



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
A. C. Trueman

editio **XVI**
vernus **MMXII**

Challenge ?

No great homilies or challenging thoughts from our Philosophy Correspondent this time (he is yet to leave the Akorn after our last Court) – just plenty of information and some interesting activities for your deliberation. But here is a bit of a challenge for our newer and younger members, of whom there have been a considerable number in the last few years, swelling our subscribing membership to ninety, or perhaps a hundred, gildsmen.

2014 will see the guilds putting on their waggon play production in the streets of York. We have always maintained our right to push, pull and generally shove our waggon ourselves (and enjoying the refreshment provided to the waggon team) but have also entertained a hope that there are some members who might wish to take an acting role in our crucifixion play. We managed one speaking soldier in 2010, plus a prompt in mediæval dress. Now is the time to look forward and see if anyone is interested in taking part, either as a member of a chosen thespian troupe (we currently have a close relationship with the players from St. Chad's church) or (wild hope) to put together and lead a whole team from the Gild!

Any volunteers? – if so please approach our Waggon Master for further advice.

Sword on Display 2012

Here is another innovation, worth seeing this coming October.

One of the highlights of the year is our annual Church Service (arguably, the most important annual function of the Gild) but this year it should have an added attraction. The Gild's executioner's sword, kindly donated by Jo Natrass in his year as Master, will be included in the parade after the church service, carried in front of the Sheriff of York if he (or she – there will be a new civic party by then) is in attendance. This is as a mark of the relationship between the City's chief law officer and those who carried out his most serious judgements.

In conferring with this year's Sheriff, we have confirmed that the sword can be carried with its point upwards, because the Monarch is not present.

Now all we have to decide is who is going to carry the sword. Senior searcher? Most junior member? Largest, strongest member? Reasonable suggestions to the Clerk please.

Church Parade 2012

The parade will also be subject to tighter safety controls this year after a review of our procession 'hazard analysis'. This follows a dangerous overtaking manoeuvre by a double-decker bus during last year's parade.

Two main changes have been made. (1) The parade will have an additional steward at the rear to prevent such a dangerous action, and (2) responsibility for managing the parade, its stewards and control means has been placed on one officer of the Gild, namely the Senior Warden. By putting in this appointment, and with an annual change of wardens, we shall build up a body of expertise to manage our parade and maintain our tradition of marching through the streets of York to the interest and puzzlement of onlookers.

The control procedure requires five stewards not including the Senior Warden (who, of course, will be in his robes in the parade). Any member who is likely to go through the process of becoming a Master in the foreseeable future should volunteer as a steward so as to gain appropriate experience.

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

BOTCHERS* ALL

Master

Andrew Trueman

Andrew was born in Northallerton in 1969. He attended the local Grammar School before becoming the third generation to work in the family butchery business in Northallerton, joining his grandfather Charlie and father Steve. He learnt all aspects of the retail meat trade from buying at the local auction mart to carcase preparation, counter display and baking.

In 2000 he went to work with Sarah-Jane (also a Gild member and daughter of Past Master, Ray Ballard) at Johnson's of Thirsk. This is a traditional family butchery business which includes a bakery and an outside catering business. It employs six members of staff.

In 2005, he and Sarah-Jane were married at Swinton Castle, Masham. They we have two children, Sam and Sophie. Sam has become a Gild member, sworn in by Andrew within ten minutes of Andrew becoming Master. Andrew is currently the President of the Northern Council of Butchers and Vice Chairman and Secretary of Northallerton and District Butchers' Association.

Andrew is a member of Northallerton Round Table (Chairman in 2002, Area Chairman in 2009). In other spare time, he enjoys mountain biking, dog walking, dominoes and is passionate about cooking.

His aims are to have an enjoyable year and to represent the Gild to the best of his ability. In furtherance of his, and our, pleasure, he has planned his Master's Day well in advance. (see Dates for Your Diary).

Honorary Member for a Year and a Day – London Master

Bernard Raymond Woodhouse

Ray was born in 1939, two months after the outbreak of World War 2. He attended Ardingly College (Sussex) and St.Dunstan's College (Catford) before going to the recently founded National College of Food Technology.

He has spent a long career in the meat trade. After early work in retail butchering, he worked his passage to New Zealand where he had jobs on a sheep farm and in meat freezing. Returning to England, he progressed into meat trading and sales. In 1969 he was appointed a director of T.S.J. Woodhouse Ltd. (Catering Butchers) and, in 1973, its Chairman. He retired in 2000.

He joined the Worshipful Company of Butchers in 1979 and was elected to Court in 1998.

His memberships of other organisations combine wet and dry interests (golf covering both areas). He is a Fellow of the Institute of Meat. He has served on Council and on the Carcass Committee of the Royal Smithfield Club. He is a Joint Governor of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. He is a member of: The Farmers Club, The National Association of Catering Butchers, Bletchingly Golf Club, Chichester Yacht Club, The Royal Yachting Association and The City Livery Yacht Club. His other outside interests are mainly sporting.

He married Judy in 1962. They have two sons and three grandchildren.

New Members 2012

Samuel Ballard-Robinson

The Gild saw a rare, (or even unique) event when father (Andrew) swore in son into Gild membership on Shrove Tuesday, 2012. (Please let *Carnifex* know of any other occasion when or if this has happened).

Sam was born in Northallerton and attended Thirsk School. He is currently awaiting a university place to study Philosophy, Politics and Economics. He has strong interest politics and has an internship with an MP.

His other interests are mainly sporting (cricket and rugby) and he has played club rugby in France and Italy.

Beth Barker

Beth is the younger daughter of Past Master Stephen Barker and joins the Gild through right of patrimony.

Her butchery experience extends to helping dad in the family shop in Poppleton during holidays and Christmas periods. She attended St. Peter's School in York.

She is currently studying for a Bachelor of Arts degree in Ancient History and Archæology at the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David, Lampeter. Clearly, she will be of great use to the Gild in researching its past!

In her spare time, she plays tennis and squash and takes part in battle re-enactments.

Bernard Hoggarth

Bernard (Bernie) came originally from Hull, moved early, at age one, to Sheriff Hutton and then later to York where he attended Fulford School. He then went to the Norfolk College of Agriculture to gain his National Diploma in Agriculture. With pig nutrition and genetics being of personal interest, he joined Cranswick in 1978 as employee number 3. The company now has a working population of 4,500 permanent staff and is in the

* **Butcher** – variation of term used in the York Freemens' Rolls, derived from Anglo-Norman-French *boucher* or *bocher*, fortunately used only once in this spelling, for Thomas Petty in 1547

New Members 2012 (continued)

Bernard Hoggarth (continued)

FTSE 250 with sales over £800m pa. He focussed on agribusiness before becoming involved in the developing food manufacturing side in the 1990s. He joined the board in 1988 and was appointed Chief Executive in 2004. Bernard is married to Rosemarie and they have two children, Marcus and Charlotte, and two grandchildren. Marcus also works for Cranswick as a Business Unit Director with responsibility for major retail brand accounts. Bernard's main pastime is Britcar endurance and Northern Sports and Saloons motor racing. (see www.hoggarthracing.com). He is a Vice President of York City Football Club and has followed the club through thick and thin since 1980. He is also an avid game shooter.

Dean Hopcutt

Dean is of York stock and attended the Joseph Rowntree School in Huntington. He then went to Thomas Danby College in Leeds, attaining his Affiliateship of the Institute of Meat.

Together with Miles Johnston (see below) he founded the Harrogate Wholesale Meat Company in 1988.

Dean is married to Sara. They have two boys, Daniel and Marco.

He is a keen supporter of Leeds United. His pastimes include snow and water skiing.

Miles Johnston

Miles comes from a cattle, sheep and pig farming family in Green Hammerton, 'twixt York and Knaresborough.. He attended the King James' School in Knaresborough.

After school, he went straight into the butchery trade as a slaughterman at Starbeck abattoir. He then went into meat wholesaling, initially with his father and the subsequently in partnership with Dean Hopcutt.

His interests are in motor sports and mountain biking.

He has a partner Tracey. He has four children, a boy and three girls.

Paul Taylor-Garthwaite

Paul was born and bred in Darlington and comes from a long established (1922) butchery business.

He attended Bentham Grammar School (in Lancashire!!) and then went to Blackpool College where he attained his Affiliateship of the Institute of Meat. He is now a fourth generation director of his family business.

He has been married to Tracey for 23 years and they have two sons, James and Alexander.

He had an interest in photography whilst at school, but now takes his pleasures more athletically, skiing either on water or snow. He is the president-elect of Darlington Round Table 999.

John Tuckwell

John was born in Essex in 1940 and was educated at Chigwell School.

John entered the family meat business, following both his father and grandfather. At that time they were retailers with shops in London, Essex and Suffolk. In later years the company were contractors, manufacturers and wholesalers. John was Chairman of the company from 1984 until retirement in 1999.

John was admitted as a Liveryman to the Worshipful Company of Butchers in 1971. He was its Master in 2008 and attended our Shrove Tuesday Feast that year. His wife Jennifer is also a Liveryman. They celebrated their Golden Wedding this year. They have a son and daughter and six grandchildren. They now live in North Norfolk where John is Churchwarden of St.Andrew's, Hoe, near Dereham in Norfolk.

John lists many interests including fishing, preferably in remote places, shooting, stalking, sailing, working with wood, singing, Freemasonry, opera and the theatre. In younger days, he enjoyed dog sledding in the Yukon. John is one of a group who are trying to form a new Livery Company, the 'Art Scholars, Dealers and Collectors'.

Dr. Douglas J. Ward, C.B.E.

Doug was born in west London and attended Southall Grammar School.

Doug is believed to be our first member from the animal by-products industry. He started in accountancy and then went into sales and marketing with Hillsdown Holdings (Buxted Poultry, F.M.C.). He then diversified into the biofuel, agriculture and food and drink industries, with roles including Managing Director of William Forrest and Sons (played a key role in BSE crisis) and founder of Argent Energy, which constructed the world's first facility of its kind for producing diesel from waste oil sources.

Among other posts, Doug serves as the Vice-President of the European Biodiesel Board and is a former Chairman of the Renewable Energy Association transport fuels group.

In 2006, he was appointed C.B.E. for services to agriculture in Scotland, for which he also awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Edinburgh Napier University.

His sporting interests are varied and include fly fishing and golf. He was a soccer referee for many years. He is the current President of Biggar Rugby Club.

Doug is married to Jacqueline and they live on the side of the Cloich Hills in the Scottish Borders.

New Members are reminded (1) to ask their proposers to bring them to their first Full Court in August; (2) that they have the right to observe at the Court of Assistants in November and attend the following supper.

Obituary

Peter John Bartram passed away peacefully on 6th February 2012, aged 78 years.

Peter was born in Sunderland on 25th August, 1933 into a shipbuilding family, but with other family members already in the business, he took another career route. After National Service, he tried the insurance business, and wasn't impressed, so turned instead to the meat trade, starting at the bottom and rising to the top.

He initially joined Vale of Mowbray Foods and then Weddell Foods. He and eventually rose to be Managing Director of Weddell-Swift. On retirement, he moved to a fell-side farmhouse near Windermere.

He was a liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Butchers. He joined the York Gild in 1994.

In 2001, he suffered a stroke which led to a long period of ill health.

He leaves his wife, Joanna, and four daughters.

Officers 2012

A list of appointments has been included in this spring issue at the request of a Gild member. It is the intention to do this annually, unless there are agreed objections from the Courts.

Contact details are confidential and are not included. These can be found in your copy of the Gild handbook. If you have lost or mislaid your copy, a new one can be obtained from the registrar, at or near cost price.

Gild Officers for 2012:

Robed Officers:

Master	Andrew Trueman
Immediate Past Master	Ian Kelly
Deputy Master	Jeremy Selman
Senior Warden	David Clapham
Junior Warden	Stephen Wilkinson
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	Steven Kilmartin

- In most instances, the Clerk should be the first point of call for formal correspondence or for Gild business.*
- Information for the web site should be placed before the Web Committee and NOT sent to the Web Master.*

Non-Robed Officers:

Treasurer	Stephen Wilkinson
Providitor	Philip Stobart
Registrar	Philip Stobart

Committee Appointments:

Membership – Chair	The Master
Charitable Trust – Chair	Roger Pearce
– Treasurer	Tony Wright
Web Site Content – Chair	Roger Pearce

Other:

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

Events News

London Guild Treasures

The Guildhall Art Gallery (London), in its Diamond Jubilee / Cultural Olympiad Summer Show, has an exhibition entitled: **'Butcher Baker Candlestickmaker – 850 Years of London Livery Company Treasures.**

From the rare to the curious, the ancient to the modern, this major exhibition showcases the collections held by London's Livery Companies, usually not on view to the public. Visitors are invited to marvel at the splendour of medieval illuminated manuscripts and wonder at the rituals of livery company life, as the objects reveal the stories behind some of the world's oldest crafts and trades.

The exhibition begins on Friday, 22nd June and continues until 23rd September. £5 or £3 concessions.

Please go to www.guildhallgallery.cityoflondon.gov.uk for additional information.

Waggon to Orsogna, Italy, 2012

Carnifex reported, in its last edition, that the Gild and our thespian friends from St. Chad's had been invited to take our waggon and play to Orsogna to join in one of its religious festivals. We were successful in obtaining funding for this event and were just about ready to set off across Europe for Easter, waggon in tow, when we heard that the organisers in Italy had not received their promised funding. This, together with very poor weather (rain, floods and snows) had caused them to postpone the whole event.

There may well be a later opportunity, either in late summer or next year, to join in the fun, **so watch this space!**

The Charitable Trust of the Company

Introduction

The report by the chairman of the trustees of the Gild Charitable Trust to the Full Court in January caused an energetic discussion amongst those members in attendance. As a result, Carnifex felt that it should leap, without looking, into the fray and produce an article that reviews the tortuous path taken to reach our current position, to look at the current status of the trust and to examine challenges in the future.

The fact that there was a discussion was, in itself, a heartening experience. From the time of the restart of the Gild charity, in 1992, action and interest have been notable by their absence. The new awareness following the merger with the William Wright Charitable Trust (and the substantial increase in funds) is most welcome.

Much of this ensuing article is based on section 3.2 of the Gild Handbook and members are urged to keep up to date through the pages of that learned tome.

The Past to 1962

Charity was a purpose of mediæval guilds and would certainly have been one of the Butchers' Gild, with the care of elderly and infirm members and widows of particular concern. The Gild was also responsible for the training of new journeymen butchers through apprenticeship.

The re-awakening of the Gild, in the middle of the last century, saw a renewed interest in charity. The Master of the Company for 1961-1962 was able to form a charitable trust with training as a prime objective. A fund was started by member levy. Gild minutes for subsequent years record a long campaign to establish a centre for butchery training in York. In the end, this proposal was not taken up by the local authorities. Little or no attention was then paid to the trust and it seems that it was forgotten by all but a few elder members. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to identify where, or even if, a bank account exists for this fund.

The Master for 1992-1993, however, wanted to establish training support as an objective, as part of making Gild life more meaningful than just sitting down to two slap-up feasts a year. The Gild concurred and he was able to start a fund. In that year, gifts for the new undertaking came from the London Company, the William Wright Charitable Trust, the Master and from the Gild. The next Master, in similar vein, wished to extend Gild purposes and to include the provision of charitable donations. He held a successful ball at York Racecourse to help further this cause.

In the process of setting up the new Gild Trust, the then Clerk uncovered the 1961 Trust Deed. The Full Court agreed that this would be the basis of the newly formed charity, because it was felt that the wording of the scope, associating the charity closely with Gild life, was preferred to wider general charitable activities (although this limited range may not have matched the vision of the Master).

The deed is not an easy document to read and its full implications were not fully understood for a number of years. However, on 29th June, 1993 it was resolved that the charitable purposes of the trust shall be, for the time being:

- *'for the benefit of charitable donations for the furtherance of Civic, Gild, and Gild Church Life in the City of York, and also for the benefit of persons in receipt of training and education in the Butchers' Trade, Meat and Food Industry, and Allied Trades'.*

The trust was managed by a five member management committee, chaired by the Master (later, the Immediate Past Master) and overseen by a further five member board of trustees. This control method that was later deemed over-complicated.

At that time, it was the intention to build the fund to about £10,000. With interest rates at about 6%, this would have lead to a reasonable income for charitable expenditure. For a number of years, new members' joining fees were all fed to the charity, but, as interest rates fell, the target rose to £30,000 and beyond, in order to try and develop a reasonable income. The management team was charged by the Gild with only spending the interest and not the capital. In reality, very little was donated to good causes, although one gift to a student at Thomas Danby College, struggling with transport costs, produced a most heart warming letter of gratitude.

A large proportion of Masters, during this period, were able to hold Masters' Day events that managed to keep the fund increasing. The donation of new members' fees was ceased in the early 1990's, such monies instead going into the Gild General Account.

The New 'Merged' Trust

In 2007, the William Wright Charitable Trust (WWCT) proposed an amalgamation with the Gild Trust to provide a larger capital fund for increased interest income.

The WWCT was originally set up by members of the Wright family in memory of William Wright. He had been Lord Mayor of York (1925-1926) and Master of the current Gild (1944-45).

It was felt that the Charity Commission (CC) might have difficulty in allowing such a merger as, at first glance, objectives of the two trusts were rather different. However, the CC was quite agreeable as the two trusts had similar origins. Agreement was reached on progressing to merger.

Discussions then foundered around defining the wording of the scope of activities until the Gild appointed a three man committee to oversee the project. It was this committee who identified how the merger could lawfully

The Charitable Trust of the Company *(continued)*

take place. This revolves around the clever method of scope definition of Gild Trust donation objectives. This scope is very wide and non-specific, but the deed includes a process that allows definition of a 'working scope', *for the time being*, by the approval of the Master, Wardens and Court. In other words, the wider Gild Trust could accommodate WWCT objectives.

As a result, the Gild Trust, with a redefined 'working scope', completely took over the WWCT which now no longer exists. Of particular concern to the WWCT was that relief for past William Wright & Sons employees should be included and this is covered under point 2 of the new objectives (see below).

This take-over and the new 'working scope' were accepted unanimously by the Gild at a well-attended Full Court in January 2011. The objectives are now:

- *for the benefit of charitable donations for the furtherance of Civic, Gild, and Gild Church Life in the City of York, and also for the benefit of persons in receipt of training and education in the Butchers' Trade, Meat and Food Industry, and Allied Trades;*
- *the relief of people of over sixty years of age, of necessitous children, and of sick poor persons, resident in The City of York and District;*
- *The financing of medical research;*
- *The advancement of education within York and District and the promotion of education in art and of artistic taste appreciation of the fine arts, music, choral singing, drama and the arts of social intercourse;*
- *The provision of halls for the benefit of the inhabitants and community within The City of York and District;*
- *The provision of facilities for recreation and leisure at hall community centres and women's institutes and the provision and maintenance of grounds and buildings to be used for the purpose of recreation or leisure time occupation within The City of York and District.*

The last five bullet points are the result of simplification of the objectives of the WWCT. In a historical perspective, it can be seen that the incorporation of WWCT objectives has gone some way to meeting the wider vision of the 1993-1994 Master!

The objectives can be re-examined in the future, although it is hoped that account will always be taken of the origins of the two charitable trusts.

Practical Implications for Members

The objectives above throw up wider opportunities for the Gild in distributing donations. Whilst some appear to be beyond our current capability, interesting possibilities for small scale or seed corn funding now exist.

For example, in medical research, we couldn't fund a whole programme, but we might help in the purchase of equipment for food safety microbiological research. We couldn't build a village hall, but we might help in installing security equipment or in funding sports equipment.

Do you know of a local village hall or institution needing funding for projects that meet our criteria above? Or a Ph.D student who might need a bit of funding to help in a research programme? Or a researcher for whom an air fare might help them get to a critical conference abroad?

Interestingly, the support of the Arts means that the Charity would be able to support the York Waggon Plays, although current thinking is that we should be able to fund our own play and contribution to the whole production from the Gild's own resources. Charity money would only support new developments, such as the project to take our play to the Easter festival at Orsogna in Italy. To that particular end, the trustees have agreed to match the sum promised by the Gild itself, should the project proceed.

Requests for donations should always be sent, by letter, to the Gild Clerk. Students should have the backing of their relevant college or university mentors. The trustees might even support a Yorkshire student at a foreign establishment, such as at the Meat and Poultry Course at Blackpool College!

There has always been a quiet desire for the Gild to be able to donate some form of prize to successful students. Any good ideas, anyone? (In writing, please, properly presented).

Current Status

At the time of the 2008 agreement, Trust control was placed solely under a team of five gild member trustees, each to serve for five years, with one retiring annually (as from 2012), although able to stand for re-election. If willing and available, one member shall be a descendent of William Wright. Currently, the first five members are retiring one by one on a schedule chosen by the drawing of lots. By chance, the first to retire this year is the Reverend David Porter to whom the Gild owes a large debt of gratitude for his hard work over the previous five years of the merger process and as chairman of the three man merger committee. The Full Court voted in Richard Hudson to take his place. Norman Wright has been asked by the trustees to attend meetings as an ex-officio consultant member. No Gild Trustees were ever trustees of the WWCT.

As a result, the next meeting of trustees, this spring, will be attended by:

- **Roger Pearce**, Chairman. Gild Trustee from 2008. Member of merger committee. Elected chair by trustees when David Porter retired from his role as chairman of the merger committee
- **Richard Hudson**, new trustee 2012
- **Ken Stobart**, original Gild trustee from 1993
- **Brian Wheatley**, Gild trustee from 2006
- **Nigel Wright**

The Charitable Trust of the Company *(continued)*

original Gild trustee from 1993 • **Tony Wright**, treasurer and secretary to the trustees, non-voting. Member of merger committee. • **Norman Wright**, consultant member, non-voting. Gild trustee 1993 to 2006. Last chairman of WWCT • **Master**, if he wishes to attend, non-voting.

The committee chairman shall prepare and present an annual report of the actions of the management committee to the Epiphany Full Court.

A request for a donation or support from the Charitable Trust can be made in writing through, or by, any member of The Company, who shall pass it to the management trustees via the Clerk for its consideration.

The money transferred from the WWCT *more* than doubled the Gild charity fund to over £60,000. The trustees are still charged with spending only interest and not capital. There is an unwritten target of increasing the capital to £100,000.

The trustees donated about £2,000 to local charities in 2011-2012, this representing all the interest earned.

The Trust Deed is held by the Clerk. Copies can be obtained by writing to the Chairman of the Trustees.

Questions

Although cleverly drawn up, the Trust Deed presents some difficulties that need addressing. Notable amongst these is the voting method if a question on the scope, or on trust deed change, is taken to the Gild. There is no defined method, body or quorum to take such a decision. Current legal advice is to use best, demonstrable, common sense.

For instance:

- If any question arises regarding the trust deed, should it be communicated to the Gild as a whole (perhaps through the pages of this eminent journal) rather than just through the Courts?
- Should any vote involve a majority of the members, so that a sudden point cannot be rushed through an unsuspecting Court?
- Should a process for change, if required, build in a time delay element?
- Just how shall we actually define 'Master, Wardens and Court' who jointly have the responsibility for changes?
- Can the trustees spend capital if an urgent important cause is identified and a fundraising project is initiated to replace these funds?
- Indeed – (oh heresy!) – at a time when capital is earning just 3%+ interest, and inflation at 4%+, shouldn't the trustees be spending the capital before it depreciates too much, and then make it up again in the future?

2012 will see the trustees grappling with these questions, and any other that is communicated to them.

The Nature of Donations

Donations were discussed at the Full Court (January, 2012) and it seemed as if there was general agreement that all donations to the Gild are for the Charitable Fund. Please let Carnifex act as Devil's Advocate:

- One source of donations is from senior members of the company who are allowed reduced annual subscriptions. Such members may, however, generously make up their subscription to the full amount. The implication is that the amount made up is to go into the ordinary account from which the reduction was taken;
- Members may wish to make donations into the ordinary account in specific instances, such as for a gift that cannot come out of the Charitable Trust, or to help fund a Gild event;
- A member may wish to make a gift in his / her will to the ordinary account to support new or ongoing gild activities into the future, e.g. to support wine costs at the Shrove Tuesday Feast.

A suggestion is that we need to ensure that any donor specifies the purpose of his / her gift, in writing, at the time of the gift and, perhaps, we should have a form that reflects this choice.

Butchers and Drovers Charitable Institution

The Gild has an understanding that we shall work with the Butchers and Drovers Charitable Institution*, which has far greater assets at its disposal. In any situation where donation is possible, our Trust will look at the opportunities from either source and if the BDCI is appropriate, then the Gild Trust may well ask the BDCI to act. This will leave the Gild Trust more resources to spend on local charity within its scope. This understanding resulted recently in a large bequest to a retired butcher in reduced circumstances for the installation of proper sanitary and bathroom facilities, all started with information from a York Gild member forwarded to the BDCI. Gild members should note this and forward any charitable spending possibilities to our Clerk for consideration by our trustees who will act appropriately,

What Can You Do?

The enlargement and scope changes to the Gild Trust offer charitable opportunities that, as yet, have not been widely explored. Please inform the trustees, through its chairman or the Gild Clerk, of any opportunities that fall within our current scope or the scope of the BDCI (but please don't promise anything). Challenge our current practices to see if our trustees can legitimately broaden our activities. We have to be seen to be working.

* The BDCI is the meat industry's own trade charity. It provides support for those who work, or previously worked, in the meat industry but have fallen on hard times. Widows, dependants and children are also eligible for assistance.

York Food Festival 2012

The Gild participated in a successful butchery and cookery demonstration in the York Food Festival 2011.

The 2012 Festival will be held between 21st and 30th September. There are various ways to be involved and perhaps your business would like to take the opportunity to exhibit your wares at the various trade functions that are included in the ongoing programme. If so please get in touch with the organisers through the contact page of the Festival website www.yorkfoodfestival.com or by telephoning **01904 635149**

A Bloody Butchery Tale

In 1742, the landlord of the Flushing Inn in Rye, Sussex, was John Breads who also had a butchery shop in the yard of the inn. He is best remembered in Rye as 'The Murderer in the Churchyard'.

In the most popular version of the story, Breads bore a grudge against the Mayor, James Lamb, who had fined him for selling short weight. One night he lay in wait for the Mayor in the yard of the parish church, St. Mary's (well worth a visit, as is the whole town) and when he saw a man in the Mayor's cloak approaching, he attacked and stabbed the figure. However, the murdered victim was actually Lamb's brother-in-law, Alan Grebell, a former Mayor, who had borrowed the cloak to attend a shipboard function, acting as deputy for Lamb.

In local legend, Breads was heard shouting 'Butchers should kill Lambs'. He was captured and tried in a court presided over by the Mayor, James Lamb! He was convicted and condemned to death and was hanged in chains. Because his crime was considered especially heinous, his corpse was gibbeted and left suspended in an iron cage for many years on Gibbet Marsh, for all to see. The remainder of the bones were picked over by birds and animals, or removed piecemeal by healing crones in the belief that the drinking of their infusion in water was a cure for rheumatism.

The gibbet containing Bread's skull is still kept in the Town Hall and a replica is on display at the Rye Heritage Centre, down by the quay side. Research may well reveal other versions of events – was Breads framed . . . ?

Dates for Your Diary

2012

- 8th May **Court of Assistants** 7.00 pm – Jacob's Well, Trinity Lane, Micklegate
- 14th May **United Guilds of the City of York – Parade, Church Service and Reception**
9.45 am - Merchant Adventurers' Hall for 10.30 am – All Saints' Church – a joyful event
All officers and members are asked to join all the Guilds as they welcome the new Lord Mayor
- 2nd to 27th August **York Mystery Plays** (*note NOT the York Gilds' Waggon Plays production*)
7.30pm Museum Gardens – also some matinées www.yorkmysteryplays-2012.com
- 5th August **Master's Day Out** mid day onwards
The Master cordially invites all members and their guests to attend him in Thirsk at
'**The World of James Herriot**' and afterwards for a Barbecue – *details to follow*
- The Master requests the presence of all officers and members (or apologies) on*
- 7th August **Full Court** 7.00 pm – Jacob's Well, Trinity Lane, Micklegate
- 21st to 30th September **York Food Festival** (*see above*)
- 27th October **Ladies Feast** 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm – Merchant Taylors' Hall, Aldwark
- 28th October **Butchers' Gild Annual Church Service**
Members, 10.00 am procession at St. Crux, Shambles for 10.30 am – All Saints' Church
(where Spouses and Guests should assemble beforehand), followed by
Gild Parade and Reception – join in as we parade to Jacob's Well and host a reception
for the Lord Mayor of York, the Civic Party and Dignitaries from other Guilds
- 27th November **Court of Assistants** 7.00 pm – Jacob's Well, Trinity Lane, Micklegate
- 19th December **Guild of Freeman Carol Service** 7.30 pm – All Saints' Church, Pavement
Members are cordially invited to attend, with our Master giving a reading

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

- 8th January **Full Court** 7.00 pm – Jacob's Well, Trinity Lane, Micklegate

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

- 12th February **Shrove Tuesday Court** 6.15 pm – All Saints' Church, Pavement
And **Shrove Tuesday Feast** 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm – Merchant Adventurers' Hall, Fossgate

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- Spring & Summer **York Gilds' Waggon Plays** – play and waggon preparation and, in July, play production