



The Guildry Gazette

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

SPRING 2025

Dear Friends...



I hope that this Newsletter finds you all well. The Assessors and I have been keeping very busy, working hard to maintain the traditions and values that the Guildry supports, not only today but in our past. We have been focused on remembering our origins in the merchants of the City of Dundee and the prosperity that these merchants created, which was centred on helping others within our City.

The way forward, for me, has always been in service and the impact we can make by giving of our time, talents and resources.

In recent years, there has been much discussion in relation to having a strategy for the Guildry Incorporation of Dundee. Strategies are only worth the paper they are written on if they are put into action. At this stage, I wanted to share with you the key elements of our strategy so that you can feed into it if you think there is something that has been missed, or at least reflect on it and support the work that we are trying to do on behalf of the Guildry.

The Guildry's purpose is to maintain and develop civic life within Dundee while continuing to reflect the merchant traditions of the Guildry. Our aims will be to:

- uphold Dundee traditions and inform others of the Guildry's place within its history.
- promote the interests of Dundee and its citizens through strong social, commercial and academics links.
- cultivate our associations with the education departments of Dundee City and The University of Dundee.
- participate in the membership of the Court of Deans of Scotland, and in particular promote the City of Dundee nationally.
- support the Lord Provost and the elected members as required.

Of course, statements are valuable and helpful to move us forward, but the actions that we take are what is really important. One of the major developments for the Guildry is that we now have a number of committees working away in the background, discharging a variety of projects and activities, and the fruits of their work have been invaluable.

For example, this Newsletter comes out of our Communications Committee, who are doing a marvellous job of bringing together all the material and work of the Guildry's activities.

continued...



We also have a Social Events Committee that looks at things which we might be interested in attending so as to further promote the Guildry. You will be aware that we had a very successful dinner in the City Chambers at which Lord Robertson KT spoke. Not only was this one of the most enjoyable evenings I had had for a long time, but it was also a substantial fundraiser to assist in our ongoing Schools Project, which is reported elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The committees are doing an excellent job and we now have what is referred to as “distributed leadership”, with people taking up the leadership role to carry out the work assigned to them within their own particular area of the Guildry, reporting back and seeking support where necessary. For me, this is part and parcel of the traditions of the Guildry, whereby the entrepreneurial skills of the historic merchants are being put into action in a modern entrepreneurial way. Having a look at the Guildry itself, I am very keen to develop a much clearer and appropriate relationship with the Guildry members and to look at how we can recruit good, solid members to continue our work into the future. Should you have any suggestions for persons who may be interested in and suitable for becoming a member of the Guildry, please let our Clerk know, who will raise the matter at our Assessors Meeting.

I am most appreciative of the work of the Nine Trades and the Free Trades and for the growing close relationship we have with these organisations with a common purpose within Dundee. They run a

number of first-class events which are worth attending, and the collaboration between the Guildry and other organisations is one of our strengths and way forward.

In light of one particular aspect of my professional background, it might be expected for me to say that I would be very grateful if you would consider coming to the Kirking of the Guildry in St Mary’s Church, Dundee, at 11am on 25th May 2025. This is a very special part of the Guildry year and it would be most rewarding for all concerned to have a large attendance. Details of the Kirking are also available within this Newsletter.

I wish you well and hope that you still value your Guildry membership, and I look forward to engaging with you. The Assessors and I are keen to see, even in a small way, that the Guildry retains some inspiration in terms of its impact, is confident in our engagement with activities such as the Schools Enterprise Project, and empowering ourselves and others to promote the City of Dundee just as we have done for centuries.

With very best wishes,

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

Guildry Charity Dinner achieves resounding win-win



L to R - Susan Lundie, Alan Lundie (Deacon Convenor of the Three Trades), Ashley Edwards KC, Joe Morrow (Lord Dean of Guild), Lord Robertson of Port Ellen, Frances McMenemy KC, Dr Robert Peat, Silvie Halkenston (Lord Dean of Aberdeen), John Fyffe (Deacon Convenor of the Nine Trades)

The Dundee Guildry Annual Dinner, held in the City Chambers on Friday, 14th March, was both a total sell out and also heralded the appointment of Guest Speaker, the Right Honourable Lord Robertson of Port Ellen, KT, KCMG, PC, as an Honorary Member of the Guildry of Dundee.

Not only was the event thoroughly enjoyed by all attendees, £3654 was also raised to support Guildry charities, currently targeted at improving the welfare and education of local students in the City. Many thanks go to Guildry members and their friends who contributed so generously to the raffle, coordinated by Collector, Jim Pickett, who had also orchestrated and organised the entire evening.

On the evening, wine and drinks were served to guests as they arrived at the Reception, allowing time for Guests to mingle and catch up. The highly talented Tower Beats Group, a University musical sextet, made the atmosphere complete as they played a medley of tunes, both during the reception and the meal.

In welcoming the guests, Joe Morrow, Lord Dean of Guild thanked the Lord Provost and Council Staff for the use of the splendid Council Chambers and to the Committee for organising the event. A particular welcome was accorded to Guest of Honour, Lord Robertson, who had given up his

valuable time during the pressing demands of a busy agenda in his position as Head of the UK Strategic Defence Review.

The Lord Dean affirmed that the Dundee Primary Schools Enterprise Project and the awarding of Bursaries to local Dundee University students in need, were but two of the projects which would be supported from the proceeds of this fundraising evening.

Bishop Andrew Swift delivered an uplifting Grace to lead us into a sumptuous three course meal with wines and coffee, served with true skill and professionalism by staff from the Dundee Rep, under the supervision of Debbie Jackson, Catering Supervisor. The glasses of port rounded off the meal to perfection.

Lord Robertson began his address by *congratulating the Guildry, commenting "The Guildry of Dundee has a tremendous history and stands as a key charitable organisation in the City. It has achieved remarkable success in the community over many years."* He then went on to fondly recall his days as a student at the University of Dundee up to his appointment as University Chancellor. He reminded the audience that, in a period of less than 60 years, the University has established itself as a major seat of learning and a world leading research centre, being awarded UK University of the Year in 2024.

He adeptly used highlights from his eminent career as UK Secretary of Defence and Secretary General of NATO to put current global affairs into perspective but with a warning to be on the alert as changes develop. He humorously ended with a quote from Charlie Chaplin *"I have a great interest in the future. That is where I intend to spend the rest of my life"*.

A genuine and heartfelt Vote of Thanks was given by Lord Dean Elect, Ivor Morton, who also humorously drew the programme to a close by thanking Jim Pickett and his Committee for working so hard over many weeks and to all other contributors who had made the evening such a success.

Guild members, guests et al at the Chairty Dinner within City Chambers



Kirkin' Of The Guildry

Sunday 25th May



Remember the Annual Kirkin' is open to **ALL GUILD MEMBERS** and we'd be delighted to see you there.

We assemble in City Chambers, City Square at 10:00am on the morning of Sunday 25 May and process the short distance to St. Marys' Parish Church where the serve will be conducted by Bishop Andrew Swift.

Dates for the Diary

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, St Andrews

Wednesday 13th August

ASSESSORS MEETING

City Chambers Committee Room

Wednesday 15th October

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

City Chambers Committee Room

Nov/December

WINTER/CHRISTMAS EVENT

Details to be announced



The Guildry Website

By Neil Cuthbert

We have had a website up and running for 15 years and our current, recently revamped version has seen a 300% rise in visitors in the past six months.

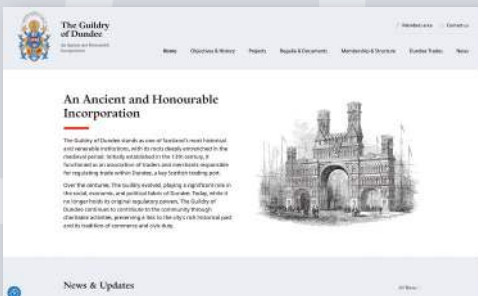
The site is simple and modern, containing core information, reports on our artifacts, news of our activities and links to other organisations.

As usage continues to increase, we will look to expand the site to facilitate such things as booking for events, sales of merchandise and archive our documents.

All contributions to the website are welcome. Just send it to us via the "contact us" link at the footer of the site. No fake news please!

Visit us at:

www.guildryofdundee.co.uk



2025 | Schools' Enterprise Project nears its final stage

By Brian Cram

11 classes from 7 Primary Schools have been beavering away over the last 3 months to complete their individual business projects, under the guidance of Guildry mentors. With modest capital provided by the Guildry i.e. £150, each P6/P7 class has conceived, developed and are in the final stages of delivering a business initiative to raise money for their chosen charity.

The 250 pupils involved have thoroughly enjoyed their new experience and have eagerly lapped up the learnings they have gained from their mentors. Learning through fun has been the order of the day, allowing all members of the class to express their own ideas and develop new skills.

The 7 Primary Schools taking part this year are Ardler, Blackness, Camperdown, Eastern, Glebelands, Rosebank and St. Peter and Pauls, who will submit PowerPoint presentations by 18th May to a panel of Guildry mentors. The top 3 - 4 entries, judged by the panel against an agreed set of criteria, will be invited to a Network Day at 10am on Wednesday, 4th June at Morgan Academy, where they will present their projects to the Lord Dean.

The Guildry Cup, previously donated by Past Dean Howard and the late Mary Price, will be awarded to the winning school and each pupil will be presented with their own personal certificate.



Thanks go to the Mrs Isles Denny Trust for their major funding contribution, to Gregor McBain, Acting Head of Morgan Academy, for accommodating the Network Day event and to the 11 Assessors who so willingly donated their time to guide their classes throughout each stage of the programme.

Assessor Brian Cram, who has coordinated the Primary School Enterprise Project for the last 12 years, said *"The Guildry Incorporation is very pleased to see the obvious enthusiasm and considerable effort shown by the pupils and their teachers in creating amazing new enterprises, guided by their Guildry mentors. The children quickly realise that much more can be achieved by collaboration and working in teams. All pupils have a job and soon begin to understand that they are playing an important part in something which can make a real difference. Our hope is that these projects help the pupils to see the relationship between the subjects they learn in school and the real-life skills they will need as they grow up. It is an honour and privilege to be involved with such a successful project and meet so many enthusiastic pupils and their highly committed teachers"*.

Come and join in the Network Day at 10.00am on Wednesday, 4th June at the Morgan Academy. A good

turnout of Guildry members will show our heartfelt support for the hard work and initiative taken by all participants involved in this great Guildry project.

Dundee's Charter from Robert The Bruce, 1327 by Iain Flett

The burgh of Dundee prospered after King John's grant of 1199 of tariff-free trade with the SE coast of England (excluding London) but this ended when Edward I, *Malleus Scotorum*, claimed feudal suzerainty over Scotland, coupled with invasion, and the ensuing First Scottish War of Independence caused mercantile havoc.

Attempts were nevertheless made to continue trade and income. Sir William Wallace, together with Andrew de Murray, in Haddington in October 1297, wrote to the communities of Lübeck and Hamburg asking that it be proclaimed amongst their merchants that they could have access to all ports of the kingdom of Scotland with their merchandise 'since the kingdom of Scotland, thanks be to God, has by arms been recovered from the power of the English'.

By September 1298, Wallace resigned as Guardian of Scotland in favour of Robert the Bruce, who was crowned king at Scone on 25th March 1306, the medieval Scots New Year (being the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary that she would bear the infant Christ nine months later.) After a period of determined guerrilla warfare, the decisive Battle of Bannockburn was fought on 23–24 June 1314, between Kings Robert and Edward II, son of *Malleus*.

There then followed consolidation, diplomatic and economic. The outstanding diplomatic achievement was the penning by Bernard, Abbot of Aberbrothoc (and Chancellor of Scotland) in 1320 in the *scriptorium* or typing pool of his Abbey of a letter in the finest and eloquent humanist Latin to the court of Pope John XXII. Known colloquially as The Declaration of Arbroath, it

includes the famous lines "It is in truth not for glory, nor riches, nor honours that we are fighting, but for freedom alone, which no honest man gives up but with life itself".

Economic consolidation naturally followed in the encouragement of trade in Dundee, Scotland's second richest burgh. In the City Archives there is an instruction by Robert to the same Abbot Bernard on 22nd

June 1325 to investigate the liberties which

the burgesses had enjoyed in the time of Alexander III, which confirmation was returned three days later on

25th, an incredibly short

turnaround which testifies to an intense royal interest in

income generation. On 20th

October a charter followed

for ground on which to build

a tolbooth, the necessary

machinery to collect cash for

both monarch and his

merchants, and the detailed

Charter of Confirmation charter

was issued on 4th March 1327, in

the presence of Bernard himself

together with his Bishops of St. Andrews,

Glasgow, Moray and Ross, and Hugh Earl of Ross,

James Lord Douglas, Sir Robert Douglas and Sir William Montfichet.

We can assume that the substantial list of rights had already been exercised over the two previous years, such as free harbour, market and fairs which had been enjoyed in the reign of Alexander III 'as fully as the burgesses of Berwick hold'. (Occupied Berwick is Scotland's oldest burgh, formed in the early 12th century by King David I.) No foreign merchants coming within the said sheriffdom of Forfar should trade with any but the burgesses of Burgh of Dundee 'under our high displeasure', in other words, a most unwise thing to do. You didn't mess with The Brus!

The Guildry can now start planning its sept centennial confirmation in two years' time...



Guildry Ties & Cufflinks

Many Guildry members have asked how to purchase the impressive Guildry ties and cuff links which sport the Guildry crest on the tie and the Guildry emblem on the cufflinks.

You can contact Stuart King using the order form below and he will be delighted to fulfil your order by return.



Guildry Tie (Blue & Yellow Stripe with Guildry Crest)	Quantity	Total
Unit Price: £20.00	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Guildry Tie (Blue & Yellow Stripe with Guildry Crest)		
Unit Price: £10.00	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Total:		<input type="text"/>

Your name:

Date of order:

Delivery address/Collection:

Guildry Bank Details:

Account Name: The Guildry Incorporation of Dundee
Sort Code: 80-73-31
Account No: 00718386

Please send your completed order form to either of the following: email: stuart.king@blackadders.co.uk

or by post to: Stuart King, Blackadders LLP, 10 Euclid Crescent, Dundee DDI 1AG