



Omnia Subjecisti sub Pedibus Oves et Boves

CARNIFEX *

The Newsletter of the York Butchers' Gild

Left: Butchers' Guild sign,
Český Krumlov,
Czech Republic

in tempo Domini
D. R. Clapham

editio **XXIII**
vernus **MMXIV**

Gird Up Your Loins – 2014 is Waggon Plays Year

Pro clavis ferri ad emendacionem pagine

(For iron bolts to mend the pageant . 5 pence)

. *v^d*

Roberto Paton pro factura pagine in opera carpentario per duos dies

(To Robert Paton for two days' work as a carpenter on the pageant . 2 pence)

. *ij^d*

So read the York City records, witnessing preparations for the Corpus Christi Plays of 1397 at a stage in the process that the seven York Guilds, and partner organisations, will shortly reach for this year's production.

York Railway Workshops will be taken over, as our pageant waggons are prepared for the twelve plays (from the fifty three available) chosen by our director, Deborah Pakkar Hull. Her selection has been designed to tell a story of the struggle between good and evil, beginning in the heavenly domain, before being played out on an earthly, human plane, with Jesus either present in, or the focus of, a series of dilemmas, difficulties and enterprises that explore this struggle. Themes of suffering, sacrifice, temptation, betrayal and redemption form the backbone to this story, enabling it to reach beyond the mediæval text and speak to modern day audiences.

Sundays 13th and 20th July will see the streets of York filled with the colours of the pageant procession. Staging a multiple site and processional event is, by any standards, a challenge. Taking several hundred willing volunteers from the community and, with them, converting the centre of a major tourist and commercial city into one large venue for the Mystery Plays, is no small task.

With the hundreds of community performers, musicians, costumiers, prop and set makers and waggon pushers, there are some professional people engaged to work behind the scenes to prepare the stage for the waggons.

The Pageant Master and the Event Manager work together to produce a 'military like' timetable, charting start times, play duration, movement progress and waiting times for each Play at the four different stations. The schedule, with its minute by minute detail, is an essential tool to ensure that the audience is not waiting too long between scenes and that the waggons do not meet impassable points en route.

This year sees the inclusion of a waggon from the York Mystery Plays Supporters Trust (who support both our play efforts and any other fixed stage York production), an indication of the ever widening interest and value of the Plays. The Supporters Trust is appealing for volunteers - this gives our own members, families and friends wider opportunities to join in. Should anyone wish to help, please contact our Master, David Clapham.



Waggon Plays 2010. Pictures taken from the Butchers' Play production

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***Carnifex** – Latin term used for butcher in the York Freemen's Rolls, last used in 1403

BOTCHERS* ALL

Master

David R. Clapham

A native Yorkshireman, David was born in Harrogate in 1945. On leaving school, he entered the Meat Industry as a trainee manager with Vale of Mowbray Bacon Factory at Leeming Bar.

In 1965 he moved on to develop both his butchery skills and knowledge, whilst at the same time studying for his Meat Industry Qualifications as a part time student at Thomas Danby College Leeds.

Following six years of part time study in Meat Industry and Public Health Qualifications and a further eleven years in the industry, he moved on to work in Meat Hygiene Inspection and Public Health enforcement for over ten years.

In 1979 he was appointed as a lecturer, back in the Meat Technology Department at Thomas Danby, rising to Head of Department in 1995. The College was recognised by Meat Training Council as centre of excellence for Meat Industry Training and Education in 1998 and proudly continues with this provision today.

Over his years in the Training and Education field he has held several representative and advisory roles on industry bodies providing expertise, developing qualifications, representing the meat industry and providers of quality assurance and its training. In 2010, his work was recognised when he was given a Lifetime Achievement Award for services to Meat Industry Education and Training. On his retirement, he was made a Fellow of the Institute of Meat. He continues to provide and represent a number of Industry bodies with a particular interest in the development and progression of skills for young people in the Meat and Food Industry. He is a keen sportsman and outside activity enthusiast. Retirement now allows him more time to pursue less demanding forms of exercise in the form of golf and swimming and more recently an introduction to bowls.

David has been the Gild representative on the Waggon Plays Board for the previous two, and this year's, productions and it will be particularly fitting to see him leading our party of Gild Officers ahead of our play.

We look forward to his leading all our events this year with his wife, Daphne. Their shared family includes seven grandchildren between them.



Honorary Member for a Year and a Day – London Master

Ian Kelly

Ian is particularly well known to us, being our own Master just three years ago. He, and his wife Kyung Ae, are exceptional supporters of the York Gild. For the London Company, he has been at the forefront of committee work in Management and Finance, and Charity and Education, and the Historical Society. He is a trustee of the Butchers and Drovers Charitable Institution.

New Members 2014

Barbara Brown

The Gild is delighted to welcome Barbara into our midst as our tenth ordinary lady member. She is well known to us, being the wife of our Searcher and Past Master, David. The Browns are our second husband and wife member couple.

With David, she shared the running of the renowned 'Ye Old Butchers Shop' in Otley (*illustrated**) for thirty three years, along with a small holding out at Cobby Syke. It was there that they hosted the Gild and other guests to their annual fundraising barbecue for a number of years.

The Browns have been involved with the Great Yorkshire Pork Pie Competition (in Bradford) since its inception and are previous winners in two categories. Barbara is now one of its judges. Barbara was also a keen member of the local Women's Institute. Barbara and David have three children, five grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.



**painting –
see page 5*

more New Members 2014

Adam Dennis Bennett

Adam's family have farmed in the Clifton and Rawcliffe area, just north of York, for generations. Part of the land became Clifton Airfield (pre 1940 - the proposed York Aerodrome). The family also had interests in bacon production. They still own parts of Clifton Ings. His family business is now much engaged in the rental of commercial property, housing and agricultural land.

Adam maintains interest in shooting. He is married to Vicky and they have three children, two boys and a girl.

Michael Paul Carr

Michael has spent his career in management in the meat products industry in and out of Yorkshire. He has been at Harris Bacon (Vale of Mowbray) at Leeming Bar; the Malton Bacon Factory; Dalehead – Tulip – Geo. Adams at Spalding; and Cranswick Foods in Norfolk. He is now the factory manager of the newly formed Karro Food Group at its plant in Malton.

With this busy life, Michael has had little time for pastimes or interests, but he is a keen Leeds United fan, attending when able at Elland Road. He also plays golf and pub dominoes.

Michael is married to Sarah and they have twin six-year old boys. They currently live in Gainsborough.

Stephen Joll

Stephen is another new member who has spent his life working in the meat processing industry. He started with the family business in Barnsley but moved on through Farm Stores, Wakefield (later ASDA); Cooplands of Doncaster; and W. R. Grace Cryovac. He is the founder and Chief Executive of DMJ Plc (Wholesale Meats).

Stephen is a Sheffield United supporter. Other sporting interests included motor racing and cricket. He now has time for charity work and for the volunteer group, the Charles Dickens (Malton) Society.

Stephen is married to Dorothy and they live at Scagglethorpe near Malton. They have two children, a boy and a girl, with three grandchildren between them.

Gild Officers for 2014

Contact details are confidential and are not included. These can be found in your copy of the Gild handbook.

Robed Officers:

Master	David Clapham
Immediate Past Master	Jeremy Selman
Deputy Master	Stephen Wilkinson
Senior Warden	Sarah-Jane Trueman
Junior Warden	David Lishman
Beadle	George Stonehouse
Searchers*	Richard Hudson
	David Brown

**In 2010, it was agreed that the Searchers shall be robed. As yet, no robes have been obtained.*

Appointed to the Gild:

Chaplain	Jane Natrass
Clerk	Jean Sawdon

Non-Robed Officers:

Treasurer	Stephen Wilkinson
Providitor	Philip Stobart
Registrar	Philip Stobart

Committee Appointments:

Membership – Chair	The Master
Charitable Trust – Chair	Roger Pearce
– Treasurer	Richard Hampshire
Web Site Content – Chair	The Master

Other:

Waggon Master	David Clapham
Editor, Carnifex	Nigel Wright
Web Master	Edward Wright
Parade Control	Senior Warden
Librarian	Deputy Master

- *In most instances, the Clerk should be the first point of call for formal correspondence or for Gild business.*

Lord Mayor 2014

The Master, Wardens and Full Court of the Gild warmly congratulate our own member, Councillor Ian Gillies, who has been selected to be The Lord Mayor of York for 2014 / 15.

We look forward, in particular, to greeting Ian at the All Guilds' Service on 25th May. This is the one year when Gild members will be there in abundance to give Ian a rousing start for his period in office.

We also look forward to hosting and toasting him at our Shrove Tuesday Feast on 17th February next year.

We wish Ian and Patricia all the very best of fortune for the forthcoming year.

Obituary

Clarissa Dickson Wright (1947 – 2014)

Clarissa Theresa Philomena Aileen Mary Josephine Agnes Elsie Trilby Louise Esmerelda Dickson Wright was a bombastic, outspoken lawyer brought to her knees by riches and alcoholism but rose again on the TV series 'Two Fat Ladies'. She became a member of the York Butchers' Guild in 2007.

Clarissa's mother was an Australian heiress. Her father was a surgeon to the Royal family, but also an alcoholic. The family lived in a nine-bedroom house in St John's Wood, north London, where she was later described 'taking cover' when he was 'very drunk and extremely violent'.

Initially trained as a lawyer, Clarissa – who inherited a fortune from her mother – became the country's youngest barrister at age twenty one. But crippling depression, brought on by her parents' deaths, led to her drinking. Alcoholism soon brought about an end to her legal career. She later claimed, during her drinking years, that she had once had sex with an MP behind the Speaker's chair in the House of Commons. By 1983, she was homeless and had to live with friends.

She had a flair for cookery and worked as a cook in a St. James' club and in private houses, this helping her process of recovery. She went on to run the cookery bookshop 'Books for Cooks' in London's Notting Hill. She then moved to Edinburgh, where she ran 'The Cooks Book Shop'.

Always controversial, but a strong supporter of the artisan butcher, Clarissa entertained the Guild as the guest speaker at our Shrove Tuesday Feast in 2006. She joined the Guild the following year, marking this honour on the last page of her autobiography, 'Spilling The Beans', published just seven months later.

Clarissa died in Edinburgh's Royal Infirmary, aged 66, on 15th March.



Gild Responsibilities

Time to Volunteer?

The Master for 2013 / 14 made it his objective to appoint officers for shorter periods than has been normal practice up to now. This will be welcome news to some who have taken up roles for some considerable period and have, in the past, indicated that they would like to step down should replacements be available.

The quicker appointment process has not been formalised, but the idea has real merit for our continued good governance and sustainability.

Please consider if you would be able to take up a position in the near future. The more experience gained across a wider choice of members will lead to greater flexibility and sustainability of the Guild. At least two positions would appear to be opening up shortly. And maybe some shared roles, or roles with deputies, may make tasks easier to fulfil? Please let your interest be known to the Master or Clerk.

Our new clerk, sworn in on Shrove Tuesday (please see the last edition of **Carnifex**) has been appointed initially for three years, with the option to continue. The Clerk's role is the one that provides real the continuity of knowledge and management for the Guild. Should at least this position be one with a deputy?

News from London – Butchers' Hall

Ian Kelly, Master of the Worshipful Company of Butchers, reports on plans for developments in the Smithfield area that encompasses Butchers' Hall.

St. Bartholomew's Hospital ('Bart's) and London NHS have sold a number of buildings in the vicinity of the Hall to a developer who has obtained planning permission for a mix of residential, commercial and retail properties. The Hall is not affected but for at least three years it will sit in the heart of a mass demolition and building site.

The Court considers the resultant disturbance, noise, dust and access will make it too difficult to operate normally and has decided that the Hall is to be vacated at the end of 2014 and given over to the developer to be used as their headquarters for the duration of the work. The Company will retain the fourth floor office.

After year three, a major reordering of the Hall is planned to upgrade it to meet 21st century requirements. In the meantime, please check carefully with The Clerk's office should you be planning a visit.

telephone: 020 7600 4106 **e-mail:** clerk@butchershall.com

Flesh Tones – The New Carnifex Arts Page

Carnifex has been fortunate enough to be able to engage the services of a new, voluntary, Arts Correspondent. This follows on from extensive research in the world of Guilds, Mystery Plays, Butchers' Premises and Flesh that has revealed a wide range of paintings and other art works. It is hoped that the results of this research will be some slim volumes of copies of these works of art to be held in the Gild Library, purely on a reference (non – lending) basis, solely for the private use of members only.

The copies in **Carnifex** will be reproduced in black and white only, for a variety of reasons, but members attending Courts will be able to see full colour prints. Website references will be provided for further pursuit.

The contributions in this issue are particular apt in 2014, with direct connections to the Mystery Plays and to one of our members who joined the Gild on Shrove Tuesday.



Louisa HODGSON

Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle

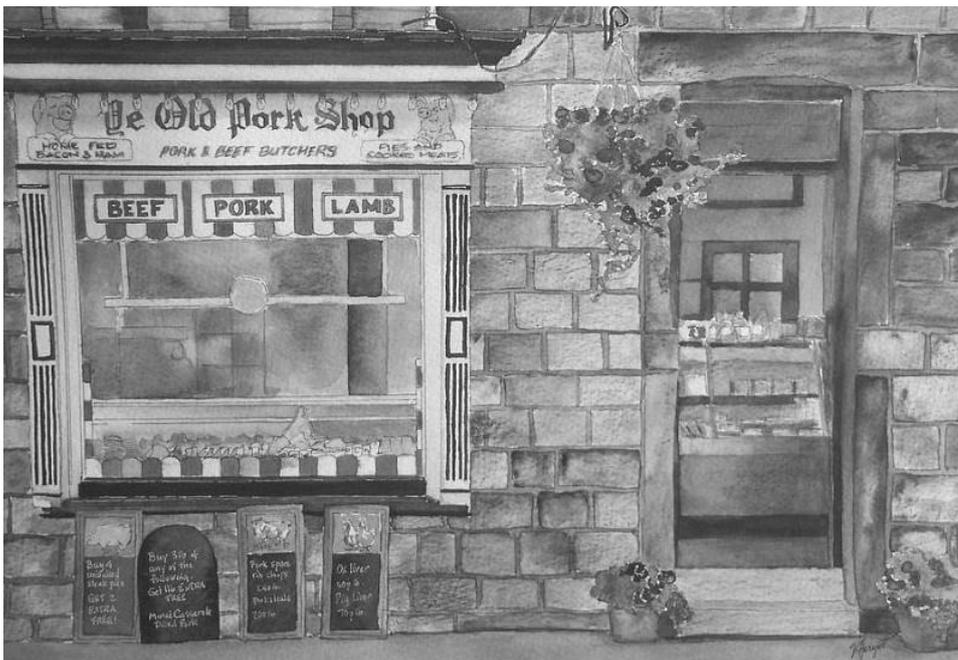
painted before 1934

CORPUS CHRISTI DAY IN NEWCASTLE – UPON – TYNE c. 1450 – THE SHIPWRIGHTS' GUILD

The picture is one of a series about the history of Newcastle which is painted on the ceiling beams in the gallery (and therefore somewhat difficult to view). The Shipwrights' Play, depicting Noah's Ark, is the only one to have survived from the Newcastle cycle of Mystery Plays, copied in the 18th century from the original (?) that is now lost. The play is, of course, totally appropriate for Newcastle.

Hodgson was a local artist who taught at Armstrong College (later King's College, now Newcastle University).

www.twmuseums.org.uk/laing-art-gallery



Victoria HERYET

THE BUTCHER SHOP

watercolour

A painting of Barbara and David's shop in Otley, unknown to them until this year.

Heryet is a Yorkshire born artist who moved to Canada when young.

Prints are available via the artist's web site.

<http://victoriaheryet.com/image/storefronts>

Gild Assets

Long Case Clock

The last edition of **Carnifex** requested any information about the long case clock that we own, kept in Jacob's Well. None has been forthcoming – in other words, we don't know why we own this piece of furniture and it appears to have no relevance to our objectives or to our history or traditions.

Carnifex proposes the sale of this clock and the funds raised be donated to the Charitable trust.

Lost Book

It is still believed that the present whereabouts of 'The Freedom' is known unto someone in the Gild. Please return it for inclusion in the library, either directly to the Clerk or the Librarian (Deputy Master) or at a Court.

Ladies Feast

New Style Event

The Master has taken an executive decision in the light of the murmurings that have been circulating within the Gild (and reported in the last edition of **Carnifex**).

On Tuesday, 25th October, **The LADIES' FEAST and MASTER'S CHARITABLE EVENT** will take place at the Mercure Hotel (i.e. Fairfield Manor to you and me) at Skelton, just north of York.

WATCH THIS SPACE for more information. What the undercover social reporters from **Carnifex** have been able to ascertain is that a three or four piece combo has been contracted to deliver easy listening '60s and '70s (or – very revolutionary – even '80s) music for swaying to, for dancing to for simply for your appreciation during an evening of conviviality and merry making.

Guests will be very welcome – please let your relations, friends and colleagues know and help David and Daphne try out this new format

A one year trial? Wait and see. It may not necessarily be a permanent format but it is definitely worth a try!

Master's Day

More Watch This Space

In the later stages of planning! But sounds interesting!

Please keep all summer free until you hear of the event details!

Dates for Your Diary

2014

13th May **Court of Assistants** 7.00 pm – Jacob's Well, Trinity Lane, Micklegate.

25th May **United Guilds' Parade and Church Service**
York Guilds welcome the new Lord Mayor, Ian Gillies of the York Butchers' Gild

June / July Preparation of the Butchers' Waggon for the **York Waggon Plays**

13th & 20th July **York Waggon Plays**
To register your interest, for early notification of tickets, or for more information, visit
[yorkmysteryplays .co .uk](http://yorkmysteryplays.co.uk)

August? September? **Master's Day Out – watch this space!**

The Master requests the presence of all officers and members (or apologies) on

12th August **Full Court** 7.00 pm – Jacob's Well, Trinity Lane, Micklegate New Gild members in 2014 should ask their membership proposers to introduce them to the Court

25th October **Ladies Feast and Master's Charity Event** 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm
– Mercure Hotel (Fairfield Manor), Skelton
– Special Accommodation rates for anyone attending

26th October **Butchers' Gild Annual Church Service** All Saints' Church, Pavement

2nd December **Court of Assistants** 7.00 pm – Jacob's Well, Trinity Lane, Micklegate

13th December? 20th December? **Guild of Freemen Carol Service** 7.30pm – All Saints' Church, Pavement