



# The Guildry Gazette

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

SPRING 2026

## Calling all Guildry members

The year ahead offers us many opportunities to enjoy our membership of the Guildry to the full. We aim to engage in a programme which is socially and charitably active and with a clear purpose, involving as many Guildry members as possible. Your attendance and participation in Guildry events will provide you with more enjoyment from your membership and deliver success for the Guildry in the process.

### **OPEN TO ALL**

*Friday, 17th April (Daytime)*  
- Court of Deans of the Guilds of Scotland  
at the Merchants Hall, Edinburgh.

This auspicious occasion will provide members with insights into how other Guildries operate in Scotland and learn more about the history of the Guildry in the historic setting of the Merchants Hall. Come and join our group from Dundee. You would be very welcome to attend. Lunch provided and transport to/from the event will be coordinated. Please contact the Clerk, Stuart King for more details.





**Sunday, 7th June**  
**- Kirkin of the Guildry at Dundee Parish Church St. Mary's.**

The Kirkin' is an age old tradition offering the opportunity for members and their families to worship together with other civic bodies at St. Mary's Kirk. Hosted in the City Chambers with refreshments before and after the service, members will process between the Chambers and the Kirk, following the custom of days gone by.

A separate announcement will follow to engage as many members as possible in this great event.

**Wednesday, 13th May, 19th August, 11th November**  
**- Quarterly Assessors Meetings.**

All Guildry members are welcome and encouraged to attend Assessors Meetings held in the City Chambers at 1.00pm on specific Wednesdays. Members can observe proceedings and contribute views to enrich the decision making process made by the Assessors. Please advise the Clerk, Stuart King, in advance so that numbers can be accommodated.

**May/June (Date TBC)**  
**- Annual Dinner.**

Jim Pickett and the Social Committee are putting together the final touches to the planning of an Annual Dinner in the City Chambers, featuring a keynote speaker and musical entertainment, aimed at making

this a memorable occasion for members, families and friends.

The Committee will also be engaged in planning an extra-special event for 2027, to commemorate the 700th Anniversary of the granting of the Charter to the Guildry of Dundee.

**Informal Get Togethers**

- Across the year, members will be invited to some Informal Get Togethers over a drink or coffee so that we enjoy each others company in a relaxed setting and find out a little more about the Guildry and its rich heritage. We truly look forward to seeing you on these occasions.

We will strive to create more opportunities for members to become further involved in the future of our great organisation and I look forward to meeting up with you on these occasions.

Ivor Morton, Lord Dean



# Schools Enterprise Project 2025-2026 Update

by Brian Cram

The Enterprise Project for Session 2025-2026 is well underway. We have 13 classes from 9 Primary Schools taking part. The response for the request for mentors was very encouraging and we would like to thank those who are carrying out this important task. They are our USP of this project, I'll bet most of them have never thought of themselves as a USP, but their involvement adds a massive dose of realism for the pupils.

The initial timeline has been extended to allow the projects to be completed within a timeframe that suits the schools. We have also broadened the remit slightly to include using the project to provide internal benefits to the school community.

If they want to be part of the competition, and have a chance to win The Guildry Cup that was presented by ex Lord Dean Howard Price, they will have to provide a presentation for all the mentors to judge, by early May. This will allow us to decide who are the top 4 classes and invite them to show everyone their project on the Network Day that is to be held at 10am in Morgan Academy on Thursday 4th June. The Hall is a very impressive building and all Guildry members are invited to come along to watch the youngsters show how they tackled their project. There will be a free packed lunch provided for everyone and you should be away from the school by about 12.30pm.



2025 Primary 6 team from Eastern Primary School

# An introduction the Guildry's newest members

Alexander Garty and Musheer Hussain 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.

## Alexander Garty LVO



I was born in 1947 and brought up in Tipperary, Lochee. I joined the Army in February 1966 training as an aircraft technician on helicopters and light aircraft. I served initially in Muscat and the Trucial States before being posted to Germany.

Whilst on leave in Dundee in 1971, I met my wife Maureen and were married two years later setting up home in Hampshire.

In 1975 I was posted to Germany from where I was deployed to Ulster for a short tour. I left the Army in 1978 and began training with the Metropolitan Police and was posted to North London and in due course completed specialised training as a counter terrorist search officer.

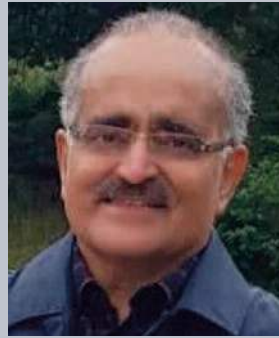
In 1992 I joined the uniformed branch of Royalty Protection at Buckingham Palace. Whilst at the Palace I specialised in medical training and became part of the training and planning team. I was involved in contingency planning at the Palace and assisted with completing briefing packs for the Royal Funerals, known as Bridge Planning.

I retired from the police in December 2008 and was recruited into the Royal Household as the Queen's Transport Manager in 2009.

Awarded the MVO in 2014, made a Freeman of the City of London in 2020, retired in 2021 during COVID.

I was recalled to duty in September 2022 to plan and administer the Scottish part of HM The Queen's return to London following her death at Balmoral Castle. Thereafter I returned to Dundee and was awarded the LVO by HM The King.

## Musheer Hussain



I am retired Ear Nose and Throat Consultant and Professor at the University of Dundee and Ninewells Hospital, Dundee. Born in Pakistan, I trained at London, Edinburgh and Leeds and did my sub-speciality (Otolaryngology) Fellowship at Ann Arbor Michigan, USA. I have expertise in surgery for hearing

and balance and in diseases of the ear. I have published over a hundred peer reviewed papers and three textbooks on my subject. I am Emeritus Editor of the Journal of Otolaryngology, Cambridge and Past President of the Section of Otolaryngology at Royal Society of Medicine, London. My most important achievement and one I am truly proud of, is that the Otolaryngology (Surgery for hearing and balance service) within the ENT Department at Ninewells Dundee is second to none in Scotland and will remain so for the next 15-20 years.

After retiring, I read history at St Andrews and earned an MLitt degree, an experience I greatly appreciated. This has fostered a lasting interest in research and writing on the subject. I also did voluntary work for the NHS Tayside for last 5 years to do with appraising Consultant colleagues as part of the regulatory requirement of medical practitioners. I served in rural Nepal during ear surgery, with BRINOS, The British Nepal Otolaryngology Service based in Guildford.

I am a member of The Rotary Club of Dundee where I have served in various positions and The Bakers section of the Nine Trades of Dundee where I serve as a member of council. I have been a Trustee for the TWJ Foundation London, and the Journal of Otolaryngology, Cambridge. I married Samina, a physician and we have two grown up children.

# Carols by Candlelight celebrated with The University of Dundee

On December 14th, 2025, more than 50 Guildry members and friends joined the University of Dundee in a Candlelight Christmas Carol Service which packed the beautiful and majestic setting of St. Paul's Cathedral.

Led by the University Chaplain, Dr. Fiona Douglas, and supported by both the Dundee University Choir and the University Chamber Choir; the congregation engaged in an uplifting medley of carols to herald the spirit of Christmas. Seven lessons related to the events surrounding the Birth of Christ were read by the Lord Dean along with University staff and students.

The Guildry contributed sets of LED flameless candles to St. Pauls in keeping with Health and Safety regulations prohibiting traditional candles during the service.

Following the service, 31 members of the Guildry party repaired to Don Michele Restaurant, where delicious food and warm hospitality were enjoyed by all. Special thanks go to Jim Pickett for organising the meal to round off this excellent event, one we aim to make a regular feature in our Guildry Calendar.



# The Merchant's Mark

by Iain Flett

**At each Kirkin' of the Guildry members have filed past the banner bearing the Merchant's Mark, denoting the long connection of the Guildry with St Mary's church. Queen Mary referred to this connection in her licence of 1564 to the burgh to use the Greyfriars' garden as a burial place (now The Howff), noting her concern that the stench of the oozing over-burial of St Mary's "kirkyarde...is situate in the myddis thair of quhairin the common traffique of merchandis is usit".**

Sometimes referred to as 'The Sign of Four' it can be found in the Howff on memorials of merchants, such as that of Henry Orme in 1739 (#1) and Robert Bruce in 1748. (#2). It can also still be found on some long-standing merchant goods such as my emptying bottle of Taylor's Port. (#3).

One is that it stood for the *Quatuor Coronati*, Latin for the four Romans who were martyred for their Christianity. One version is that they were stonemasons, (and so still figure as the name of a freemasonic lodge dedicated to historical research), whereas the other is also unable to name them but



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

So where did this symbol originate? I'm grateful for the research carried out by my predecessor Innes Duffus, who established that there are a range of possibilities.

that they were soldiers who refused to recognise the Roman god Aesculapius.

Their remains were interred in the predecessor of the 12th century basilica and Augustinian convent in Rome, now known in Italian as *Santi Quattro Coronati*.



Figure 4

Another suggestion is that the mark came from a stylised form of the *Agnus Dei* banner (lamb holding flag (#4) symbolising Christ carrying the banner of victory over death. In the same way that the pre-reformation Blessed Virgin Mary has survived as the post-reformation Madonna Lily in the current Dundee Coat of Arms, it may have been a means for Scottish merchants to continue their link with *Agnus Dei* after John Knox. Innes pointed out that the Latin liturgy of *Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis* (Lamb of God, Who taketh away the sins of the world, have mercy on us), may well have pricked a mercantile conscience or two...

A third possibility is that it represented a set of handheld scales for measuring valuable small quantities, such as gold, silver and spices.

We will end with a fourth (Scott Williamson's personal favourite) in that it represented a successful ship in sail bearing away your exports or returning with your imports. Scott pointed out that the further twist of a reverse 'Sign of Four', as used by the Stirling Guildry (#5) is not a problem. A branding iron to burn The Four into leather or onto the cover of a bale of cloth would have to be in reverse.

Which leads us neatly to the purpose of this symbol, the universally recognised Trade Mark of Early Modern Britain and Europe. It represented ownership of the seller as well as a guarantee of its quality. The Dean and his assessors would have had to sort out any complaints about quality if the buyer traced the mark backwards. It was an original form of Quality Control!



Figure 5

# The Gazette Quiz - Answers

by Ian Milne



**1** Built 1865-1866, the ornamental brickwork on this Dundee landmark can be seen from miles around. Can you name the structure?



**2** Although born in Aberdeen this lady, when aged 11, moved to Dundee with her parents in 1859. Can you name her?



**3** Can you name the occupier of this well known Dundee business from its entrance?



**4** This statue is sited within Central Park, New York. Who is it and where can its identical twin be found in Dundee?



**5** This 1991 video game character was developed in Dundee. What were these characters collectively called?



**6** Dating to 1863 these spectacular gates are the entrance to what in Dundee?



**7** A series of these Art Nouveau windows have adorned this well known Dundee hostelry for decades. Name the venue by its "proper" name.



**8** Name this famous Dundonian and the palatial Greek Revival house he built, at the time on the outskirts of Dundee, and which stills stands today.



**9** Pictured here, nearing its completion in 1890, this once iconic Dundee landmark was demolished in 1965. What was it? - it's purpose / the building's name.



**10** This man, born in 1782, operated as a bookseller, printer and newspaper publisher in Dundee but what was his name and for what was he famed for?

## AND THE WINNER IS...



Randomly drawn from the selection of correct answers, the winner of the December quiz was David Adam seen here being presented with the prize from the Lord Dean.

## ANSWERS

- 1 Cox's Stack, Lochee: - the tallest surviving example of an industrial chimney in Scotland.
- 2 Mary Slessor: - Scottish Presbyterian missionary to Nigeria.
- 3 D.C. Thomson, 2 Albert Square, Dundee.
- 4 Robert Burns - Unveiled in Albert Square, Dundee, in 1880.
- 5 "Lemmings": A computer game developed in Dundee in early 1990's.
- 6 The Arbroath Road entrance to Baxter Park.
- 7 The Speedwell Bar, Perth Road, Dundee...more commonly known as "Mennies".
- 8 Admiral Adam Duncan, 1st Viscount Duncan: Camperdown House.
- 9 Dundee West Railway Station: demolished 1966.
- 10 James Chalmers, inventor of the adhesive postage stamp.