



# The Guildry Gazette

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

AUTUMN 2025

## From The Lord Dean...

I hope that this Newsletter finds you well. I want to personally thank you all for the support you have given to the Guildry in the last 3 years while I have been Lord Dean.

It has been a great honour to be your Lord Dean and to have followed the late Scott Williamson, whose working knowledge of the Guildry and its history was second to none. I am not one to write on past reflections of "office", as my direction has always been to look forward into the future and to embrace the change and developments which help ensure the survival of organisations and societies.

An old friend of mine, who is a senior black belt in the karate movement in Scotland and is still practising his karate in his eighties, recently gave me a dragonfly brooch, which I wear with great delight. I had been wearing this brooch for several months before asking him "Why the dragonfly?" He told me it is an insect that can only either hover or move forward, but cannot fly backwards, and he reminded me that this is the way in which I and indeed all of us should operate our lives.

In my early days as Lord Dean, we were just emerging from the cloud of Covid 19 and enjoying both a great sense of relief but also the sense of the need to regroup – to "hover" a little and see what could be the way forward and in which direction we should go.


As we grew in post Covid confidence, we began to talk about how to move forward. Many of the Assessors and a small group of members got together to "hover" and look at our own Guildry in this modern age and at how we could base the way forward on the "merchant traditions".

We committed ourselves to uphold Dundee traditions and the place of the Guildry in the life of our City. We committed ourselves to be associated with the Education Department of the Council and with the universities of Dundee, and to develop a sense of our City's history through charitable giving. We also committed ourselves to membership of the Court of Deans of Scotland, to fly the flag for Dundee within a Scottish context.

Once we had completed our "hovering", we moved forward. As a Guildry, we have been engaged with the City Council and the Lord Provost, the Nine Trades and the Free Trades, the Churches and many other societies and activities to promote our City and our Guildry aims. All this is about carrying forward the knowledge and values of our City.

I have grown in my personal understanding of how the values under which we operate are essential to the success of any organisation or any individual.

The Schools Enterprise Project, headed by Brian Cram, is a most excellent programme, which engages our young people with the ideas of



business and enterprise. The work of all the Guildry members in this Project is exceptional and is regarded by the young people and schools themselves as highly productive.

The classes that take part in the Project from our many primary schools “get it”, and when we hear them speak about their working together in relation to marketing and finance, product testing, feedback and management, it fills those of us who listen with a sense of pride at the high quality of our young people in Dundee, which we need to encourage and nurture.

Our work with Dundee University and the law bursaries is again a practical leg up for those who work in this area. It is clear from the reports we receive that the young people who benefit from these bursaries have high levels of skill and ambition and contemplate their future within our City.

Another question from our “hovering” stage was about the engagement we have with our Guildry membership and activities. The events we hold throughout the year can be variably attended, but we particularly have a sense that the most successful events include a good lecture or a hospitable meal around the table at which people can participate in the great gift of enjoyment.

Thank you for all your support and for the hard work of the volunteers who make these things happen within the Guildry.

We are also still “hovering” or thinking about how to engage more fully with our members, so keep a close eye on this aspect, which I believe will soon take off once the newly set up committees start work on their next steps.

All of your work has been so effective and needs to continue to be done collaboratively: working together alongside those with whom we have a common interest. The relationships that we develop demonstrate the values which we would like to have within our own cities and communities.

As a Guildry, we have received so many kindnesses from a range of bodies and organisations such as trusts, but also from organisations such as St Mary’s Church, Dundee, and the Dundee High School. Thanks go to all those concerned in the engagement and support of the Guildry from other bodies.

The work of the Office Bearers and Assessors, too, earns our appreciation and thanks.

Finally, I wish Ivor Morton, who is the Lord Dean Elect, all the best wishes for his future office, and I look forward to working with him.

I listened recently on morning television to a young woman who spoke about her commitment to “intentionally enjoying life”. I am of the view that there is a considerable will amongst members of the Guildry to be purposeful in enjoying our Guildry activities, and I commend this way forward to you.

Upwards and onwards,

With very best wishes,



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

# Dates for the Diary

## 11th September

Film: "Children of the City"  
Steps Theatre

## 15th October

Guildry AGM and Lecture

## October (Date TBA)

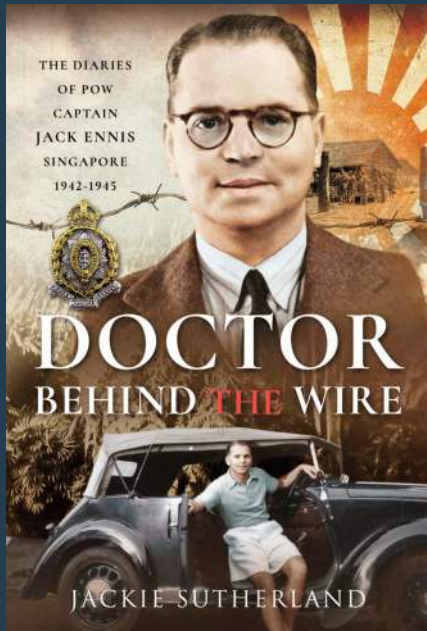
Court of Deans of Guilds of  
Scotland Autumn Meeting

## 12th November

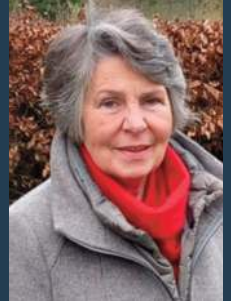
Assessors Meeting

## December (Date TBA)

Guildry Carol Service



## 2025 Dundee Guildry AGM and Lecture “Doctor Behind the Wire”



### Wednesday 15th October

City Chambers Committee Room

The Dundee Guildry AGM will feature both the handover of the chain of office of Lord Dean from Joe Morrow to Ivor Morton - a special event in the Guildry calendar only occurring every three years - allowing us to thank Joe for his proactive and dynamic leadership during his tenure and welcome Ivor to his new role.

The AGM will be followed on with an illuminating lecture from speaker Jackie Sutherland on the topic of “Doctor behind the wire”, drawing on the diaries of her late father, Captain Jack Ennis, who was imprisoned by the Japanese in the Second World War.

15th August was VJ Day and to mark the 80 years since the Second World War finally ended in the Far East, we have the honour and privilege of listening to a speaker who is able to illustrate the events so far from home and cover very different aspects of those times.

Both Jackie’s parents were interned by the Japanese. Her father, a Medical Officer and Pathologist, was captured in Singapore and endured a sentence of three and a half years that included daily struggles, deprivation and tragedy but also ingenuity, great friendship and humour.

Drinks and canapes/ finger buffet will be served after the lecture, with the compliments of the Guildry and City Chambers. Please confirm your attendance and numbers to the Clerk, Stuart King, at [stuart.king@blackadders.co.uk](mailto:stuart.king@blackadders.co.uk) or via **01382 229222**.

This will be an evening to remember and we look forward to seeing you at this great event.



# Blackness Primary School win the Dundee Guildry Primary Schools Enterprise cup



The 2025 Dundee Guildry Primary Schools Enterprise Competition was another rip roaring success with 11 classes from 7 Primary Schools taking part. In the months before the summer break, they beavered away to set up new business enterprises, with the aim of raising money for local charities. 250 pupils from Ardler, Blackness, Camperdown, Eastern, Glebelands, Rosebank and St. Peter and Paul's RC Primary Schools all thoroughly enjoyed the experience of tackling a new set of challenges in teams, bringing out innate talents which they never knew they had. Now in its 16th year, the Dundee Primary Schools

Four finalists congregated at the Morgan Academy to present their team projects to the judges - Lord Dean of Guild and Brian Cram, ably supported by audio engineer, Bob Main who ironed out all technical issues on the day. Winning this year's Dundee Guildry Enterprise Cup, Class 6B at Blackness Primary School created and developed a new business called Fruit Fanatics, offering a wide range of fruit ice lollies, ice poles, fruit cups, smoothies and fruit kebabs. Trading to parents, friends and other school pupils, the business made £1070 profit over a 3 week period, which will be donated in full to the MacMillan Cancer Research charity.



Lord Dean of Guild presents the Dundee Guildry Primary Schools Enterprise Cup to pupils of Class 6B, Blackness Primary School, and Class Teacher, Matthew Pound (first right).

Class Teacher, Matthew Pound, said "I was delighted to have won the Guildry business project with my class. We had a terrific time getting involved and immersing ourselves in the roles and practises of business. Class pupils have learned life long skills and work practices while growing their own confidence to run projects themselves!"

Joe Morrow, Lord Dean of Guild said "It is so brilliant to see the energy and enthusiasm shown by all the teams of pupils involved, as they apply their learning and support each other to achieve a common goal. It is hard to believe that the quality of research, preparation and delivery of such highly creative projects has been achieved by primary school pupils. They have raised thousands of pounds for charity through their talent, commitment and ingenuity. This definitely bodes well for the future of the City of Dundee."

Enterprise Project was once again coordinated by Guildry Assessor Brian Cram, supported by a team of Guildry business mentors. Each P6 and P7 class was provided with £150 to conceive, develop and deliver a business initiative, under the guidance of their Guildry mentor. The initiative provided an opportunity for children to develop a wide range of skills including negotiating, judgement and decision making, marketing and design, finance, people management and above all, teamwork.

Well done to Brian, the team of Guildry mentors and all the schools involved for making this year's event such a triumph. Plans are already under way for 2026 to extend the reach of this brilliant initiative to even more Dundee Primary Schools, which will require more Guildry mentors. Please join the team and enjoy sharing your talents with a class of very eager and willing young pupils, ready to learn. You definitely won't regret it!

# Your Guildry still Needs You!

Guildry members may remember, that in May of this year, we sent out a questionnaire seeking your views on the types of event that, as a member of the Guildry, you would find appealing.

This short article presents the results of the survey.

First, a huge “thank you” to the 22 members sent us replies, 16 of whom were Assessors. The scores for each question are provided below.

## Scores

The average scores out of a maximum 5 were:

Spring event: Formal dinner at a prestigious venue with high profile speaker	4.4
Christmas event: Carol service with mince pies and seasonal refreshments	3.9
Summer Event - BBQ	3.2
Other social event: Quiz night	2.9
Trip to Loch Katrine with dinner	2.7
Edinburgh Tattoo with dinner	2.3

## Comments

A précis of additional comments we received is provided below, with apologies to the authors if we have misrepresented them.

- 1 Informal social event with sit down buffet to coincide with Lord Dean's handover and at which the new Lord Dean would be introduced to members.
- 2 Make the AGM a draw for new members by arranging targeted invitations, an engaging speaker, and “a few drinks”.
- 3 Guided tour of Dundee and Broughty Ferry followed by an informal meal.
- 4 Visits to DJCAD and the University of Dundee.

## Conclusions

Whilst the response rate from the 140 or so members of the Guildry was disappointing, there is clear support for a formal dinner at a prestigious venue with a high profile speaker. There is also support for a Carol Service with seasonal refreshments (whatever they may be).

The social committee is bending its collective mind to how these two events can best be delivered together with any other recommendations.

**WATCH THIS SPACE!**

## The Guildry Website

By Neil Cuthbert

At the AGM, our new website marks its first anniversary.

### What's new?

A link to current and past Guildry Gazette editions is available in the footer - click [HERE](#) to view.

### International interest:

Over the past year, the site was searched 328 times via Google or Bing, mainly from the UK, with some visits from Europe, Asia, Australasia, and South America. Notably, China made up 7% of searches, the USA 3%, and Canada and Australia 1% each. There were no searches from New Zealand.

### Help!

All image and text contributions to the website are welcomed. Please help keep the content updated and improved. Suggestions and comments are appreciated.

Visit us at:

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



# An introduction the Guildry's newest members

Ray Edwards and Lorna Christine are two of our newest members in the Dundee Guildry and bring with them a wealth of experience, knowledge and vitality. They have penned a few personal details about themselves so that we get to know them better.

## Ray Edwards

Dundee born, bred and educated. On leaving school, I served my apprenticeship as an Industrial Heating Engineer which gave me the perfect grounding for a career with British Steam Specialities, lasting almost 34 years.



I lost my wife to cancer some 20 years ago and have two daughters - I'm also the very proud grandfather to four granddaughters.

I have been involved with the Boys Brigade since joining as a Life Boy some seventy years ago and still

Treasurer/ Secretary to the 30th Company in Dundee. I served as vice-president of the Dundee YMCA for a few years before their winding up towards the end of the 1990's. A Trustee with Turning Point, I was also a leading social care provider in Scotland serving 2x4 year terms and served as Chair of their Audit and Risk Committee. I have been a volunteer and Trustee for 15 years with Books Abroad a charity based in Aberdeenshire which recycles text books from schools in Scotland to educational institutions in Third World countries, mainly in Africa and Asia.

As an Engineer, I was invited to join the Hammerman incorporation in the 1980's and elected Boxmaster and Deacon in the 1990's. I was elected Collector of the Nine Incorporated Trades of Dundee and in 2023 as Deacon Convener and served a two year term of duty. In that same year 2023, I was selected by committee to be Dundee Citizen of the Year and was fortunate to support the Lord Provost at a number of civic events.

## Lorna Christine

Lorna Christine is a Partner in the private client team at Blackadders based in Dundee. A graduate of Glasgow University, Lorna trained and practised in Edinburgh before making the move north to Dundee. She has specialised in private client work since qualification over



20 years ago and gives advice on all areas of private client including wills, powers of attorney, administration of estates, inheritance tax planning and creation and administration of trusts.

She sits as a Trustee on a number of charitable trusts, is a board member of Tenovus Tayside & North East Fife. A former module organiser and tutor on the Diploma in Legal Practice at Dundee University, she is a former examiner for the Society of Trust & Estate Practitioners. As a regular presenter for CCPD Seminars, she regularly presents webinars to the profession on a variety of topics including trusts and succession planning.

Lorna is originally from the small village of Kilbarchan in Renfrewshire and now lives in Broughty Ferry. She has two teenage daughters who keep her busy. She was a keen silversmith until a few years ago and her goal for this year is to get back into this.



# Dundee's Royal Charter of 1327 - the detail

by Iain Flett



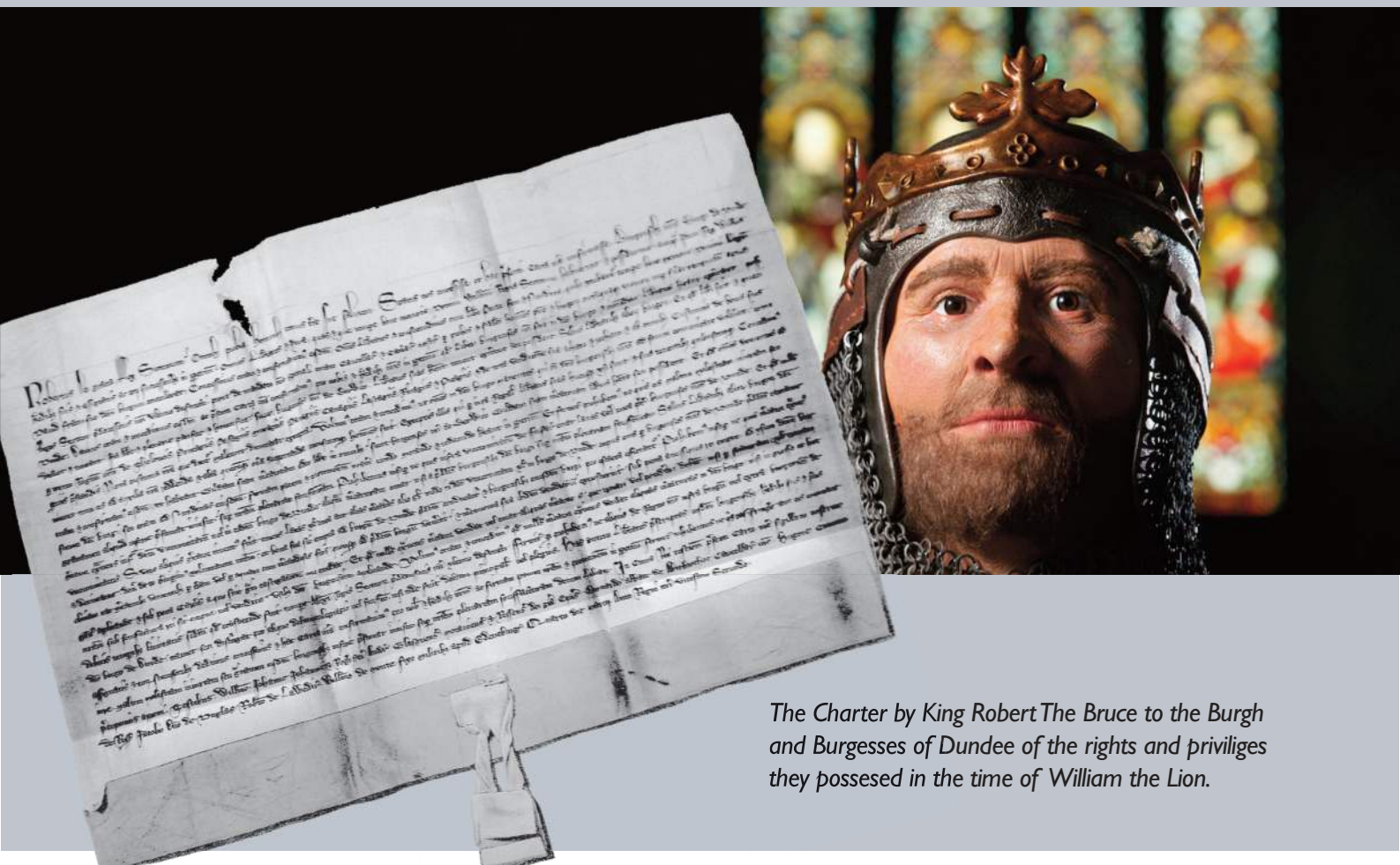
**Robert the Bruce's charter to Dundee was issued in Edinburgh on 14th March 1327, in the presence of Abbot Bernard, creator of The Declaration of Arbroath. It survived the English naval bombardment of 1547 and General Monck's sack of 1651 and is safe in the City Archives at 14 City Square. It is so rich in mercantile detail that it is worth unpacking.**

It started with the egalitarian greeting of "Robertus dei gracia Rex Scotorum" (King of Scots) whereas his young contemporary across the border, Edward III, was styled "Edwardus dei gratia Rex Anglie..." (King of England...)

The introduction itself is fascinating, "granting all liberties and rights... in the time of William (1st; 1165 – 1214) ... before... William had conferred the said burgh on his brother David (Earl of Huntingdon)". That means that Dundee had royal trading rights before 1191, the year picked for our lavish birthday party eight hundred years later. 1191 was 137 years before 1327, and for us 137 years ago would be 1888 in Queen Victoria's reign (i.e., accessible in family tradition), so we can rely on this as being accurate.

Knowing that the burgh kist with prior charters would have been burnt or stolen by Proud Edward, there followed a confirmation of the rights enjoyed during Alexander III (1249-86), being customs, free harbour, market and fairs.

Berwick-upon-Tweed, Scotland's first and oldest royal burgh before its English occupation in 1482, was founded by King David I before 1153. The principal grant by Robert was that the burgesses of Dundee "shall enjoy... their privileges... as our burgesses of Berwick have... and that they may be... exempt over our kingdom from tolls, pontages, ferries, pier dues... and petty customs on their goods...". Quite clearly was added "We grant also and confirm to the same their merchant's guild, ('Gildam suam mercatorum') as freely as ever our burgesses of Berwick have and enjoy theirs". Although there would have been a merchant body to organise trade before David of Huntingdon in 1191, and one to administer King John's grant of 1199, this can be taken as the royal foundation of a merchant Guildry in Dundee. Planning can now start for a septicentennial birthday on Sunday 14th March 2027!



The Charter by King Robert The Bruce to the Burgh and Burgesses of Dundee of the rights and privileges they possessed in the time of William the Lion.

Robert proceeded to grant Dundee a monopoly of the lucrative wool and skin trade in Angus; “We likewise prohibit any one within the sheriffdom of Forfar from buying up wool or skins except burgesses of Dundee; and that no foreign merchant coming within the said sheriffdom and burgh shall trade with any but the burgesses of said burgh under our high displeasure. And if any merchant is found buying wool or skins otherwise within said sheriffdom or burgh, his person may be seized and detained by our burgesses of Dundee until our pleasure is known concerning him, and his goods taken to the said burgh and held as forfeited to the said burgesses. Moreover, we forbid foreign merchants disposing of goods brought by land or sea until they shall have first landed and exposed them in the burgh for sale, under pain of imprisonment and forfeiture of the goods to the burgesses; and no foreign merchant shall buy or sell any merchandise which ought to be measured or weighed but by the steelyard or measure at the Tron, under forfeiture of the commodities, to be applied to the uses of the said burgesses... also... grant that no foreign merchant be permitted to sell any goods within said burgh otherwise than wholesale, and that within prescribed seasons, as was the custom in the time of... Alexander (III)”. ‘Prescribed seasons’ probably referred

to the common-sense tradition of avoiding the treacherous North Sea in wintertime, as remembered in the traditional poem Sir Patrick Spens.

**‘O wha is this has duin this deed  
An tauld the king o me,  
Tae send us out, at this time o year,  
Tae sail abuin the sea?’**

The terrifying mortal prospect of invoking ‘the high displeasure’ of The Brus was followed in a more recognisable financial levy in the final paragraph; “henceforth prohibiting from unjustly infringing, opposing or evading the enjoyment of (privileges) by the said burgesses, under the full penalty of ten pounds.” Ten pounds Scots in 1327 was roughly equivalent to five shillings (£0.25) sterling. The approximate labour value of £0.25 sterling of 1327 today is about £5,000, so the merchant body of Dundee had lots of fire power to deter interlopers!