



Headlines from the Hall 19 November 2018

Dear Merchant Taylor

Last week was extremely busy and gave us a lot to think about.

Lord Mayor's Show - 10 November

On Saturday 10 November, 150 floats travelled from Mansion House to the Royal Courts of Justice to welcome the new Lord Mayor.



The Lord Mayor's Carriage

The Master travelled in a horse drawn carriage, along with the Masters of the Skinners', Ironmongers' and Haberdashers' Companies. It may not have been as shiny as the Lord Mayor's but they certainly looked the part. Merchant Taylors and their guests came back to the Hall after the parade for a buffet lunch in the Parlour, where the children (and grown ups) were entranced by the enormous chocolate fountain.



The Master with Master Ironmonger The Rt Hon the Lord Garvagh (in red), Master Skinner The Rt Hon The Lord Lisvane KCB DL and Master Haberdasher Mr Sheridan Swallow (in blue).

Remembrance Concert - 11th November - Birmingham Symphony Hall

To mark the 100th anniversary of the armistice, twelve of our schools from across the country, 360 talented musicians aged eight to 24, 60 teachers and a sell-out audience brought the generations together in a concert of 'Remembrance and Hope' in the Birmingham Symphony Hall on Remembrance Sunday afternoon.



The event was organised by Diana Watson, our education officer, to honour the sacrifice and bravery of the 250,000 boys under the age of 19 who fought in the First World War.

The music in the first half was a combination of classical and more recent numbers, ending with a rousing performance of 'Do You Hear the People Sing' from Les Miserables by the younger children (aged eight to 13). As the children moved around the stage between numbers film footage from the war was run, and there were art displays, stirring readings from real letters from the front line and poetry.

The second half brought acts of commemoration led by the Master and then representatives from each of the schools, to an exemplary performance of 'The Armed Man' by Karl Jenkins.

The last post was played out by students on the top balcony of the Symphony Hall as poppies cascaded down from the ceiling on to the audience. The concert culminated in an outstanding performance of Mozart's Requiem from a combined choir and orchestra of over 300 students, with soloists from the Birmingham Conservatoire, all conducted by Michael Seal - associate conductor of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

The whole afternoon was very moving; the fact that it was performed by children, some of whom would have been on the battlefield 100 years ago, making it all the more poignant.

Thank you to everyone who took part - it took an enormous amount of work from our schools and staff, which is much appreciated. A triumphant, harrowing, and ultimately, hopeful occasion.

Ladies' Dinner and Military Affiliates' Awards

We followed the concert with the annual dinner for Court and Livery when the Company awards particularly deserving individuals from our military affiliates - those whom the affiliates have marked as having contributed in some special way to the functioning of that unit. Cue more talk of bravery and going beyond the call of duty.

The award recipients were:

- Infantry medic, Private Emma Elder, from the London Regiment
- Staff Sergeant Shaun North, Army Air Corps
- Able Seaman Diver Ash Jones of the Minehunter HMS CHIDDINGFOLD (2nd Mine Countermeasures Squadron)
- Warrant Officer Ben Woollaston LG, Royal Yeomanry
- Sergeant Danson Trimmingham (Tim), RAF Halton
- Chief Petty Officer Pete Talbot, RNAS Yeovilton

The awardees were presented with engraved hip flasks by the Master to loud applause from the 244 guests. A gloriously spry drum performance by the Royal Marine Corps of Drums from the Band of HM Royal Marines, HMS Collingwood quite raised the rafters and brought cheers from the full Dining Hall. Fittingly, two of the five drummers were women.



Guest speaker was Commodore Ellie Ablett, MBE, head of People Capability across the Royal Navy. She joined the Royal Navy in 1993 in the first wave of women to join on the same terms as men, after the integration of the Women's Royal Naval Service. Her passion is for talent management and inclusive leadership and she founded and leads a professional network for women across the Naval Service. She talked about her commitment to supporting other women in the forces, and the Royal Navy's Diversity and Inclusion agenda.



Commodore Ellie Ablett, MBE

Upcoming: Invincible Me, The Big Give Christmas Challenge Launch, 27 November

As one of the chosen three charities benefitting from your support via the LFF this year, [Invincible Me](https://invincibleme.org.uk/) is holding a Big Give Christmas Challenge campaign on 27 November at St Ethelburga's on Bishopsgate, from 6.30 - 8.30pm. Come along to learn more about their work, and to hear Freeman Lynn Gadd speak about her support of the charity.



**Launch of
The Big Give
Christmas Challenge
Twilight Reception**

**Please join us to learn about our work
advocating for positive mental health
and wellbeing in primary schools**

Tuesday | 27 November 2018 | 6:30 to 8:30pm |
St Ethelburga's | 78 Bishopsgate | London EC2N 4AG |
rsvp: <https://invincibleme.org.uk/>

invincible **ME**

With any comments or additions to this newsletter, please contact Georgina Annett on GAnnett@merchant-taylors.co.uk, or 020 7450 4452.

Merchant Taylors' Company

30 Threadneedle Street

London

EC2R 8JB

0207 450 4448