social event was on the evening of Tuesday 18th June when we visited the Reform Club in Pall Mall to celebrate our Founders Evening. This is a building that I have always wanted to visit, and my expectations were totally exceeded! What a magnificent building it is and I think that I can speak for everyone who attended by saying what a wonderful evening it was. Although we were in a private meeting room a number of us did manage to sneak out and wander around some of the building to soak up the atmosphere and look at some of the superb paintings and visit the Library. Many thanks to the Renter Warden for making this visit happen. What was particularly good about this event is that we had both younger and more senior members of the Guild present.

On Wednesday 26th June, a day before the Summer Court meeting, I am very much looking forward to a visit to Peter Symonds School in Winchester.

I mentioned previously about our desire to extend Guild membership and links to other Mercers' related Academies and am delighted that both Hammersmith and Sandwell are now becoming closely engaged with us.

There are still some excellent social events which I commend to all Guildmen and Apprentices. On the 10th July we have a blue badge guided walk from Tower Pier station to Wapping where we will end up for lunch, on the 10th September we visit the London Postal Museum where we will ride on a converted underground mail train and we are also hoping to take part in this year's Sheep Drive over London Bridge!

5. Honorary Treasurer's Report - Summary

**End of Year Accounts at 31 July 2019**

I have completed the end of year accounts for the last financial year and after signature by the Master they will be forwarded to the Independent Examiner for his inspection. In summary we shall show a modest surplus for the period of £610. At 31 July we had current assets of £45,774.

Overall, the financial situation of the Guild remains healthy.

6. Charitable Trust Report

GMS Charitable Trust Report

The Report was read out by the Clerk and deemed satisfactory.

7. Social Report

**Installation Dinner 11<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

We had 123 attendees this year: 37 guildsmen, 14 apprentices, 12 under 30s, 46 paid guests and 14 non-paid meals (of which 8 were apprentices). This is an increase on the 104 guests present last year; notably we had 6 fewer apprentices than last year but 18 more paid guests and 7 more unpaid-for meals, 5 of which were for apprentices.

**10/11/2018 – Lord Mayor's Show**

We had 7 attendees for this free event, down 2 from last year. The usually bad weather and regularity of the Show may be putting off others from joining. However, those who did turn out enjoyed fine weather for a change this year.

**13/12/2018 - Carol service at St Mary Woolnoth**

We sold 37 tickets; 23 for the service (at £10.00 each) and 14 for the supper (at £40.00 each). This was our largest turnout so far for the Carol Service and it was great to see so many enjoying themselves.

**26/2/2019 - Fullers Brewery Tour**

We sold 12 tickets and had a fantastic morning touring the brewery followed by an enjoyable lunch. A revised, reduced invoice for the event was issued by Fullers. Fullers were very welcoming and I have received a lot of positive feedback for the tour.

**20/3/2019 - Tour of Billingsgate Fish Market**

The Master and seven guests attended what I have heard was a very enjoyable morning tour of the market followed by breakfast.

**5/6/2019 - Wilkins of Tiptree Tour**

The Master and 15 guests enjoyed a great day touring the Tiptree farms in Suffolk followed by lunch. A very memorable occasion and an interesting variation on the usual events programme.

**9/6/2019 - Summer Founders Event**

We attracted 25 guests compared with 32 at our 2018 summer party and 59 at our 75th anniversary evening, although the latter was of course a special occasion and the first time such an event had been run in recent times.

8. Other Business

None.

9. Annual Meeting 2020

The next Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at Guildhall. *[Please note this has had to be changed to Zoom due to the Covid-19 outbreak].*

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 6.40pm.

**Biagio Fraulo JP  
Clerk  
26-VII-2019**