



**GUILD
OF CLEANERS
& LAUNDERERS**

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Guild of Cleaners and Launderers



May 2014 E-Bulletin

(This and previous issues now archived on the Guild's Website)

Look Out - The Guild Launches a Competition for the Best Looking Shop Front

Visit The Guild's Website at
www.gcl.org.uk

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Guild Membership Renewal? Your Membership Subscription for the year 2014/2015 is now due for renewal.

You can pay on line by visiting the Guild Website at www.gcl.org.uk, or alternatively, Telephone 01698 322669

LCT CleanEx Exhibition at Ascot Racecourse. The Guild had a stand, U10 manned by Council members and it was considered a success



Contact enquiries@gcl.org.uk

**Guild of Cleaners
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56 Maple Drive,
Larkhall, South Lanarkshire,
ML9 2AR

Phone: 01698 322669
E-mail: enquiries@gcl.org.uk

New for the Guild — At its Council Meeting on Wednesday 30th of April the Guild Executive Officers made the decision to promote dry cleaning through a photographic competition of the best looking professional cleaning shop front. The finalised photographs will be put before a panel at the Guild Conference in Nottingham 2015. If you think your Shop, or another dry cleaning shop in your area, could qualify please send your entry to the Guild Secretariat for entry into the competition.

Guild Facilitates Training - Last month we announced the formation of a laundry technology training course to be held next October, which is supported by the Worshipful Company of Launderers and the Johnson Group with the loan of training rooms in Rugby, and we are pleased that names of candidates have already been submitted, although the course is not yet full and we are still accepting bookings.

Now we can announce another training initiative but this time for the cleaning sector. At the recent council meeting the decision was taken to make a subsidy available, of £500, for each regional Centre to hold skill training sessions provided they are based upon the Guild's syllabi, and lead to the candidate taking a Guild Qualification. Raising standards and abilities was foremost on the agenda at the Council meeting and it was felt the successful sessions already held in some regions should be promoted and encouraged for all Centres in the future.

CleanEx at Ascot—We thank all those who freely gave up their time to promote the Guild on the stand at the CleanEx Exhibition on the 27th/28th of April. Some members of Council were on duty on the 26th, along with many other suppliers to the industry, organising and setting up the stands in readiness. We also thank Roger Cawood FGCL for his time in sessions of demonstrations on stain removal throughout the two days. Our appreciation also to Renzacci for the free loan of a 'spotting table' which they made available for the duration of the Exhibition. Whenever a group formed around the Guild's stand Roger went into training mode showing visitors the "how to's" of stain removal. Judging by the number of visitors to the stand, plus the number of new members who joined the Guild on the stand, and the number of Guild Text Books sold the event can be said to have been a success.

State of Health of your Guild—The Guild's financial year ended at the end of March, and from the 1st of April your annual subscriptions are due for renewal. Obviously we have to await the audit of the Guild's accounts before we can say how well the finances have been maintained by the Guild Council, but the indications are that the prudent measures maintained by the Guild Officers have kept us on a level keel and the results will show a positive surplus. However, the member subscriptions have not been reviewed for at least ten years, therefore there is a proposal to bring before the Guild's annual General Meeting, to be held at 1.00 pm on Wednesday 18th of June, at the Ramada Encore Hotel, Haydock, that all levels of membership be increased by £12 from April 2015.

Guild E-Bulletins. -If we have your e-mail address you will be receiving three electronic bulletins per month and the feed back on the "Amber Alert", warning of garments, or items, likely to give problems is receiving very favourable feedback. If you have experience of an item that has failed in cleaning please let us have the information on it, plus a photograph, and then we can warn others of the problem, as well we can provide feedback to the manufacturers. The "Technical Bulletin" is the newest of the electronic information we are able to send off and by making use of e-mailing we are able to keep postage costs down, but at the same time improve member contact.

Subscription Renewal Time—The Guild's financial year came to an end on the 31st of March which means that the Guild Secretariat will be expecting members to send in their subs for the new financial year. It helps to keep costs down if you pay promptly. There are many ways to pay, on line by visiting the Guild's Website www.gcl.org.uk, and scrolling down the choices on the left hand side, or by cheque, or by telephone using your credit card.

The Guild on Social Media. - Grow the business. Are you a follower of social media? The Guild has blogs on Facebook as well as LinkedIn and there is already a world wide following. It is nice to see the positive comments but some comments can be outrageous and lack any credible accuracy. It is a new medium and these are the early days when we all learn to see what help, or advantage, this modern communication tool can bring us, but we need to promote professional cleaning rather than pass adverse comments on other sectors.

Sunday Training Sessions -There is a call for more training sessions, and now the Council have agreed a subsidy, it expected that more sessions will be organised. If you have an interest please let the Guild Secretariat know and what skill you would like the training to be in?.

Plans For The Future? It is also planned to hold a series of demonstrations on stain removal. If you think eight people can be gathered together in an area please let us know so that we can organise a session.