

Masters Newsletter

June 2024



Masters Update

Dear Guildmen,

It brings me great pleasure to reconnect with you through this newsletter, as we celebrate the progress of our Guild. As Master, I am delighted to report that the Guild of Mercers' Scholars is flourishing, with a robust social calendar, a thriving community, and a promising pipeline of Apprentices.

One of the primary goals I set out to achieve as Master was to steer the Guild towards a future that honours our rich heritage while embracing innovation. Therefore, we've been focused on developing the Guild while preserving its unique traditions, and to that end, we've achieved significant milestones across various fronts.

We have bolstered our safeguarding measures to ensure the well-being of all members, modernised our technological infrastructure to better serve our community, successfully implemented a hybrid court system to adapt to modern demands, and are in the process of upgrading our payment systems for a smoother experience.

Simultaneously, we are harnessing the expertise and talents of our members through our speaker series, forging connections with Worshipful Companies through our social agenda, and welcoming new Guildmen to the Court.

I will hopefully see many of you at our upcoming social events and wish you all the best.

Best Regards,

Brendan Musgrave

Master, Guild of Mercers' Scholars

Included in this Report :

Masters Update

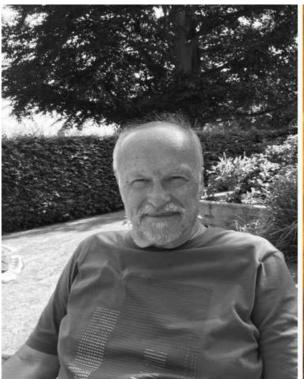
Overkill or Underkill talk by Tony Paice

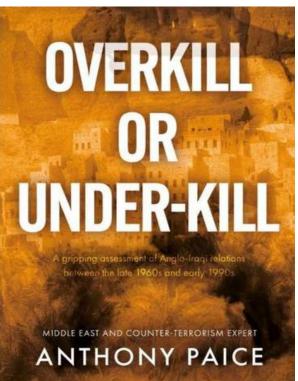
Spring and Summer Events

Ward Club Luncheon

Dates for your Diary

Membership Update





Overkill or Under-kill - a talk by Tony Paice on the Gulf War Hostage Crisis

We were privileged with a captivating presentation by our esteemed member, Tony Paice, on the hostage crisis during the Gulf War. The evening was marked by brilliant attendance, underscoring the strong interest and support within our guild. Tony's in-depth analysis and firsthand insights brought a new dimension to our understanding of this pivotal historical event.

Tony delved into the complex political and human dimensions of the crisis, sharing stories that highlighted both the challenges and the resilience of those involved.

His engaging storytelling and thorough research kept the audience riveted, leading to an animated Q&A session that demonstrated the depth of curiosity and engagement among our members. The event truly showcased the remarkable talent and expertise within the Guild of Mercers' Scholars.

For those inspired by Tony's presentation and interested in contributing to our speaker series, we encourage you to get in touch and share your own passions and expertise.



Petanque Evening with the Guild of Young Freemen

A successful joint event with the Guild of Young Freemen was held in May. The two Guilds hosted a Petanque evening which saw great comradery. Here we have the victorious team with the Guild of Young Freemen Master Grace Abba, Immediate Past Master Samuel Chadd and our own GMS Past Master Bob Smith and Court Assistant Jack Armitstead. Thanks to Bob Smith for some excellent photos of the event.

Upcoming Summer Events

As we move into the warmer months, we are excited to announce a series of spring and summer events for our members. Mark your calendars and join us for these upcoming gatherings:



1. Middle Temple & Courts of Justice Tour

Friday, 7 June 2024 - Tour of the Middle Temple and the Royal Courts of Justice

- ·Time: 11:00am 3:15pm
- ·Location: London
- Details: Spend a day exploring the heart of legal London with guided tours of the Middle Temple and the Royal Courts of Justice.



3. Fighter Command at Bentley Priory

Saturday, 6 July 2024 - Fighter Command at Bentley Priory ·Location: Mansion House Drive, Stanmore, London HA7 3FB ·Details: Explore the heroic history of Fighter Command during the Battle of Britain at Bentley Priory.

To find more details please visit: https://www.theguildofmercersscholars.com/events/

For any queries, please contact Court Assistant Jack Armitstead.



2. Tour of Armourers' Hall

Tuesday, 18 June 2024 – Tour of Armourers' Hall, which will be the venue for Trish's Installation Dinner in October. •Time: 11:00am - 2:00pm •Location: 81 Coleman Street, EC2R 5BJ

•Details: Discover the rich history and grandeur of Armourers' Hall, followed by lunch at the Globe pub nearby.



4. Tour of Lord's Cricket Ground

Saturday, 7 September 2024 - Tour of Lord's Cricket Ground ·Location: St John's Wood Rd, London NW8 8QN ·Time: 11:00am - 2:00pm ·Details: Go behind the scenes at Lord's Cricket Ground, home of cricket's most iconic moments and artifacts.

Dates for Your Diary

Make sure to mark your calendars for these upcoming important dates:

Midsummer's Day Court and Annual Meeting
4th July 2024 6:30pm
Location: Guildhall and Online

2024 Installation Dinner 8th October 2024, Armourers' Hall

Further details will be published soon including booking information. Spaces will be limited for this event whereby we will welcome Thomas Telford School's First Master of the Guild.

For any inquiries or further information, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Ward Club Luncheon Interest

We are also looking to join a Ward club luncheon, with potentials being the Langbourn Ward Club, Breadstreet Ward Club, or Broadstreet Ward Club.

If you are interested, then please contact Jack Amitstead, and we will make arrangements.

Profile on Website Update

Please take some time to check that your profile on the GMS website is up to date.

An updated profile allows School Court Assistants to search for potential Masters to reach out to.



Membership Update

One of my many memories of my time at Thomas Telford School include the soundtracks accompanying speeches or video newsflashes of achievements. "Proud" by Heather Small and "Rollercoaster" by Ronan Keating often played while goals landed in the net, or performers arrived on stage or exams results were unveiled as we punched the air with success.

With the same heartfelt sentiment I have been inspired by the way in which the Court worked so hard and rallied together to deliver a successful Membership Court in April while our Honorary Membership Clerk Julia Tucker took time away from commitments. Julia works incredibly hard behind the scenes and this experience was a reminder of how invaluable her voluntary input is. This collective effort (with special thanks to Patricia Taylor for help on the day) demonstrated the strength with which we work so well together across diverse professional backgrounds - which in my experience is one of the most valuable aspects of the Guild.

I am delighted to welcome three new Direct Guildman Applications. These new members have expressed their interest in engaging with the Guild, with aspiration to take on roles in the future such as Court Assistants and Master to Apprentices.

In ongoing efforts to enhance the grant process, we encourage Apprentice Masters to actively discuss grant opportunities with Apprentices. We have been working closely with the Mercers' Grant Manager, and have issued a report on the utilisation of the grant fund (email me for a copy should you wish).

We are excited to announce that we will be preparing a second Leadership Development Session. This in-person event is likely to be held at St Paul's School outside of school term time. We are currently seeking a Court Assistant to assist with the delivery and are considering recording parts of the training for online sharing. If this is of interest to you, please reach out to myself or any Court Member.

Our engagement talks are set to continue, with several sessions planned for the summer and autumn. This summer, we look forward to hearing from Chris Cullen and Rachel Aram. In the autumn, we have a series of talks lined up, including a Grant Success Story and sessions in October About the Guild of Mercers' Scholars, aimed at Potential Apprentice Applicants.

I look forward to continuing to build on these achievements and achieving excellence in all our endeavors.

I leave you with this question "What have you done today to make you feel proud?"

Kindest Regards, Trish

Patricia Murfin-Snook Renter Warden Thomas Telford School Court Assistant, Acting Madeley Academy School Court Assistant

GUILD OF MERCERS' SCHOLARS

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