

# Headlines from the Hall

## 5 April 2019

Dear Merchant Taylor,

We are excited to announce details of our annual fundraising event in support of the Master's chosen Charity, BowHaven. Lots more information follows as well as an update on all the recent activities at the Hall over the past few weeks.

### Comedy Night Fundraiser – 23 May, 6.30pm



We are delighted to announce multi-award winning **Jess Robinson** will be performing for us with her spot on celebrity impressions, musical comedy and stunning vocal gymnastics. As seen on Britain's Got Talent (ITV), Murder in Successville (BBC3) and The Last Leg (C4), Jess will be serving up a feast of styles and genres from classical to rock to hip hop showcasing the voices of all your favourite celebs.

Join us for a night of side splitting laughter, a sparkling reception, delicious bowl food and fundraising fun!

Start spreading the word to your friends and family as everyone is very welcome. Tickets are priced at £35 each for a night not to be missed! An email invitation will be with you next week to get booking.

---

### Behind the Iron Curtain – 13 May, 6pm

Hugh McLeod's last two years in the Army were spent in the liaison mission to the Soviet Forces in East Germany when the Soviet build-up in Eastern Europe was at its peak. BRIXMIS was established at the end of WWII as a means of deconflicting the operations of the Allied armies. We are delighted to welcome Hugh who has been very good friends with the Master since University. The insights that he will give are rarely available to those outside of the circle with Hugh operates, so don't miss your chance to find out more at this special event. You will have received an invitation to sign up, simply let us know if you would like to attend.

---

### Royal Parks Half Marathon



We have four company places up for grabs to take part in the fantastic Royal Parks half marathon on 13 October. The stunning route takes in the capital's world-famous landmarks on closed roads, and four of London's eight Royal Parks. A fantastic opportunity to challenge yourself whilst raising funds for the Livery & Freeman Fund. Minimum fundraising target of £350. Contact membership for more information.

---

### **Our Almshouse Residents**

All of our existing almshouse residents and one new resident have now moved into the brand new almshouses at Christopher Boone's Court in Lewisham. The new resident said: "Thank you so much – it's like paradise!" Another resident said: "I feel as if I've moved into a five star hotel!". This is the first time that our almshouses have had permanent, high quality, indoor communal spaces for residents to socialise. The Sun Room in the new garden has already become a firm favourite.

---

### **Freemen Dinner**



Thank you to all Freeman and guests who joined us for a wonderful evening at the recent Freeman Dinner on 14 March. The Master warmly welcomed everyone and introduced our Charity Visit Scheme's film during the welcome drinks. Michael Cole-Fontayn hosted the dinner, and we were all left incredibly inspired by our special guest, Cemal Ezel, Founder of [Change Please](#). More photos can be viewed [here](#).

---

### **Golden Shears Awards**



On 18 March, the Great Hall was transformed into a catwalk and packed full with guests from the fashion industry as well as many company members for the bi-annual event. Judged by a panel that included David Gandy, Jodie Kidd and Tom Stubbs, the awards ceremony saw 24 hopeful tailoring students and apprentices from around the country compete for the Golden Shears trophy and £3,000 of prize money. This year's winner was Rachel Singer.

---

### **HMS Glasgow, T26 presentation**



We were treated to a fantastic insight to the T26 Frigate, from the Royal Navy T26 team; Rear Admiral Paul 'Tex' Marshall CBE, Lt Cdr Dave Jenkins and Lt Cdr Ray Pozzebon. We heard all about the T26 history, its systems and had an incredible virtual tour. The evening was completed with drinks and more questions for our special guests. We will keep you posted on opportunities to visit the ship's build-in-progress.

---

### **Exchange of Gavels**



The exchange of Gavels took place last week at Mansion House where we presented the Skinners Company with a Birthday cake as they become numbers six and us, seven. This was followed by the amazing United Guilds Service at St Paul's Cathedral. This is a special service to mark the work of the Livery Companies in the City of London. Our guests returned to the Hall for lunch following the morning events.

---

### **Forthcoming events**

All available to book now:

- 15 April - [Wylford's Anniversary Service and lunch](#)
- 10 May - [Membership Lunch \(£50pp\)](#)
- 13 May - [Behind the Iron Curtain](#)
- 23 May - [Comedy Night Fundraiser \(£35pp\)](#)