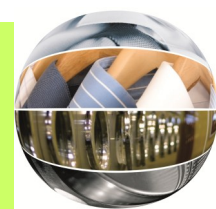




**GUILD  
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# Guild of Cleaners and Launderers



**DECEMBER 2014  
E-BULLETIN**



## *Christmas and New Year Message from Stuart Boyd Guild President*

"You can always tell its Christmas when Easter Eggs are in the shops and the Chairman of the Publications Committee asks you for your Christmas message.

Well since it is the time for exchanging presents, why not stop and give yourself the present of a little time to say well done to yourself for something, or many good things, that you have achieved this year. In these often difficult times, we sometimes forget to give ourselves that pat on the back that we deserve. It is easy to wrap and doesn't usually come with brussel sprouts, so why not try it.

May I also give you a "Thank You" for your continued support of the Guild, which has prospered this year because of your dedication and efforts within our industry. And so to all my fellow Guild members I say a big well done I wish you and your loved ones peace, health, happiness and prosperity for the coming New Year"

Regards



**Guild of  
Cleaners and  
Launderers**

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## **Stuart Boyd FBGL President**

### *Christmas Message from Archie Kerr Chairman of the Guilds Council*

I would like on behalf of council to wish all members a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. *Archie Kerr FBGL Chairman of the Guilds Council*

## **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Guild's Secretariat**



## **Obituary for Murray Simpson**

Textile Services Association CEO Murray Simpson, and a Fellow of the Guild, was fatally injured in a road traffic accident on the evening of Tuesday 25 November, 2014.

We, at the Guild, learnt the news with shock and sadness, because of his larger than life personality and ability to get on with most people making friends and with an ability to influence thinking. The thoughts of members and the industry, for which he played such a major role, will be with his family and friends at this very sad time. It is for certain that he will be greatly missed both as a person and a leader in the textile after care industry.

Murray, with language skills in both French and German, completed his formal education at Edinburgh University and sometime later became a civil servant working for the Industry Department for Scotland prior to devolution. During his brief time there he was responsible for the production of a consultation document which resulted in legislation to disband the five development corporations in the Enterprise and New Towns (Scotland) Act, which also, at that time, established Scottish Enterprise merging the former Scottish Development Agency and the Scottish Training Agency to form one integrated body. However, it was when he made the move to the Scottish Motor Trade Association, with whom he stayed for seven years, that his real skills were realised and noticed by others and he was head hunted to join the Textile Services Association becoming its Chief Executive and a prime motivator in our textile care sector. During his almost eighteen years heading up the TSA he redeveloped the organisation, moving offices several times, until they settled at the current address in Queen Square, Bloomsbury, London, in offices shared with the UK Fashion and Textile Association, for whom he also became a Director with a functional responsibility for political representation, and the resulting lobbying, for which he had both skill and talent. Within the TSA Murray represented the interests of Launderers, Textile Renters and Dry Cleaners, providing business services to members. The early days were difficult because previously the employer's organisation was made up of two separate bodies each with a different view of the responsibility and it took all his skills to forge it into one united association that is held in such high respect today.

Murray was held in such high esteem that he was invited to address a Guild Annual Conference in those far off days and following that he became a Guild member making many more appearances at regional Guild meetings and subsequent conferences. In one conference he and Stuart Boyd participated in a memorable joint presentation on the TSA and the Guild being different but working together, one being from Glasgow the other from Edinburgh, using their differences but common nationality to highlight how it was possible that both organisations holding different heritages could work together because of their many similar aspirations and goals. His personality shone out together with his passion for the industry and he was invited to become a Fellow of the Guild and from that date never missed a meeting when Fellows were called together to discuss matters associated with the industry. His views were well respected and he was invited to join many Guild Council meetings, as an observer, and also to pass on his views on subjects under discussion. He encouraged the Guild to jointly hold annual conferences with the TSA, with their retail sector, and this developed into both a conference and exhibition which grew in strength over subsequent years. When the Guild found it had a need for replacement secretarial services Murray, with the organisation at the TSA, took on these services for six years, becoming the Guild's Honorary General Secretary. It was in this term of office two years ago that he recognised that the Guild needed to develop by having an independent secretarial service and with his foresight he suggested that we go out to tender for these.

He encouraged education and training within the industry and supported the Guild publications and for several years insisted that the Guild's text book "Introduction to Laundry Chemistry" should be issued to each delegate at the TSA Laundry Management training sessions. He took a keen interest in the Guild's own initiative of running an Intermediate Laundry Technology training course that was held in October this year and, although not involved in the creation or running, suggested that this sort of event could be seen to be become a precursor to the TSA's own Management training courses in the future, such was his vision and desire to see the industry working to one common goal. Sadly he will not be around to further develop his ideas and forward vision.

Murray, with his wealth of experience and knowledge, was a dedicated and enthusiastic professional and his passionate commitment to developing the profile of the industry was commendable.

He will be sadly missed by all and a sore loss to the industry.