



# The Guildry Gazette

The Newsletter of The Guildry of Dundee - *An Ancient and Honorable Incorporation*

WINTER 2025

## Dear Member of the Guildry...



I hope that my letter finds you well, and I thank you for all the support that you give both to the Guildry and to myself. I have been honoured to be Lord Dean and have endeavoured to serve the Guildry to the best of my ability.

The history of our organisation is a wonderful place to visit, however my focus has been to look forward and to work together and for us to be like-minded in our efforts to establish a future for the Guildry within our local community of Dundee: in other words, to step up and carry out the tasks while preserving those values that underpin the history of the Guildry.

I am thankful for all the support by the members and assessors in establishing and continuing the traditions of the Guildry, particularly the links with our City Chambers, the Kirking of the Guildry and the fraternal relationships with the Nine Trades.

The work that we are doing with young people in our schools through the Schools Enterprise Project is second to none. The talent of the young people and the dedication of their teachers is an inspiration for those of us who have worked alongside them. There is an abundance of talent and a great contribution within the young people of Dundee in our schools.

As many of you will know, as Lord Lyon I wear a red uniform braided extremely heavily with gold - which was quite a success at a recent school disco that I attended. The flashing lights in the disco bounced off the gold braid, and the young people seemed to appreciate and enjoy the evident tradition of the uniform even if they found this old fool to be quite comical on the dance floor.

I would like to share with you a line in one of my favourite films, "Mamma Mia, here we go again: "There is no point in climbing a ladder if it is on the wrong wall." It is important that together we have the ladder of the Guildry 'on the right wall' and that we are doing our work in unison, in order to maximise all of the talents and contributions of our Guildry members.

It is my belief that this will give us a solid future based on the history and traditions of the Guildry but at the same time giving us direction for future travel.

Thank you again for your hard work, and I look forward to seeing you at some future events.

With very best wishes,

Dr Joseph J Morrow, CVO, CBE, KC, FRSE  
Lord Dean of Guild of the City of Dundee

# Guildry Charity Dinner

## Friday 14 March - City Chambers

by Jim Pickett

We are well on our way with the organisation of this dinner with 72 of the 80 available places already booked. This highly prestigious event has attracted a lot of interest in the venue and, our guest speaker on the evening is the Right Honourable Lord Robertson of Port Ellen KT. GCMG. PC., who is not only one of the most eminent politicians in the

UK but is also renowned as a great orator with amazing ability to captivate his audience through his engaging personality, wisdom and humour.

This dinner was previously known as the Guildry Ladies Dinner and our last one held on Friday 11 October 2019 was in the Apex Hotel, as the City Chambers were being refurbished. The previous dinner in the City Chambers was held on Friday 23 March 2018. Both these dinners were fully supported, and our guests really enjoyed the events.



Right Honourable Lord Robertson

The dinner this year serves a dual purpose. We are working to re-engage with all the Guildry members and involve you all going forward. The second is the need to raise some funds. The world has changed out there, and the Guildry needs to change its direction slightly. The dinner will be a step in this direction. We are very thankful to the Lord Provost and the City's hospitality in achieving this.

Already this year the letter sent from Lord Dean of Guild, Joe Morrow before the end of 2024 has been successful in raising over a £1000 from Guildry Members and this will greatly assist the expansion of the Schools Enterprise Competition, which we run.

More events are planned during 2025 of which we will keep you updated.

The members engagement in our journey is really, important and we look forward to your assistance.

# Dates for the Diary

## Friday 14th March

GUILDRY CHARITY DINNER  
*City Chambers*

## Wednesday 14th May

ASSESSORS MEETING  
*City Chambers Committee Room*

## \*May - July

GUILDRY SUMMER EVENT  
Details to be announced

## Sunday 25th May

KIRKIN' OF THE GUILDRY  
*St Mary's Parish Church*

## Friday 27th June

ASSESSORS COUNTRY MEETING  
*R&A Golf Club, St Andrews*

## Wednesday 13th August

ASSESSORS MEETING  
*City Chambers Committee Room*

## Wednesday 15th October

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
*City Chambers Committee Room*

## \*Nov/December

GUILDRY WINTER/CHRISTMAS EVENT  
Details to be announced

## Wednesday 12th November

ASSESSORS MEETING  
*City Chambers Committee Room*

*\*Social and Fundraising Committees are currently formulating plans for Summer and Winter Events for all members to enjoy with partners and friends- watch this space for further information.*

# Guildry Bursaries “Life Changing”

By Prof. Malcolm Horner

For over thirty years, the University of Dundee’s Access Summer School has offered a pathway for thousands of talented students whose background or circumstance might otherwise obstruct their route to a university education.

The programme offers an alternative way of qualifying for entry to university and prepares aspiring students for study. The free, five-week programme offers both an online and an on-campus programme that provides students with the tools and support they need to reach their full academic potential, opening doors to a future full of exciting possibilities. Since 2020, 73% of Access Summer School students have gone on to study

at the University of Dundee. The same percentage (73%) of students come from areas in Q1 or Q2 on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, which are the most deprived areas in Scotland.

The Guildry has been proud to support two students who successfully graduated from the Access Summer School with annual bursaries of £3000 throughout their degree programmes. The first, Mia Williams graduated with a 2(i) honours degree in Psychology in June 2024. Mia said:

*“The highlight for me has really been gaining the*

*scholarship from the Guildry Incorporation of Dundee. I would like to say thank you so much for being so supportive and helpful throughout my studies. I am eternally grateful for all they have done for me.”*

The second, Charlie O’Neill started her studies in September 2022, but suffered unforeseen and unforeseeable severe domestic problems which prevented her completing her second year successfully. The Guildry is continuing to support her endeavours to the completion of her course.

We hope that all members of the Guildry feel the sense of satisfaction that comes from the knowledge that we have changed someone’s life for the better and for good.



Above: Access Summer School Graduation



# 2025 | Schools' Enterprise Project

By Brian Cram



## Calling all Guildry Members -

### The Dundee Primary Schools Enterprise Project needs you!

**Now in its 16th year, the Dundee Primary Schools Enterprise Project has been one of the most successful initiatives undertaken by the Dundee Guildry. It dynamically blends the immense business experience and business talents of Guildry members with the development needs of young pupils at P6/7 level in primary schools. Pupils at this age are highly receptive and very keen to learn about the world of work.**



guided by Guildry mentors, donating any proceeds to a charity of their choice. The aim is to give the children the chance to develop a wide range of skills such as negotiation; judgement and decision making; creative arts and marketing skills; people management and, above all, team working.

With modest capital provided by the Guildry (£150 this year), each class conceives, develops and delivers a business initiative,

Applications are currently rolling in from many schools and we need a minimum of at least 12 + Guildry mentors who will adopt a class and coach them through the various stages of work between end February to end April. Fear not, if you have not done this before, as you will be given a briefing by an experienced mentor and the programme can fit around your availability.

Experienced mentor, Bill Barr, comments "It is a win-win experience. The benefits are enormous to both teachers and their pupils who always engage enthusiastically and with unbelievable energy as they see their project through from beginning to end. As a mentor, it is really rewarding and tremendous fun to see both teachers and staff develop as they take on board your recommendations, where required. You can definitely count me in again this year. I would not miss it for the world."

Please join the team of mentors by contacting Brian Cram, Project Co-ordinator at:

**[b.cram@outlook.com](mailto:b.cram@outlook.com)**

or Tel: 07947070264.

**We need you and your talents to continue to make this project a roaring success!**



Stuart King, Clerk

## The Guildry of Dundee Communications Committee *The role of the Clerk*

By Bill W. Barr

The Clerk is second in command to the Lord Dean within its structured leadership system. The role of the Clerk is significant and his duties are extensive.

The Assessor's meet quarterly and these meetings are set and recorded by the Clerk. The Clerk liaises with the Guildry's investment managers to maintain financial prudence. Working with the Lord Dean to organise the Annual Kirkin' of the Guildry, along with the country meetings, dinners and other social functions.

The Clerk is in contact with the City Council, members of the public and others who wish to engage with the Guildry.

Member's details are maintained by the Clerk along with further responsibilities of organising merchandise, attendance at functions and payment of dues.

## The Guildry Website

By Neil Cuthbert

Our first Guildry website went live in 2011, designed by my son Adam, who was in his Masters year at Kings College London. Programming was a hobby, and he kept it simple, keeping the costs at nil, including even the initial hosting and domain name registration. Adam is now a Dundee Guildry Brother and lives in Hong Kong.

As the years passed, the content and software of our site became in need of upgrading to meet the future aims of our organisation, provide greater security that our modern world and allow the integration of social media. Myles Gilmour of Carnoustie Creative was approached to build a new website, simple and modern with core information and links to other organisations and it was relaunched in October 2024.

We have copious versatility to expand the scope of the site including a member's area and links to our archives.

All articles and photographs will be gratefully received by making use of the "contact" button at the bottom of the home page of the website footer.

Visit us at:

[www.guildryofdundee.co.uk](http://www.guildryofdundee.co.uk)







# 26th October 1199 - Dundee's Game of Thrones

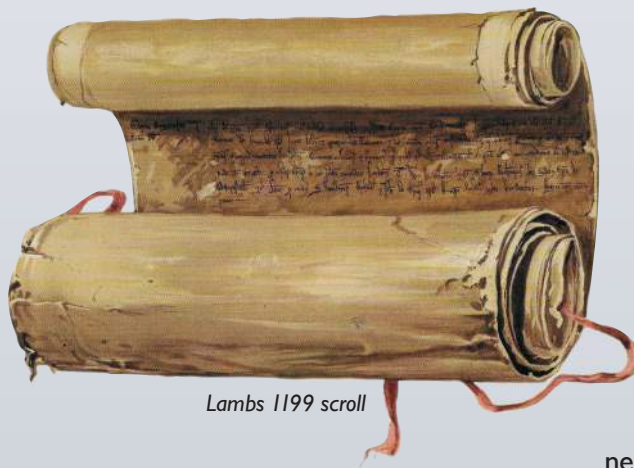
by Iain Flett

The Victorian antiquary A.C. Lamb, in his *Dundee* of 1895, first clocked the Dundee trading grant of 1199 in the parchment rolls in the PRO in London, then had the roll sketched and translated. Dennis F. Collins, former Clerk and later Archivist to the Guildry, then highlighted its octocentenary in 1999.

**John**, by the Grace of God, King,  
**Know** ye that we have given and  
concede and by this our present  
Charter have confirmed to the  
Burgesses of Earl David, brother of the  
King of Scotland, that they may be free  
and quit of toll and of all other dues  
which pertain to us throughout all our  
lands except the City of London...

The original would only have been about 7"x 3"; parchment was valuable and not to be wasted. Our original in the Dundee burgh kist probably got hammered by *Malleus Scotorum* a century later.

King John, known for his later Magna Carta of 1215, had been crowned King of England in May 1199 after his brother Richard *Coeur de Lion*, having survived tussles with Saladin in the Middle East, was felled by a crossbow sniper while besieging a castle in Limousin, Central France. Four months later, in his fortress at Roche Andeley in Normandy, surrounded by top ranking French and English clergy and nobility, John is handing over a major trading grant to David Earl of Huntingdon, brother of King William the Lion of Scotland, known to Scots by his Gaelic nickname *Garbh*, ('The Rough').



Lamb's 1199 scroll

What is going on here? All three, as *Poileas Alba* would say, "had previous history". There was a serious rebellion in 1173/4 against King Henry II of England by three of his sons, his wife Eleanor of Aquitaine, and their rebel supporters, including *Garbh* and brother David. In return *Garbh* would in theory have Northumberland, but in July 1174 he was captured at Alnwick, taken in chains to Newcastle, then to Falaise in Normandy via Northampton and Caen. John, then eight years old, would have chatted amiably to *Garbh* in Norman French, still the language of court today for confirmation of Acts of Parliament with *Le Roy le veult* ("The King wishes it").

Henry then sent an army to occupy Scotland. As ransom and to regain his kingdom, *Garbh* had to acknowledge Henry as his feudal superior and agree to pay for the cost of the English army's occupation at a cost of 40,000 Scottish merks (£26,000 sterling). The economic worth of that sum today would be a minimum of eight figures, and it would have bankrupted Scotland for decades. *Garbh* and Henry negotiated peace on 8th December 1174 at

Valogne in Normandy, the Treaty of Falaise was signed and *Garbh* was then allowed to return to Scotland. On 10th August 1175 he swore fealty to Henry II at York Castle.

The Treaty of Falaise remained in force for the next fifteen years until *Cœur de Lion*,

needing money to take part in the Third Crusade, agreed to terminate it in return for 10,000 silver Scots merks (£6,500 sterling), on 5th December 1189. In 1200, *Garbh* would pay homage for Northumbria, (not for Scotland), to John, apparently to save face.

So. What's going on in this Game of Thrones? Was the charter of 1199 considered an outstanding settlement under the Treaty of Falaise? Or was this an encouragement to *Garbh* to bend the knee the next year? Or was John watching his back and was the charter of 1199 a carrot to two brothers who had tried to ambush his father twenty-five years before? That, dear reader, is for you to decide!