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D Hunt Esq  
City Surveyor's Department  
City of London Corporation  
PO Box 270  
Guildhall  
London EC2P 2EJ

22<sup>nd</sup> August 2016

Dear Darrell

**THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF BOWYERS  
APPLICATION FOR CERAMIC PLAQUE**

I am writing to you as Chairman of the Muniments Committee of the Bowyers' Company. The company was first mentioned in a taxation roll of 1363 and was granted arms in 1488 but did not receive its first charter until 1621. Over a number of years we have been carrying out research to establish the site of Bowyers' Hall. We are now confident that our Hall was located in what is now Monkwell Square and we would be very grateful if the City Corporation would consider an application for the erection of a ceramic plaque. In support of this application, I enclose the following.

1. Completed Application Form for a Commemorative Plaque.
2. Map from book "In Search of Shakespeare" by Michael Wood (pub. BBC 2003) which shows Bowyers' Hill situated close to Cripplegate. [Note that "Muggle" as in Muggle Street is interchangeable with Mugwell, Monkswell and Monkwell]
3. Agas Map of 1561 showing perspective view of Cripplegate, London Wall and Muggle St.
4. Map from John Strype's Survey of London 1720 showing Hart Street and Mugwell Street.
5. Article "References to the Bowyers in John Stow's Survey of London" which describes Bowyers' Hall as being by the corner of Monkswell Street.

6. Photograph of extract from John Strype's Survey of London 1720 describing the location of Bowyers' Hall in a Court on the South side of Hart Street.
7. Email correspondence with Katie George, archivist of the Salters' Company, which mentions that Bowyers' Hall was purchased by Sir Ambrose Nicholas on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1559. The Hall was left to the Salters' Company in 1578 when the Bowyers' were mentioned as tenants.  
  
There is also mention of a lease dated 10<sup>th</sup> June 1555 of a cellar and of a lease dated 11<sup>th</sup> January 1561 made between the Salters' and the Bowyers' of a "Stone House" called Bowyers' Hall.
8. Estate plan of 1612 from the Clothworkers' Archive (Orientation West at top, East at bottom). In the bottom left is marked "Mugwell Street also Monkswell Street" and "12 Almhouses founded by Sir Ambrose Nicholas, Salter & Mayor 1575, the Salters' Land."
9. Notes by our current Master Bowyer, Tony Kench, to accompany a City Walk of 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016. Please see in particular Sections 6 and 7.
10. Land Registry Titles of 6 and 7 Wallside, identified as the site of Bowyers' Hall.
11. Examples of Livery Company Blue Plaques.

We do hope that this application will meet the necessary criteria. If it would be helpful, we would very willing to meet on site in order to relate the findings of our research to current features on the ground. Do let me know if you need any other information at this stage.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



**Simon Leach**

Court Assistant and Chairman of the Muniments Committee

The Bowyers' Company

simonleach@live.co.uk

020 7855 3589 (office)

## APPLICATION FORM FOR A COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE

This application form is based upon the "The City of London Corporation Commemorative Plaques – Criteria for the Evaluation of Proposals" adopted by the Trees, Gardens and City Open Spaces Committee on 26th April 1996. Copies of the full version of that document are available on request from the Town Clerk (020 7332 1427).

The City Corporation will, from time to time, consider the erection of ceramic plaques to commemorate significant people, places and events in the history of the City. However, it recognises that there may be occasions when this generally desirable method of commemoration and informing the public could result in unnecessary visual clutter. Therefore, each proposal for a plaque will be treated on its individual merits and in relation to the overall street scene in the area where it is proposed to be erected.

The City Corporation requests proposers of plaques to note that many more suggestions for plaques are received than can be approved within the resources available. Although the plaque suggestions falling within the criteria will be considered, the City Corporation reserves the right to determine priorities among suggestions received.

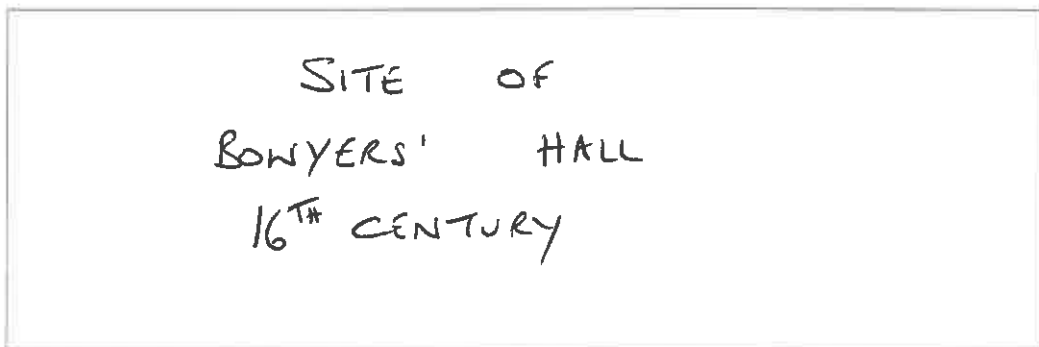
When considering subjects for commemoration, the City Corporation shall consult such individuals, bodies, institutions and organisations as it considers appropriate, but reserves the right to make the ultimate decision, which shall be final.

The City Corporation welcomes participation by individuals, organisations and business in the financing of individual plaques, but such an arrangement shall not affect the City Corporation's consideration for suitability for the subject matter.

**Proposers of subjects for commemoration are requested to provide as much evidence as they are able to in support of their proposal, including any copies of published or archival references and a location plan.**

Proposers of subjects for commemoration should read the following carefully, answer the relevant questions and supply as much additional useful information as possible.

### SUGGESTED TEXT FOR PROPOSED PLAQUE:



SITE OF  
BOWYERS' HALL  
16<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

**Note** – This should be for a maximum of 64 characters (including comma's) OR 6 lines of text, as the ceramic artist has to be able to reproduce the text within the confines of the plaque frame. The City of London reserves the right to change or alter this text, following consultation with both the applicant and the ceramic artist.

(a) **Individual or Groups of People**

Without exception, proposals for the commemoration of famous people shall not be considered until they have been dead for 10 years or until the centenary of birth, whichever is the earlier. In addition, at least one of the following requirements is to be met. Please tick the relevant boxes and use the space at the end of the form or a separate sheet of paper to set out appropriate supporting information.

- (i) There shall be reasonable ground for believing that the subject is regarded as eminent or deserving of recognition.

YES NO

N/A

- (ii) They shall have made some important positive contribution to history or society.

YES NO

- (iii) They shall have had such outstanding personalities that the well-informed passer-by immediately recognises their name or names.

YES NO

(b) **Buildings or Sites**

The nature of the current building or use of a site shall not preclude the erection of a plaque, but such issues at technical difficulties of fixing and the need to obtain Listed Building Consent shall be taken into consideration. The following requirement shall be met, but you should note that a building or site shall not be marked solely because it figures in a work of fiction. Please tick the relevant box and use the space at the end of the form or a separate sheet of paper to set out appropriate supporting information.

- (i) There shall be reasonable grounds for believing that the subject is of archaeological, architectural or historic interest.

YES NO

(c) **National/International Organisations**

Such organisations may be deemed worthy of consideration provided that at least one of the following criteria are met. Please tick the relevant boxes and use the space at the end of the form or a separate sheet of paper to set out appropriate supporting information.

- (i) There shall be reasonable grounds for believing that the subject is regarded as eminent or deserving of recognition.

YES NO

N/A

- (ii) They shall have made some important positive contribution to society or history and development of the city of London.

YES NO

- (iii) A well-informed passer-by should immediately recognise their name.

YES NO

**(d) Foreign Applications**

In these cases a contribution towards the cost of production or erection would normally be expected, either from the relevant Government or the person / organisation making the proposal and the following criteria must also be met. Please tick the relevant boxes and use the space at the end of the form or a separate sheet of paper to set out appropriate supporting information.

- (i) They should be of international reputation or of significant standing in their own country.

YES      NO

N/A

- (ii) Their time in the City of London Corporation should have been a significant period within their life and work.

YES      NO

- (iii) The form of name, forename or title in the inscription on a plaque should be in accordance with that given in a standard English work of reference or as would be readily recognisable to a reasonably well-informed passer-by.

YES      NO

**Cost**

The City of London welcomes donations towards the cost of realising a Commemorative Blue Plaque.

**Supporting Information**

(Please also indicate the precise location at which you would wish your plaque to be located).

Address/Location:

6 & 7 WALLSIDE  
MONKWELL SQUARE  
LONDON  
EC2Y 8BH

This application form, when completed with appropriate details about your proposal for a commemorative plaque, should be sent to the following address:

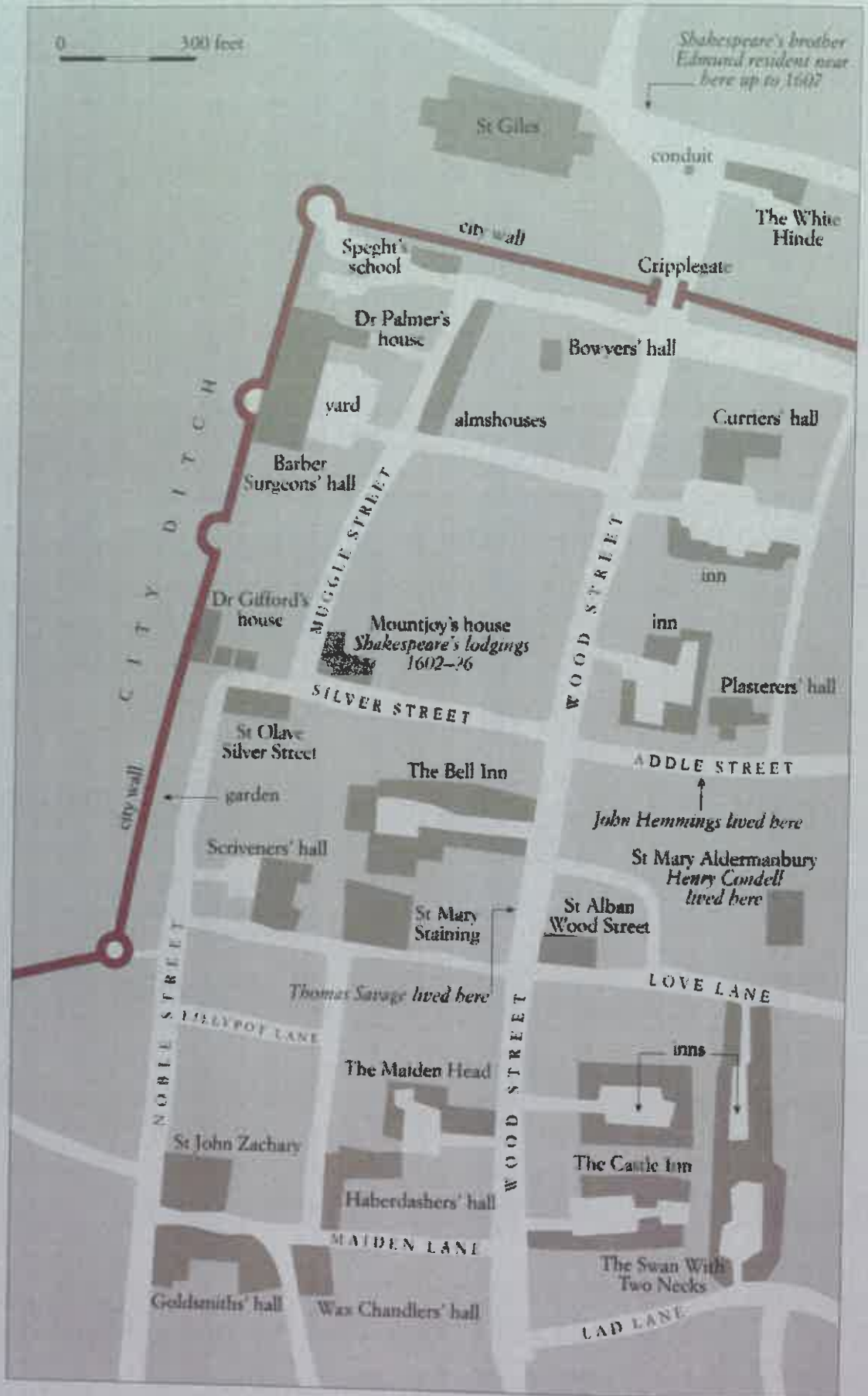
**The City Surveyor  
City of London Corporation  
P.O. Box 270  
Guildhall  
London EC2P 2EJ**

**H/DEPARTMENT/PLAQUES**



*In Search of Shakespeare*  
 Michael Wood BBC 2003

THE THEATRE  
 OF THE  
 WORLD

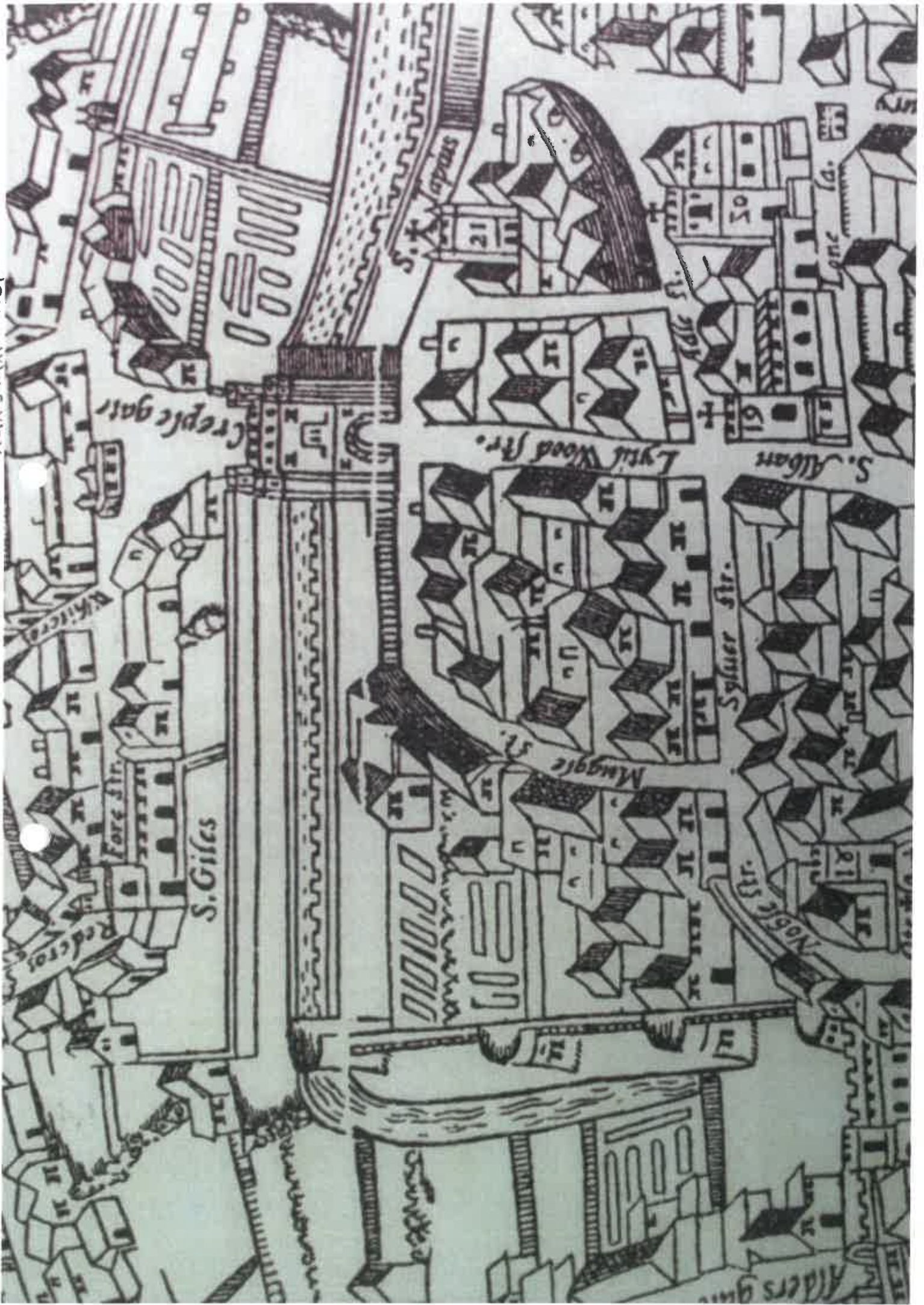


RIGHT: Shakespeare's neighbourhood from 1602 to c. 1606. Silver Street was the home of gold- and silversmiths, and several theatre colleagues lived close by. OPPOSITE: Shakespeare lodged with the Mountjoys, who made tires by royal appointment: the kind of rich headdresses worn by Queen Elizabeth.





AGRS MAP 1561



S. Gises

Fore Str.

Redcross

Richford

Crepic gar

W. H. Lappas

Lyric Wood Str.

Mangle

Sylluer Str.

Noble Str.

S. Alban

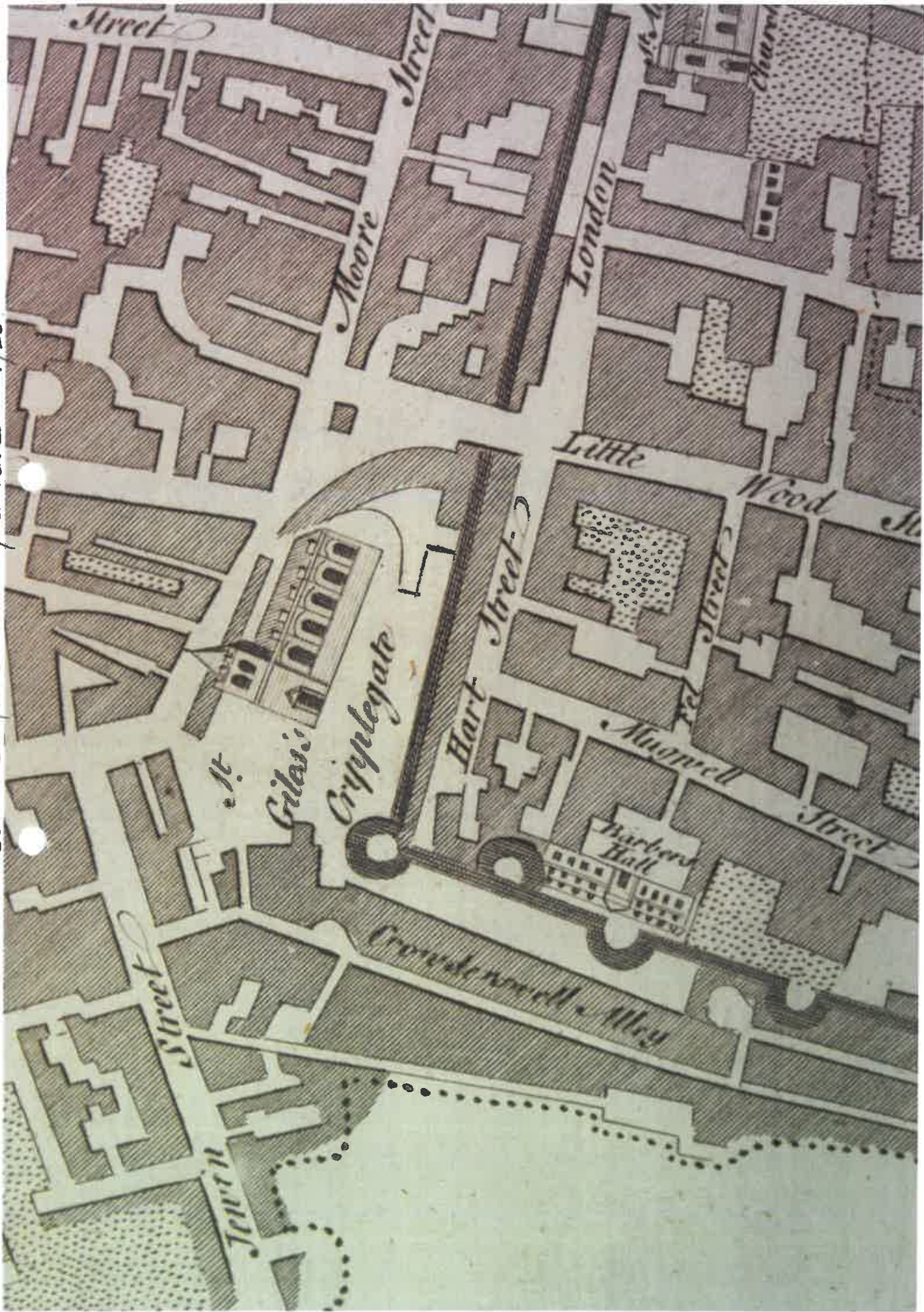
Long Id.

S. H. Lappas

Alders gar



JOHN STYCKE'S SURVEY OF LONDON 1720





## References to the Bowyers in John Stow's Survey of London



John Stow, was born in 1525, the son of Thomas Stow, a tallow-chandler in the parish of St Michael, Cornhill. He was apprenticed as a merchant taylor, was admitted as freeman to the Merchant Taylor's Company in 1547, and set up business in Aldgate. In the 1570's he moved to a house in the Lime Street Ward where he lived until his death. However, he was to pursue another career as a historian and antiquarian. His best known work is the *Survey of London* of 1598 which was republished in 1603 and which gives a unique account of the buildings, streets, social conditions and customs of Elizabethan London. A reprint of the 1603 edition was published in 1908 edited by Charles Kingsford. Stow died in 1605 and is buried in the church of St Andrew Undershaft where his monument and terracotta figure still remain. He is not forgotten for, in April of each year, the Lord Mayor attends *John Stow's Quill Pen Ceremony* at which he places a new quill in the hand of John Stow's statue which remains in place until the following year. The old quill is presented to the child who is the winner of an annual essay competition on the subject of London.

The *Survey* includes a number of references to bowyers, the Bowyers' Company, Bowyer Row, Bowyers' Hall and the practice of archery. It tells us that by 1598, bowyers no longer frequented their traditional places of work, that the traditional shooting grounds were being lost to enclosure and that the noble practice of archery had been forsaken for gambling and unlawful games. It provides clear evidence that, when the Bowyers' received their first charter in 1621, the manufacture and use of longbows was already in serious decline.

### References to bowyers

#### *The Suburbs without the Walles*

*In the East ende of Forestreete is More lane: then next Grubstreete, of late yeares inhabited for the most part by Bowyers, Fletchers, Bowstring makers, and such like, now little occupied, Archerie giving place to a number of bowling Allies, and Dicing houses, which in al places are increased, and too much frequented.*<sup>1</sup>

The site of Grub Street is now under the Barbican Centre. It ran north from Fore Street and was not far from Bowyers' Hall.

## Reference to the Bowyers' Company

### *Temporall Government*

*In 23. of Henrie the eight, these companies had place at the Maiors feast, in the Guild hall in order as followeth, I speake of president, for I was never feast folower.*

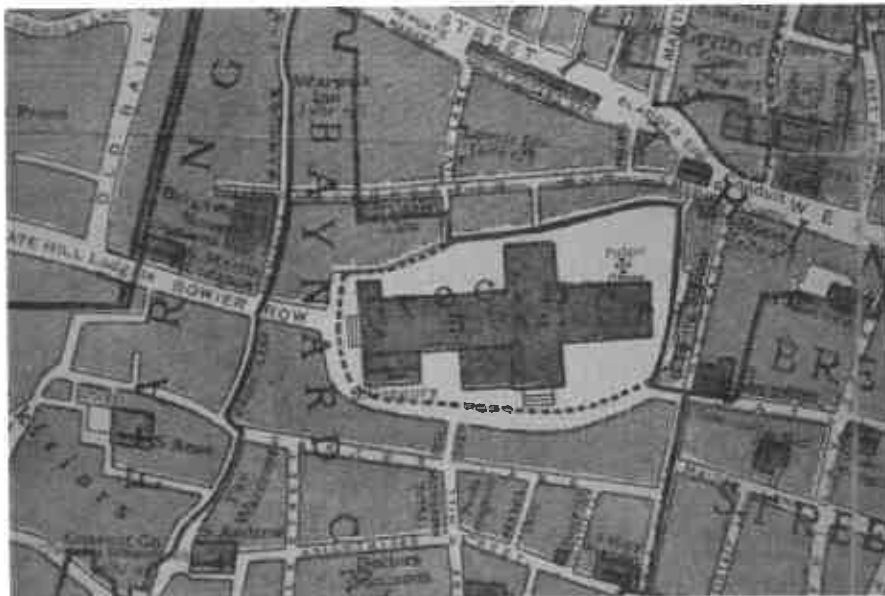
- 1. Mercers, the wardens and 17. persons, five messe.*
- 2. Grocers, the wardens and 16. persons, four messe.*
- etc*
- 35. Bowiers, the wardens and two persons, one messe.*
- 36. Fletchers, the wardens and 2. Persons, one messe.<sup>2</sup>*

The Bowyers and Fletchers are now ranked as 38 and 39 respectively in the modern order of precedence.

## References to Bowyer Row

The 1908 reprint of the *Survey* includes a modern map of places and streets as described by Stow.

**Bowler Row** can be seen leading from the West Front of St Paul's Cathedral to the church of St Martin's within Ludgate.



Detail of map from 1908 edition of John Stow's: A Survey of London

There are five references to Bowyer Row.

### *Gates of this Citie*

*By meanes of this increase of the Church territorie, but more by inclosing of ground for so large a cemitorie, or churchyard: the high and large street stretching from Aldegate in the East, untill Ludgate in the West, was in this place so crossed and stopped up, that the cariage through the citie westward, was*

*forced to passe without the said churchyard wall on the North side, through Pater noster row: and then South downe Ave Mary lane, and againe West through Bowyer row to Ludgate: or else out of Cheepe, or Watheling streete to turne south, through the old Exchange, then west through Carter Lane: againe north up Creede lane, and then west to Ludgate.*<sup>3</sup>

#### ***Of Orders and Customes***

*Men of trades and sellers of wares in this City have often times since chaunged their places, as they have found their best advantage. For where as Mercers, and Haberdashers used to keepe their shoppes in West Cheape, of later time they helde them on London Bridge, where partly they yet remaine.... (There then follows many examples of trades which have moved from their traditional place of work) ... ..:Bowyers, from Bowyers row by Ludgate into divers places, and almost worne out with the Fletchers.*<sup>4</sup>

#### ***Faringdon Ward within***

*Now betwixt the south ende of Ave Mary Lane, and the north end of Creede lane, is the comming out of Paules church-yard on the East, and the high streete called Bowier row to Ludgate, on the west, which way to Ludgate is of this ward. On the North side whereof is saint Martins Church. And on the South side is a turning into Blacke Friers.*<sup>5</sup>

#### ***Faringdon Ward within***

*Betwixt the south end of Ave Mary lane, and the North end of Creed Lane, is the comming out of Paules Church yard, on the East, and the high street on the West, towards Ludgate, and this is called Bowier row, of Bowiers dwelling there in olde time, now worne out by Mercers and others.*<sup>6</sup>

#### ***Faringdon Ward within***

*Now to turne againe out of the Black Fryers through Bowier Rowe, Ave Mary lane, and Pater Noster Row, to the church of saint Michaell ad Bladum.....*<sup>7</sup>

### **References to Bowyers' Hall**

#### ***Creplesgate warde***

*The East side of this streete (Monkswell Street) downe against London Wall, and the south side thereof of to Criplegate, bee of Criplesgate Ward, as is afore shewd. In this street by the corner of Monkswell street is the Bowyers hall.*<sup>8</sup>

### **References to the practice of archery**

#### ***Of watches in London***

*In the Moneth of August about the feast of S. Bartholomew the Apostle, before the Lord Maior, Aldermen, and Shiriffes of London placed in a large Tent neare unto Clarcken well, of olde time were diverse dayes spent in the pastime of wrestling, where the Officers of the Citie: namely the Shiriffes, Sergeants and Yeoman, the Porters of the kings beame, or weigh house, now no such men, and other of the Citie, were challengers of all men in the suburbs, to wrestle for games appointed: and on other dayes, before the sayd Maior, Aldermen and Shiriffes, in Fensburie field, to shoote the Standard, broad Arrow, and flight,*

X

*for games: but now of late yeares the wrestling is onely practised on Bartholemw day in the after noone, and the shooting some three or foure dayes after, in one after noone and no more. What should I speake of the auncient dayly exercises in the long bow by Citizens of this Citie, now almost cleane left off and forsaken? I overpass it: for by the meane of closing in the common grounds, our Archers for want of roome to shoote abroade, creepe into bowling Allies, and ordinarie dicing houses, nearer home, where they have roome to hazard their money at unlawful games: and there I leave them to take their pleasures.<sup>9</sup>*

#### ***Bishopsgate warde***

*Then is there a large close called Tasell close sometime, for that there were Tasels planted for the use of Clothworkers: since letten to the Crosse-bow-makers, wherein they used to shoote for games at the Poppingey: now the same being inclosed with a bricke wall, serveth to be an Artillerieyard, wherunto the Gunners of the Tower doe weekly repaire, namely everie Thursday, and there levelling certaine Brasse peeces of great Artillerie against a But of earth, made for that purpose, they discharge them for their exercise.<sup>10</sup>*

#### ***The Suburbes without the Walles***

*In the year 1498. all the Gardens which had continued time out of mind, without Moregate, to witte, aboute and beyonde the Lordship of Finsbery, were destroyed. And of them was made a playne field for Archers to shoote in. And in the yeare 1512. Roger Atchley Mayor caused divers dikes to be cast, and made to drein the waters of the sayde More fields, with bridges arched over them, and the groundes about to bee levelled, whereby the sayd fielde was made somewhat more commodious, but yet it stooode full of noysome waters: Whereupon in the yeare 1527. sir Thomas Semor Mayor caused divers sluces to be made, to convey the sayd waters over the Towne ditch, into the course of Walbrooke, and so into the Thames: and by these degress was this Fenne or More at length made main and hard ground, which before being overgrowne with Flagges, sedges and rushes, served to no use, since the which time, also the further groundes beyonde Fensbury Court have been so overheightned with Laystalles of dung, that now three windmilles are theron set: the ditches be filled up, and the bridges overwhelmed.*

*And now concerning the inclosures of common grounds about this cittie, whereof I mind not much to argue, Edwarde Hall setteth downe a note of his time, to wit in the fift or sixte of Henry the eight: before this time sayth hee, the inhabitantes of the Townes aboute London, as Iseldone, Hoxton, Shorsditch and others, had so inclosed the common fields with hedges, and ditches, that neyther the yong men of the City might shoote, nor the auncient persons walke for theyr pleasures in those fieldes, but that either their bowes and arrowes were taken away or broken, or the honest persons arrested or indighted: saying, that no Londoner ought to goe out of the City, but in the high Waies. This saying so grieved the Londoners, that suddainlie this yeare a great number of the Citie assembled themselves in a morning, and a Turner in a fooles coate came crying through the City, shovelles and spades, shovelles and spades: so many of the people followed, that it was a wonder to behold, and within a short space all the hedges about the City were cast down, and the diches filled up, and every thing made plaine, such was the diligence of these workmen; .....<sup>11</sup>*



**From the Notes to the 1908 reprint**

*Grubstreete*. It was convenient for bowyers since it lay near the **Archery- butts** in Finsbury Fields. Randolph in *Hey for Honesty* ed 1651 p475 writes: –

*Her eyes are Cupid's Grub-Street: the blind archer  
Makes his love-arrows there.* <sup>12</sup>

This place was also known for being the street of scribblers and the phrase *Grub Street* is still used today to refer to the world of hack journalism.

**Simon Leach**  
February 2010

**References**

Kingsford , Charles Lethbridge: 1908 reprint of the 1603 edition of Stow's Survey of London

1. Vol II p79
2. Vol II p191
3. Vol I p35
4. Vol I p81
5. Vol I p312
6. Vol I p339
7. Vol I p341
8. Vol I p299
9. Vol I p104
10. Vol I p166
11. Vol II p76
12. Vol II p370



(5.) *Brewers-ball* is also a good Building, near adjoining to *Plaiesters-ball*, with a genteel Entrance into a large Court, paved with Free-stone, cloistered; the Building above being supported with handsome Pillars.

Brewers-hall.

(6.) *Curriers-ball*, situate at the upper End of *Curriers-court*, is an indifferent good Building, with an handsome Free-stone Entrance.

Curriers-hall.

(7.) *Bowyers-ball* was formerly situate in a Court on the South Side of *Hart-street*.

Bowyers-hall.

(8.) *Loriners-ball* adjoins to *London-wall* in the *Postern-street*, facing *Basingball-street*, and, tho' small, is a pretty neat Building.

Loriners-hall.

*Fiftibly*, Here are also several charitable Foundations, called *Alms-Houfes*.

(1.) The *Alms-Houfes* on the East Side of

Alms-

*Monkswell-street* founded A D



Dear Simon

You'll be pleased to know that, having continued the trawl through the Salters' Court minutes, I've found the date when William Dawes first became the Salters' tenant at the building known as Bowyers' Hall. The wording used is a bit ambiguous, not to mention very difficult to read – it's basically saying that at the Court held on **23 September 1651**, William Dawes petitioned to become the new tenant **"for the late Bowyers' Hall"**, and his petition was accepted. The meaning of the wording is, I believe, that the Bowyers were themselves 'the late' or most recent tenants. This makes sense, because I think it most unlikely that the building would have been empty for a long time (i.e. months) between the Bowyers moving out and William Dawes moving in, as the Salters would have been very keen to maximise the rental income from their properties by avoiding such long gaps, not least because, at around this time, they were also complaining in the minutes about large quantities of Company debt! So I think it's reasonable to assume that the Bowyers moved out sometime in, or very close to, September 1651. Sadly, of course, I'm unable to tell you where they moved to, as their days as tenants of the Salters were at an end, but it would be nice, and perhaps indeed realistic, to think that they moved straight over to St. Peter's Hill, thus filling the gaps in your knowledge of the Bowyers' whereabouts in the City, during this period at least.

I hope that the above details will be of help – my Bowyers' research has come to an end now, but I've enjoyed doing it AND actually finding some details! Perhaps we will meet during the Great Fire 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorations next year, (I'm assuming that they will provide an opportunity for a 'gathering' of some sort!).

Best wishes

Katie

Mrs Katie George

Salters' Company Archivist

I am in the office two days a week - normally Tuesdays and Thursdays

The Salters' Company

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EC4N 7HR

Tel: 020 7588 5216 Ext. 225

Email: [Katie.George@salters.co.uk](mailto:Katie.George@salters.co.uk)

[www.salters.co.uk](http://www.salters.co.uk)

**From:** Simon Leach [<mailto:simonleach@live.co.uk>]  
**Sent:** 01 May 2015 14:34  
**To:** Katie George  
**Cc:** Simon Leach  
**Subject:** RE: The Bowyers' Company

Dear Katie

Thank you very much indeed for investigating the references to William Dawes. Your accounts confirm that the Bowyers had moved on before 1666. This fits in with a reference in Strype's Survey of London that, "*before the Great Fire, the Bowyers met on St Peter's Hill*" (south of St Pauls).

If you should come across any other references to the Bowyers, please do get in touch.

We are extremely grateful for your assistance.

Best wishes

Simon

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**From:** [Katie.George@salters.co.uk](mailto:Katie.George@salters.co.uk)  
**To:** [simonleach@live.co.uk](mailto:simonleach@live.co.uk)  
**Subject:** RE: The Bowyers' Company  
**Date:** Thu, 30 Apr 2015 12:57:51 +0000

Dear Simon

Many thanks for your latest email and I'm glad that my recent discovery has aroused so much interest, but then of course I can appreciate that you'd want to know as much as possible about the whereabouts of the Bowyers' City 'HQ' earlier on in their history.

It looks as if 'Mr Dawes' was William Dawes, Draper (i.e. member of the Drapers' Company), as his name appears on a few other title deeds for the same area of the City in the 1640s-1650s period. But more than that the surviving archives don't say, (you could try contacting the Drapers' Company).

As you've said, it does look as if what was once Bowyers' Hall continued to be known as Bowyers' Hall, even after the Bowyers had left the building. The Salters definitely rented 'Bowyers' Hall' to Mr Dawes from 1659 through to 1670, as his name is clearly shown in the Renter's Accounts, so from this we can see that HE was tenant at the time of the Great Fire and NOT the Bowyers.

Unless the Bowyers were in another property owned by the Salters during the Fire then I'm afraid I won't be able to tell you where they were at that time, but I'll do my best to find out when they left the 'Bowyers' Hall' owned by the Salters. Sadly, there are no accounts surviving earlier than 1659, other than the stray set for 1600 that I mentioned, and there are no other relevant title deeds other than the ones I told you about in my last email, so all I have left to search are the Court minutes, which aren't indexed – it's a case of reading page after page of difficult hand-writing! The reference to the Bowyers repairing their Hall in the 1630s (*please note, since my last email I've discovered that the correct date for this reference is 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 1637/8 (1637 in the OLD STYLE calendar, when new year fell in late March), and NOT 7<sup>TH</sup> Feb 1636, as shown in Herbert Griffiths' notes*) very helpfully had 'Bowyers' in the left-hand margin next to the relevant paragraph, to help it to stand out more easily, but shortly after this all the sub-headings in the margin stop, which slows the research process down considerably! I've done some more research on the minutes this week and have got as far as April 1648, but there is no mention of the Bowyers or Mr Dawes, or of 'Bowyers' Hall' having new tenants, so in the absence of any other evidence so far, we can only assume that they were still there in 1648, unless the Salters were being slack in their record-keeping! I'm afraid I must set your research aside for the time being, as I'm only in the office two days a week, but I shall resume when I can in an attempt to provide you with a more complete record of the Bowyers' earlier whereabouts!

Finally, in case of confusion, Herbert Griffiths' notes say that 'Bowyers' Hall' was let WITH a bakehouse and not AS a bakehouse – the 'Hall' and the bakehouse were definitely two separate properties. And 'Bowyers' Hall' is mentioned for the last time in the accounts of 1669-1670. In the accounts of 1670-1671 the 'Hall' isn't mentioned at all, although Mr Dawes is still tenant, so either the 'Hall' building had been demolished or the level of description in the accounts had been reduced to more of a summary.

I'll contact you again when I've had the chance to resume the search, but in the meantime I hope this email will be of interest.

Best wishes

Katie

Mrs Katie George

Salters' Company Archivist

I am in the office two days a week - normally Tuesdays and Thursdays

The Salters' Company

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[www.salters.co.uk](http://www.salters.co.uk)

**From:** Simon Leach [<mailto:simonleach@live.co.uk>]

**Sent:** 23 April 2015 21:43

**To:** Katie George

**Cc:** Simon Leach; John Hayton; Ian Spring; Tony Kench; Richard Wilkinson; Norman Gooding;



Christian Major; Sinclair Rogers  
Subject: The Bowyers' Company

Dear Katie

Thank you very much indeed for taking the time to research this matter in such detail. I have circulated your findings to my colleagues on the Muniments Committee and we are thrilled by what you have uncovered.. It is very really very exiting!

Our Renter Warden, Tony Kench, is leading a City Walk in May along a route which will take in the tomb of our benefactor, our places of work from the C14th to the C16th and the location of our Hall. Your findings have come at just the right time and will be included in the tour.

I have noticed that the Salters' Company has submitted its membership records to the RollCo project, as have the Bowyers. One of our future projects is to compile a list of the names of Bowyers from the early documents which predate our formal admission records which commenced in 1679. The lease of 1561 has provided us with another 15 names.

I should be most grateful if you would help us with just one final question. I attach a photograph of the extract from the notebook of Herbert Griffith which first prompted me to write to you. The last line is not easy to read but it states "*.....in 1660 onwards to 1671 as shown in the Renter accounts of the Salters Co the Bowyers Hall was let as a bakehouse in Monkwell Street to a Mr Dawes*". I should be grateful if you would make a search for Mr Dawes for two reasons. First, it would prove that the building continued to be known as Bowyers' Hall even though the company was no longer in occupation. Secondly, it would prove that we were not in that building at the time of the Great Fire. If not, we don't know where we were in 1666. As with much research, we have raised as many questions as we have answered.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes

Simon

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From: Katie.George@salters.co.uk  
To: simonleach@live.co.uk  
Subject: RE: The Bowyers' Company  
Date: Thu, 23 Apr 2015 12:46:47 +0000

Dear Simon

Following on from my last email of 31 March, I have now been able to do some more research for you. I see from your website that the Bowyers were using Broderers' Hall from 1674, just a few years on from the last mention of Bowyers in the Salters' accounts of 1669-70, so for this reason I haven't moved the researched forward in time, but have focussed instead on moving backwards, to try and establish when the Bowyers first became tenants of the Salters. As I was saying last time, the old paper title deed catalogues aren't indexed and are therefore quite time-consuming to go through, but I've managed to go through them and have found the following:

X 11 January 1561

Lease counterpart between:

- 1) Wardens of the Salters' Company
- 2) 15 'Citizens' of the Bowyers' Company: Richard Baulte, Thomas Abbottee, Henry Everton, Robert Fox, Robert Collet, Richarde Hales, Richard Haryson, John Amerson, Alexander Asheforde, Thomas Redferne, Ralph Iazard, Richard Odye, Humfry Scragges, Richard Nattingham, Thomas Dente.

Of one stone house called Bowyers' Hall in St. Alphage within Creplegate [Cripplegate].

'Rooms and dimensions given but indecipherable.'

Term: Lady Day last (24 March) for 58 years

Rent: illegible, p.a. quarterly.

'Badly mutilated by damp'. [Because of this, I haven't taken the lease out of the box to see it first-hand – luckily I have this very detailed transcription to use instead!]

Although the term of this lease was 58 years, taking the tenancy on to 1619, as we already know that the Bowyers are mentioned as tenants in the Salters' Court minutes of 1636, I think we can

safely assume that the lease was renewed in 1619, (as I was saying last time, sadly there are no other surviving records from the period to confirm this).

✕ 'The stone house called Bowyers' Hall' first became indirectly associated with the Salters' Company in a bargain and sale of 10 April 1559, in which Ambrose Nicholas, Salter, paid 'a competent sum' for 'the houses in St. Alphage and St. Oluffe within Creplegate' to Richard Savage, Citizen and Grocer and his wife Alice, daughter of William Bonham, deceased, (in his will of 1557 William left all his houses in St. Alphage and St. Olave to Alice), so in other words, Bowyers' Hall was one of several houses in this St. Alphage 'estate', which in turn shows that the Bowyers weren't renting their Hall from an individual Salter or the Salters as a whole before 1559. But despite these different owners, the relevant deeds, where they have survived, have been kept together, to chart the change in ownership. Ambrose Nicholas became Sir Ambrose Nicholas at some point – he was Lord Mayor in 1575, and in his will of 1578 he left Bowyers' Hall to the Salters (the Bowyers' Company are specifically mentioned in the will as tenants). He must have agreed to the above lease of 1561 – perhaps he was one of the Salters' Wardens mentioned, but I can't check this as the records sadly haven't survived.

✕ In the various title deeds relating to these St. Alphage houses, the earliest specific reference to Bowyers' Hall or the Bowyers' Company is on 10 June 1555, in a lease counterpart between Citizen and Stationer William Bonham (as mentioned above), and Richard Kyldall, Citizen and Draper, relating to 'one cellar with little vault in the west side UNDER THE TENEMENT (BOWYERS' COMPANY) in St. Alphage Creplegate'. Before this, it looks as if William Bonham bought the houses on 9 July 1545 for 'a competent sum of money' from Roger and Robert Taverner, gents. The houses are mentioned again in a lease of 7 April 1536, between Dame Marye Rollesleye, Prioress of St. Elene within Bishoppesgate and also the convent 'of the same', and John Rollesleye, gent, but the lease was cancelled, and again, there is NO specific mention of the Bowyers' Company or Hall. The title deeds for this 'estate' in St. Alphage (in Mugwell Street, later Monkwell Street) and St. Olave near Crepulgate/Cripplegate don't go back any earlier than this, so I've done all I can, but at least we know more than we did before! I hope it will be of interest to you.

Best wishes

Katie

Mrs Katie George

Salters' Company Archivist

I am in the office two days a week - normally Tuesdays and Thursdays

The Salters' Company

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**From:** Simon Leach [<mailto:simonleach@live.co.uk>]

**Sent:** 01 April 2015 14:20

**To:** Katie George

**Cc:** Simon Leach

**Subject:** The Bowyers' Company

Dear Katie

Many thanks indeed for your email. This is a very exiting discovery.

I attach the letter which I wrote to the Firefighters. In that letter I included a quote from a history of the Cooks Company which indicates that both the Bowyers and the Salters made use of Cooks Hall as temporary accommodation after the fire.

Best wishes

Simon

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**From:** [Katie.George@salters.co.uk](mailto:Katie.George@salters.co.uk)

**To:** [simonleach@live.co.uk](mailto:simonleach@live.co.uk)

Subject: RE: The Bowyers' Company  
Date: Tue, 31 Mar 2015 15:49:06 +0000

Dear Simon

Thank you for your email, and apologies for the delay in my reply but I'm only in the office two days a week.

Your enquiry is a most interesting one – until now I had no idea that the Bowyers were once tenants of the Salters. I've checked the Salters' Court minutes for 7<sup>th</sup> February 1636 and have found the reference in question, in which the Master and Wardens of the Bowyers were informed that their Hall was 'out of repaire', and in response the said Master and Wardens duly promised to repair it 'forthwith'! This tenancy arrangement went back at least until 1600 – there is a stray set of Renter Warden's accounts in the Salters' archives that I was able to check in order to verify this. But sadly, thanks to the Great Fire (which has a lot to answer for...), no other accounts have survived before this date.

After 1600 there is a big gap in the Renter's accounts sequence until 1659, at which date the Bowyers are listed as tenants again, in the same location (Monkwell Street, or Mugwell Street in those days), exactly as described by your former Clerk in the reference you quote in your email below. This area of the City was destroyed in the Fire, but once rebuilt the Bowyers appear again in the accounts, and in the 1669-70 accounts they appear for the last time, although it isn't totally clear whether they moved on elsewhere, or whether the level of description in the accounts had just become more summarised.

Further research back through the Salters' catalogue of old title deeds may reveal exactly when the tenancy arrangement between the Salters and Bowyers begun, but this could take some time as these catalogues aren't indexed or computerised. I could also look further on into the accounts beyond 1670 to see when the arrangement ended, but again this could take a while – at least for now you know that the Bowyers were tenants of the Salters in 1666 – the all-important year of the Fire! We've been contacted by the Fire Fighters' Company for information as well, so this is all very topical, and an interesting subject to research as well.

I hope that the above will be of help and I'll get back to you as soon as I can, sometime in the next few weeks or so.

Kind regards

Katie

Mrs Katie George

Salters' Company Archivist

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**From:** Simon Leach [<mailto:simonleach@live.co.uk>]

**Sent:** 17 March 2015 22:37

**To:** Katie George

**Cc:** Tony Kench; Simon Leach

**Subject:** The Bowyers' Company

Dear Katie

I am writing to you as Chairman of the Muniments Committee of the Bowyers' Company. We were recently contacted by the Firefighters Company who, in preparation for next year's 350th Anniversary, are collecting details from the livery companies of how they were affected by the Great Fire. This has prompted us to research the various locations of Bowyers' Hall and in particular its location in 1666.

During our research, we came across the following note written about 1900 by a former Clerk, Herbert E Griffith. He was a practicing solicitor who kept the records of the Company, dating from 1679, at his offices and over the years he compiled a handwritten notebook of interesting facts about the history of the company extracted from the Minute Books and Charters. He wrote:

*"It appears from the Court Minutes of the Salters' Company of 7th February 1636 that the Bowyers were tenants of the Salters Company and that Bowyers' Hall at this time (illegible) in 1660 onwards. In 1671 as shown in the rent accounts of the Salters' Company the Bowyers' Hall was let with a bakehouse in Monkwell Street to a Mr Dawes".*

In a draft company history, there is the mention of leasing a Hall in 1567 but we have not been able to find the source of this statement and we do not know the identity of the landlord.

We should be most grateful if you would check the Minutes of 7th February 1636 to find out if the note of HE Griffith is supported by your records. If so, it would then be interesting to refer to the Rent Books from 1560s through to 1666 to find out for how long the Bowyers were tenants. The lease of 1567 referred to above may also have been granted by the Salters.

I very much look forward to hearing from you. The possible location of our Hall is still much talked about and, if this search is successful in finding a reference to the Bowyers, this would be a significant breakthrough in our research.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

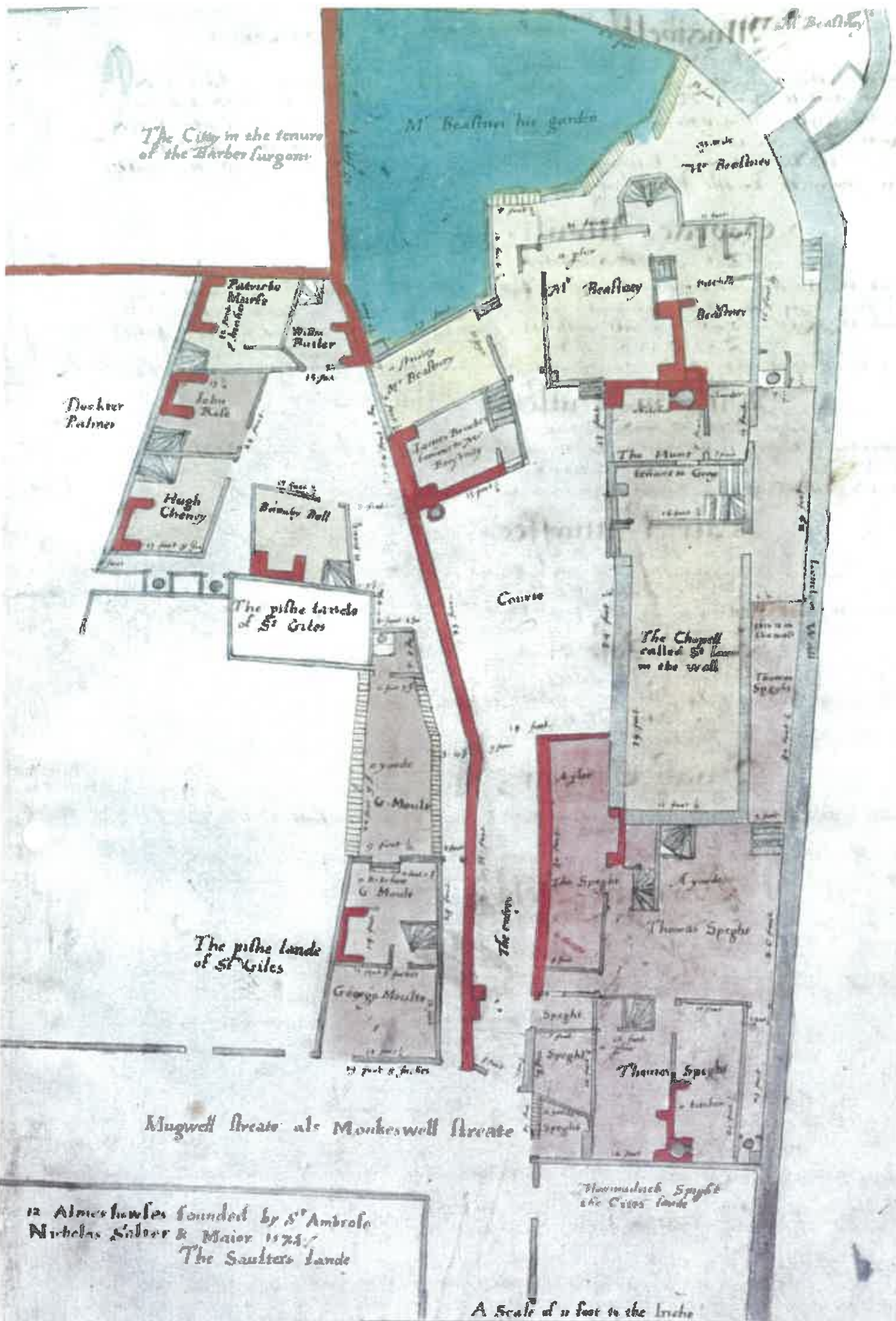
Yours sincerely

**Simon Leach**  
**Court Assistant and Chairman of the Muniments Committee**  
The Bowyers' Company  
020 8947 1603 (home)  
020 7855 3589 (office)  
simonleach@live.co.uk

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The City in the tenure of the Barber Surgeons



Dochter Palmer

Peterbe Marks

W. Br. Butler

John Bealme

Hugh Cheney

Bowyer Hall

The pilshe lands of St Giles

Course

The Chapel called St Lawrence on the wall

The pilshe lands of St Giles

George Moulter

Mugwell Street als Monkeswell Street

12 Almshouses founded by S<sup>r</sup> Ambrose Nicholas Silver & Maier 1175  
The Saulters Lande

A Scale of 12 foot to the Inch

COSTHLOWES ARCHIVE 1612





## The Bowyers' Hall City Walk, 16 May 2016

### Where the Bowyers met and worked in the City of London between 1300 and the Great Fire of 1666

First developed for 18 May 2015, updated June 2015 after further research, and again for 2016

This text follows the path of our City Walk, which starts at St Nicholas Cole Abbey to talk of 1629, then goes back in time to the sites of Bowyer Row c1300-1400 and the Bowyers' Halls by London Wall c1450-1650, with much fresh research included. As well as tracing the sites, the talk also aims to give a short general overview of Bowyers' Company history in the time of its bow-making heyday.

#### 1. James Wood

James Wood was the Bowyers' Company's greatest benefactor. We drink a silent toast to his 'pious memory' at our formal dinners, because in 1629 he left us a bequest that was critical to the survival of the Company.

Following the Hundred Years' War with France, the last surge of military demand for the longbow was for the Wars of the Roses, between 1455 and 1485, when it was still a main weapon on both sides. But the Battle of Flodden in 1513 saw the advent of the light field gun, which had a greater artillery range; then along came the musket too, and military longbow making declined rapidly. As we'll see later, it appears that the Bowyers had to give up their own proper working hall in the 1560s, and in 1627 a petition to the King recorded that there were only four bow-makers left in London.

On a passing note, the strain may have begun to tell on the Bowyers quite early: in 1488 they asked the Mayor for permission to impose a fine of 6s8d on anyone refusing the office of Warden! It's not surprising the Company had to opt for two-year Masterships.

The Bowyers nearly died out, but James Wood's will in 1629 provided the Company a property income lifeline by bequeathing a manor estate at Isley Walton in Leicestershire, the freehold of a house in Fish Street by Cole Abbey, and also the head leases of a butcher's in Cow Cross Street by Farringdon, a property in Chick Lane (now West Smithfield), and the Cock Tavern in Fetter Lane.

The Isley Walton rents were stipulated to be 'for the purchase of a Hall' (which confirms that we no longer by then had a proper hall) and otherwise 'for the use of the poor and good of the Company'. He also left legacies to fund scholarships of £6pa, three to Oxford and two to Cambridge, *'for sons of Freemen, or to other poor scholars as the Master and Wardens think fit'*.

The Company never did buy another Hall and the properties were variously sold off (Isley Walton finally in 1889). But James Wood's will did set us on a charitable path, and we still provide some funding for university education as well as charitable funding for the benefit of disadvantaged youth.

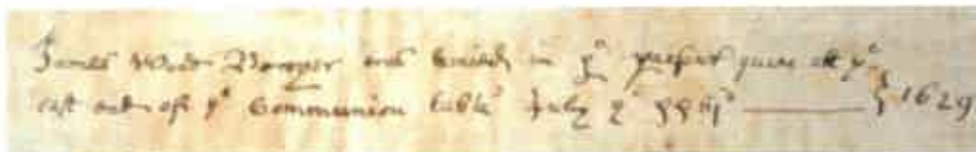
## 2. St Nicholas Cole Abbey

The earliest record we have of James Wood is in the parish registers of St Nicholas Cole Abbey recording that he was married here to Mary Windell (nee Pate) on July 2nd, 1590. The next mention we have is that when the Bowyers' Company received its Royal Charter in 1621, it listed the names of the Master, Wardens and ten Court Assistants of that date, one of whom was James Wood.



Frans Franken's 'Copperplate' map of 1559, highlighting St Nicholas Cole Abbey pre-Fire, south east of old St Paul's

In his will James Wood asked to be buried in St Nicholas Cole Abbey, with a marble stone he wished to be inscribed 'Here lyeth buried James Wood, Bowyer, and his two wives, Mary Pate and Margaret Browne'. The parish register indeed shows that 'James Wood Bowyer was buried in ye parsons quire at ye east end of ye Communion table, July 23rd, 1629'.



A copy of James Wood's entry in the Burial Register at St Nicholas Cole Abbey

The church of the 1620s was destroyed in the Great Fire, and was replaced by the present Wren church in 1678. The Bowyers' Company arranged for the current brass memorial plaque to be installed on the chancel step in 1903; the last line was added when the church and the memorial were restored in 1962 after the substantial damage suffered from WWII bombing.



The James Wood memorial plaque with Bowyers' crest at St Nicholas Cole Abbey, as it is today

James Wood's will also requested that the Bowyers' Company meet in St Nicholas Cole Abbey, which they did for their formal ceremonies right through till 1978 when the church was about to be declared pastorally redundant. Our then Chaplain the Rev'd Alan Tanner was also Rector of St Botolph Bishopsgate, and that is when (and why) the Company moved its formal ceremonies to St Botolph instead. We are delighted St Nicholas is now open again; while we are here we will toast James Wood's memory, and we look forward to regular visits again in the future.



*St Nicholas Cole Abbey as newly rebuilt by Wren in 1678*



*St Nicholas after being bombed in 1941 (the Bowyers once met in the wreckage)*



*St Nicholas as restored in 1962, viewed from the north in 2016*

### **3. St Peter's Hill Pre-1666**

Moving on, not far from Cole Abbey on St Peter's Hill, which runs from St Paul's Cathedral down to the river, in 1646 the Upholders' Company acquired their first Hall. Sadly for them, it was destroyed in the Great Fire 20 years later, and they have never had their own hall again.



John Strype's 1720 Survey of London records that prior to 1666 'the Bowyers met on St Peter's Hill'. As we'll see, we now know the Bowyers left their previous premises by London Wall in 1651, so that is probably when they came here. They may have rented a house, or more likely met in Upholders' Hall, which was the only hall located on St Peter's Hill. This where the Bowyers (and indeed the Upholders) would have been keeping their records until everything was lost in the Great Fire.

### **4. Bowyer Row 1300-1400**

Moving on again, we now step back in time, to the 1300s, to the very beginning of the Bowyers' Company history. The first recorded military order placed with London bow-makers was in 1304: 130 bows for Edward I's war in Scotland, which would have been work for just a handful of bow-makers. London then was far from being a main centre of bow-making; most of the military use of bows was for the wars with the Welsh (controlled from Chester) and the Scots (controlled from York).

The full-size 6-foot longbow was developed in England (quite possibly in Cheshire) in a very specific period between about 1300 and 1320. Up to about 1295, bows were always depicted as 4'6"-5' in length, drawn to the chest, and their military role was mainly for arrow-storm harassment to break up enemy ranks. From 1320 onward bows start to be depicted (and described in court records) as being 6' in length, drawn to the ear, shooting yard-long arrows.

King Edward III took full power in 1330 at the age of 17, but he had grown up as a student of war. He quickly saw the full-size 6' longbow, shooting yard-long steel-tipped arrows with lethal accuracy, as a weapon that could finally take on and defeat the heavily armoured French knights. He and his advisers built a whole new set of war strategies and battle tactics around the new longbow.

In preparation for his invasion of France leading up to the Battle of Crecy (1346), there is record of a huge set of Crown orders placed for military longbows: over 9,000 of them in 1341 alone. They were ordered from all the traditional centres of bow-making - York, Lincoln, Chester, Bristol et al - but interestingly by 1341 London got the largest part of the order, 2,500 bows. Our bow-making experts reckon that would have been work for some 20-30 bow-makers, a significant workforce of craftsmen.

So we can place the establishment of large-scale bow-making capability in London quite accurately to the 1330s, just after the time when the full-size longbow was first developed, and specifically related to supplying Edward III's ambitious plans for the war with France.

We know where the London bow-makers were based, where they lived and worked, because by the 1350s a stretch of what is now Ludgate Hill had become known as Bowyer Row. It comprised specifically the 100-yard stretch of ground from the top of Creed Lane down to St Martin's Church, immediately past which was Ludgate, one of the City Wall gates.



*The 'Copperplate' map of 1559, highlighting the location of Bowyer Row between Ludgate and Creed Lane, in front of the old St Paul's (engraved here before its great tall spire burned down in 1561)*

## **5. The Founding of the Bowyers' Company, and the Move from Bowyer Row**

The first mention we have of a formally established Bowyers' Company wasn't until a taxation record of 1363. We also know from City of London Rolls that there was not yet a recognised Bowyers' Company in 1351. We can therefore be certain that the Bowyers' Company formation date was between 1351 and 1363. It is likely that the famous English longbow victories of Crecy in 1346 and especially by the Black Prince at Poitiers in 1356 (which apparently received greater publicity back home) are what led to the proper recognition of bow-making as a craft, and the resulting formation of the Bowyers' Company some time around 1360, here on Bowyer Row.

By the 1400s the Bowyers started to be pushed out of Ludgate Hill by more affluent trades, and began spreading to other parts of the City. Some of them seem to have gone to London Bridge, and some (perhaps most) to a low-rent area up by London Wall. The City Wall ran from Ludgate to Newgate, then through what is now Merrill Lynch to Aldersgate, then north via Noble Street to Cripplegate. Quite a few remains of the City Wall were revealed in the Cripplegate area by WW2 bomb craters, and it is interesting to see in Noble Street how high the modern City street level has risen since medieval times.



*Noble Street (at right) looking north today, several feet higher than the base of the medieval City Wall alongside.*

At the north end of Noble Street, at the corner with what's now London Wall (then Silver Street), from 1602 to 1606, not far from where the Bowyers were at the time, William Shakespeare was lodging in the Mountjoy House, and it was here that he wrote Othello, King Lear and Macbeth.

## 6. Bowyers' Hall 1450-1561

We have no firm date for when the Bowyers first established a hall. The earliest indication we have is a member's will bequeathing silver property to the Bowyers in 1462, leading our historian Barbara Megson to suppose that by then the Company must have had a hall to put it in. So our best working estimate is that our Hall was established between about 1450 and 1460, when the bow-making trade was still quite healthy, and a low-rent collective workspace would have been an attractive proposition.

We do know the location of Bowyers' Hall in the 1500s: John Stow's 1598 'Survey of London' said that inside the City Wall, on Hart Street, 'by the corner of Monkswell Street is the Bowyers' hall'. Monkswell Street (there had once been a monastery with a well) was also known as Muggle and Monkswell Street.

The most recent street map we have of this area prior to 1598 is Braun & Hogenberg's map of 1572. It shows enough detail to enable the actual Bowyers' Hall building to be picked out, just on the corner where Stow said it was. It shows a 3-storey building roughly 30ft long and 15ft wide, which would have provided enough workspace for 20-30 bow-makers. By referencing it to the surviving locations of Wood Street and the City Wall, we can identify where Bowyers' Hall stood on a modern street map.



Braun & Hogenberg's map of 1572 showing (by the 'C' of Crepalgate) the long building that was Bowyers' Hall.



The site of Bowyers' Hall on a current street map, at the northern end of what is now Monkswell Square.

The area is now Monkswell Square, and the mapped location of Bowyers' Hall coincides with the front of the modern townhouses at no 6 & 7 Wallside. Today's spacious, leafy square is very different from what would have been here in the narrow, cramped streets of the day, exemplified by this photo English Heritage has of some typical 16th century 3-storey housing which survived nearby until 1900.



Where Bowyers' Hall once stood, on the site of numbers 6 and 7 Wallside, Monkswell Square.



What Bowyers' Hall may have looked like: a typical 16th century 3-storey building that survived nearby until 1900.

## 7. The Bowyers' Hall from 1561: Bowyers' Court

A fascinating surveyor's drawing has come to light from the Clothworkers' Company archives dated 1612, showing that by then the line of Monkwell Street had been relocated westward, and a row of buildings added along the north side of Hart Street, by the City Wall, so it appears that the late 16th and early 17th century was a time of quite rapid property redevelopment in this area.

Of particular interest to the Bowyers is that the Clothworkers' drawing noted that the south side of Hart Street in 1612 was *'The Saulters' Lande'*. With the kind assistance of the Salters' Company archivist, we have recently learned that the Bowyers were indeed tenants of the Salters there for many years. The estate on the south side of Hart Street was acquired in 1559 by Sir Ambrose Nicholas, a Salter and later Mayor, who bequeathed it to the Salters when he died in 1578.

The estate inherited by the Salters had included Bowyers' Hall: there is note in the Salters' deeds of *'one cellar with little vault in the west side under the tenement (Bowyers' Company)'* being let in 1555 by its then owner William Bonham (from whose daughter Sir Ambrose Nicholas later acquired the land). This is actually the earliest hard reference we have so far to the existence of Bowyers' Hall.

Our next hard date, also from the Salters' records, is that the Bowyers had taken out a lease in 1561 (initially from Sir Ambrose Nicholas, later bequeathed to the Salters) of *'one stone house called Bowyers' Hall in St Alphage within Creplegate'*, and that the Bowyers remained there as tenants right through from 1561 to 1651.

To help identify the site of the *'stone house'* occupied from 1561 to 1651, we have the post-Fire map by Ogilby & Morgan (1676), which marks a courtyard off the south side of Hart Street, further east, as *'Bowyers' Court'*. And John Strype, in his 1720 Survey of London, specifically said of Hart Street that *'on the south side is Bowyers Court, which is but small, and here was, formerly, Bowyers Hall'*.

The 1676 post-Fire layout of streets and buildings (below left) was quite a bit different in this area, so it makes more sense to see if we locate the courtyard on Braun & Hogenberg's 1572 map, our best contemporary map (post-1561 but pre-1598). There was indeed a courtyard on the south side of Hart Street, as highlighted below, quite close to the south east of the pre-1561 Bowyers' Hall.



Ogilby & Morgan 1676 map showing *'Bowyers' Court'* (c15) on a post-Fire map with different street layouts.



Braun & Hogenberg's 1572 map, highlighting the courtyard south of Hart Street, likely to have been home of the Bowyers 1561-1651.

The Bowyers' Hall of the heyday would of course have served as the workshop for working bow-makers, but by the 1550s it must have been clear that with bow-making in terminal decline as a military weapon, the Bowyers would no longer be able to sustain their own full-size working hall, hence the decision to take out a fresh lease in 1561 on smaller premises, hence *'house'* rather than *'hall'*, and hence the description *'stone house'* to differentiate from the 3-storey wood-and-lath hall.



We don't know what happened to the original Bowyers' Hall building after 1561, other than that it was still there 'by the corner of Monkswell Street' in 1598 and 1603 when Stow published and republished his Survey; it would have been a prominent enough building to have retained its long-standing identity as 'Bowyers' Hall' for some time, at least until the time of Stow's Survey. Eventually of course all the buildings in this area, inside the City Wall, were destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666.

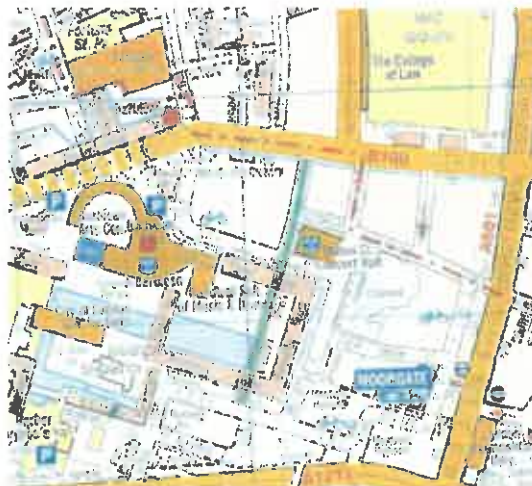
We now know that the Bowyers left this area some time before the Great Fire, because the Salters records show that in 1651 they re-let the 'stone house' to a Mr Dawes, along with a bakehouse in Monkswell Street. Since we know the Bowyers met on St Peter's Hill in the years prior to 1666, south of St Paul's, we can now assume they went there in 1651. There weren't many of them: a petition to the King in 1627 had lamented there were only 4 bow-makers left in London, and the Harleian Manuscript of 1651 showed the Bowyers' Company had only 17 members, the great majority of whom by then would not have been working bow-makers.

## 8. Grub Street and the Finsbury Marks

To end our City Walk we step outside the City Wall to visit Grub Street, which ran north from Fore Street, near Cripplegate, right up to Chiswell Street, which is where the Finsbury Fields began.

The name Grub Street became associated with cheap journalism in the Restoration era, after the Stationers' Company lost its legal monopoly of publishing in 1641. All kinds of radical political and anti-Catholic pamphlets began to be printed and distributed here in Grub Street, and low writers for hire started living here, where they became known as 'hackneys' (after hackney cabs) or 'hacks'.

In the 1500s, however, Grub Street had mainly been the place where bows, arrows and bowstrings were sold, conveniently for the archery practice grounds of the 'Finsbury Marks' in Finsbury Fields.



*Current street map highlighting where Bowyers' Hall and Grub Street were. Above Chiswell Street stretched the Finsbury Fields; the HAC took over the lower part of Finsbury Fields in the 1650s.*

The line of Grub Street runs from Chiswell Street in the north down what is now Milton Street. The southern part of Grub Street, which ran right down to Fore Street, by Cripplegate, is now under the Barbican residential development, following the high-walk line of Brandon Mews.



*Grub Street from the Speed High Walk midpoint: northward up Milton Street, southward along Brandon Mews.*

The Finsbury Fields had been formally reserved for archery practice in 1498, and some draining of the marshes took place in 1527. In the 1500s these archery grounds stretched from Moorfields all the way to Islington, across what is now Shoreditch Park. Military hiring was in decline, but great efforts were made to keep the archers in practice (and off the streets), particularly by King Henry VIII, a keen archer himself, right up to the end of his reign in 1547.

The Finsbury Marks were wood or stone marker posts set out 150-200 yards or more apart; the objective was to land your arrow as close to each Mark as possible, rather like a round of golf. In the 1590s a guide book called *'Ayme for Finsburie Archers'* was published, listing 194 Marks still sited in the Finsbury Fields, and noting the distances between them. A pub called the Rosemary Branch, up by what is now the Regent's Canal in Islington, provided a refreshment point halfway round.

## 9. Wrap-Up

But the decline was terminal; military hiring had ceased and there was no living to be made. John Stow lamented in 1598 that *'Grubstreete, of late yeares inhabited for the most part by Bowyers, Fletchers, Bowstring makers and such like, now little occupied, Archerie giving place to a number of bowling Allies and Dicing houses, which in all places are increased and too much frequented'*.

In the 1650s the Honourable Artillery Company (originally a corps of archers but by then equipped with guns) were granted possession of the southern end of the Finsbury Fields to establish the HAC Artillery Ground, where they later built Armoury House and are still based today. The HAC still owns one of the original Finsbury Marks, and there are other references to its archery origins, such as the modern stone carving of an archer high on the wall of Longbow House in Chiswell Street.

With the restoration of the monarchy in 1660, military archery was long in the past, but archery began to be picked up as a social sport, as it is today. The Society of Finsbury Archers was formed in the 1650s by the charismatic figure of William Wood, whose artefacts were later passed on to the (later Royal) Toxophilite Society when it was founded in 1781, thus creating a link through to the present day, when the Bowyers' Company presents prizes at the two of the Royal Tox's archery events at Archery Lodge in Burnham each July.

In conclusion, we can see that although the timeline of the two Bowyers' Halls was about 1450 to 1650, the real heyday of the Company as makers of the famous English longbow was actually about 1330 to 1480, after which the period from 1500 to 1650 was one of steady decline. We have James Wood to thank for the fact that we survived after that to tell the tale at all, so that as Bowyers today we can enjoy looking back to the heyday of the longbow, and reflecting on how very lucky we are among all Livery Companies to have such a good piece of history to celebrate.

Tony Kench, Upper Warden  
The Worshipful Company of Bowyers  
18 May 2015

Updated 29 June 2015 after further researches, and again for the City Walk of 16 May 2016.

## Acknowledgments and References

- (1) Barbara Megson's history of the Bowyers 1300-1600, 'Such Goodly Company' (1993).
- (2) The continuing researches of the Bowyers' Muniments Committee, led by Simon Leach.
- (3) 'Longbow Origins before Crecy', [http://www.bowyers.com/bowvery\\_longbowOrigins.php](http://www.bowyers.com/bowvery_longbowOrigins.php)
- (4) 'Arrowstorm: The World of the Archer in the Hundred Years War' (2007) by Richard Wadge.
- (5) The very helpful archivists of the Salters' Company and the Clothworkers' Company.
- (6) 'The Battle of Flodden 1513', [http://www.bowyers.com/bowvery\\_flodden.php](http://www.bowyers.com/bowvery_flodden.php)
- (7) 'In search of Shakespeare' (2003) by Michael Wood.
- (8) 'The Finsbury Marks', [http://www.bowyers.com/bowvery\\_finsburyMarks.php](http://www.bowyers.com/bowvery_finsburyMarks.php)
- (9) 'The Society of Finsbury Archers', [http://www.bowyers.com/bowvery\\_finsburyArchers](http://www.bowyers.com/bowvery_finsburyArchers)

Title Number : NGL863446

This title is dealt with by Land Registry, Wales Office.

The following extract contains information taken from the register of the above title number. A full copy of the register accompanies this document and you should read that in order to be sure that these brief details are complete.

Neither this extract nor the full copy is an 'Official Copy' of the register. An official copy of the register is admissible in evidence in a court to the same extent as the original. A person is entitled to be indemnified by the registrar if he or she suffers loss by reason of a mistake in an official copy.

This extract shows information current on 22 OCT 2015 at 09:26:47 and so does not take account of any application made after that time even if pending in the Land Registry when this extract was issued.

REGISTER EXTRACT

Title Number	: NGL863446
Address of Property	: 6 Wallside, Barbican, London (EC2Y 8BH)
Price Stated	: Not Available
Registered Owner(s)	: MARY PATRICIA BONAR of 6 Wallside, Barbican, London EC2Y 8BH.
Lender(s)	: None

## Title number NGL863446

This is a copy of the register of the title number set out immediately below, showing the entries in the register on 22 OCT 2015 at 09:26:47. This copy does not take account of any application made after that time even if still pending in the Land Registry when this copy was issued.

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### A: Property Register

This register describes the land and estate comprised in the title.

CITY OF LONDON

- 1 The Freehold land shown edged with red on the plan of the above Title filed at the Registry and being 6 Wallside, Barbican, London (EC2Y 8BH).

NOTE: As to the part tinted blue on the title plan the walkway on the third floor is excluded from this title.

- 2 (19.05.2006) The land has the benefit of the rights granted by but is subject to the rights reserved by the Transfer dated 22 December 2005 referred to in the Charges Register.
- 3 (20.01.2015) By a Deed dated 8 January 2015 made between (1) Mary Patricia Bonar and (2) London Wall Place (GP) Limited rights of light or air were partially released as therein mentioned.

NOTE: Copy filed under AGL263767.

### B: Proprietorship Register

This register specifies the class of title and identifies the owner. It contains any entries that affect the right of disposal.

Title absolute

- 1 (19.05.2006) PROPRIETOR: MARY PATRICIA BONAR of 6 Wallside, Barbican, London EC2Y 8BH.
- 2 (19.05.2006) RESTRICTION: No disposition of the registered estate (other than a charge) by the proprietor of the registered estate is to be registered without a certificate signed by the applicant for registration or his conveyancer that the provisions of paragraph 4.5 under the heading "Covenants by the Transferee" in a Transfer dated 22 December 2005 referred to in the Charges Register have been complied with.

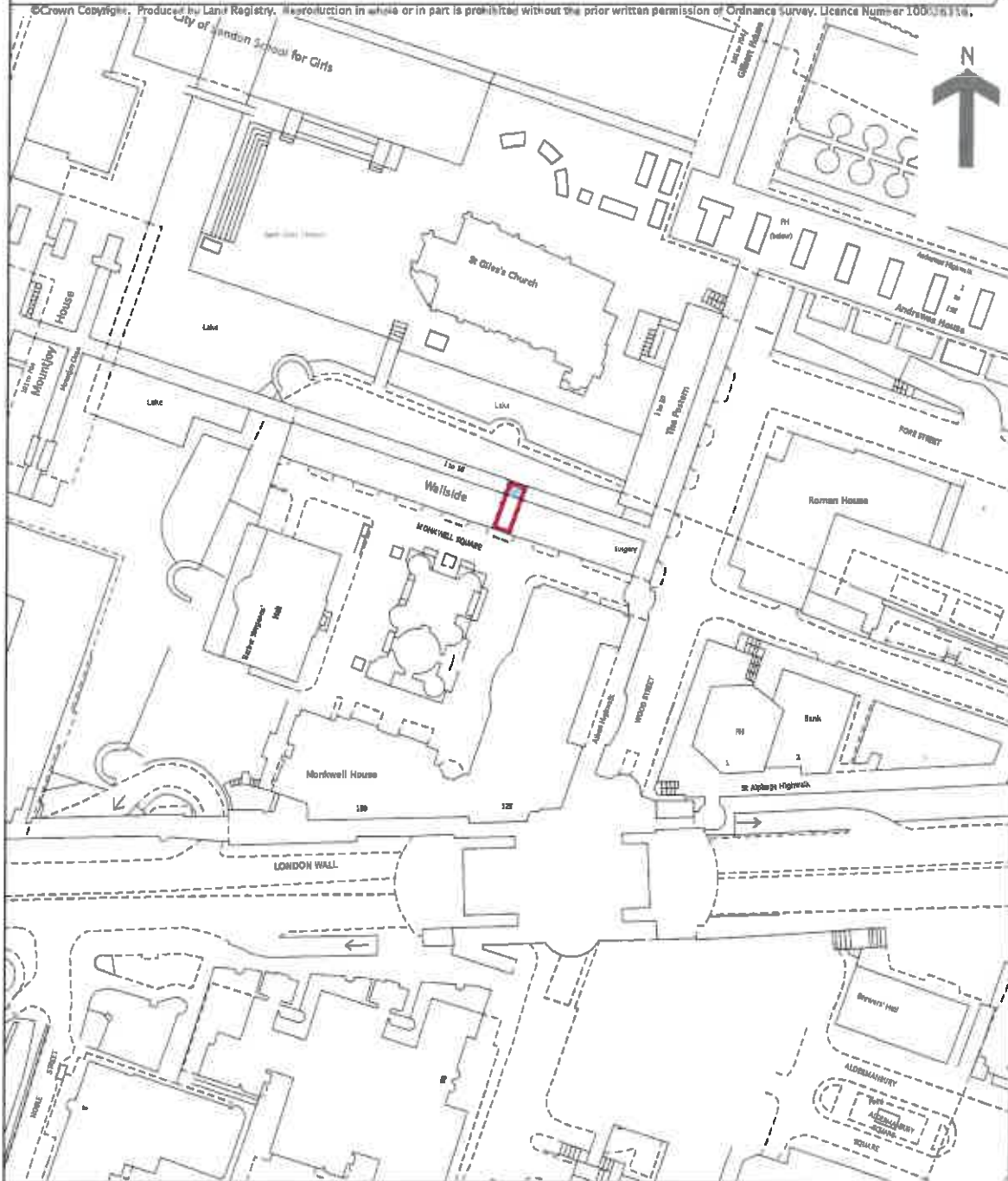
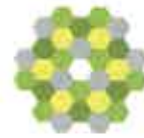
### C: Charges Register

This register contains any charges and other matters that affect the land.

- 1 (19.05.2006) A Transfer of the land in this title dated 22 December 2005 made between (1) The Mayor and Commonalty and Citizens of the City of London and (2) Mary Patricia bonar contains restrictive covenants.

NOTE: Copy filed.

End of register



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This title is dealt with by Land Registry, Wales Office.



Title Number : NGL863447

This title is dealt with by Land Registry, Wales Office.

The following extract contains information taken from the register of the above title number. A full copy of the register accompanies this document and you should read that in order to be sure that these brief details are complete.

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This extract shows information current on 22 OCT 2015 at 09:30:57 and so does not take account of any application made after that time even if pending in the Land Registry when this extract was issued.

REGISTER EXTRACT

Title Number	: NGL863447
Address of Property	: 7 Wallside, Barbican, London (EC2Y 8BH)
Price Stated	: Not Available
Registered Owner(s)	: NICOLA PATRICIA BAKER of 7 Wallside, Monkwell Square, Barbican, London EC2Y 8BH.
Lender(s)	: Barclays Bank PLC

## Title number NGL863447

This is a copy of the register of the title number set out immediately below, showing the entries in the register on 22 OCT 2015 at 09:30:57. This copy does not take account of any application made after that time even if still pending in the Land Registry when this copy was issued.

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## A: Property Register

This register describes the land and estate comprised in the title.

CITY OF LONDON

- 1 The Freehold land shown edged with red on the plan of the above Title filed at the Registry and being 7 Wallside, Barbican, London (EC2Y 8BH).

NOTE: As to the part tinted blue on the title plan the walkway on the third floor is excluded from this title.

- 2 (19.05.2006) The land has the benefit of the rights granted by but is subject to the rights reserved by the Transfer dated 22 December 2005 referred to in the Charges Register.

## B: Proprietorship Register

This register specifies the class of title and identifies the owner. It contains any entries that affect the right of disposal.

Title absolute

- 1 (22.09.2010) PROPRIETOR: NICOLA PATRICIA BAKER of 7 Wallside, Monkwell Square, Barbican, London EC2Y 8BH.
- 2 (19.05.2006) RESTRICTION: No disposition of the registered estate (other than a charge) by the proprietor of the registered estate is to be registered without a certificate signed by the applicant for registration or his conveyancer that the provisions of paragraph 4.5 under the heading "Covenants by the Transferee" in a Transfer dated 22 December 2005 referred to in the Charges Register have been complied with.
- 3 (22.09.2010) RESTRICTION: No disposition of the registered estate by the proprietor of the registered estate is to be registered without a written consent signed by the proprietor for the time being of the Charge dated 3 September 2010 in favour of Barclays Bank PLC referred to in the Charges Register.

## C: Charges Register

This register contains any charges and other matters that affect the land.

- 1 (19.05.2006) A Transfer of the land in this title dated 22 December 2005 made between (1) The Mayor and Commonalty and Citizens of the City of London and (2) Antony Gwilym John and Nicola Patricia Baker.

NOTE: Copy filed.

- 2 (22.09.2010) REGISTERED CHARGE dated 3 September 2010.
- 3 (22.09.2010) Proprietor: BARCLAYS BANK PLC (Co. Regn. No. 1026167) of P.O. Box 187, Leeds LS11 1AN.

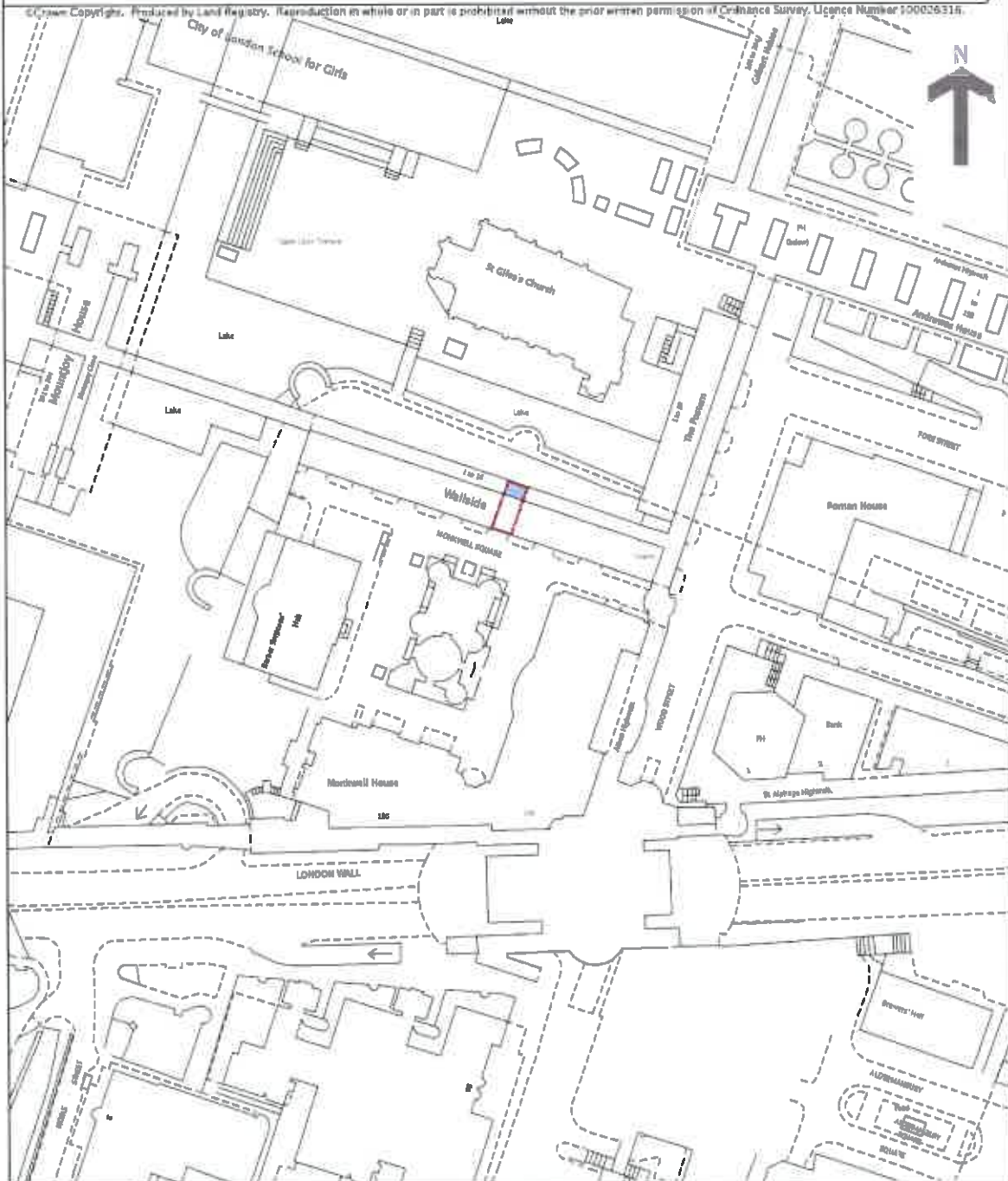
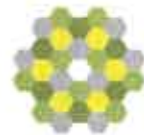


Title number NGL863447

## C: Charges Register continued

- 4 (22.09.2010) The proprietor of the Charge dated 3 September 2010 referred to above is under an obligation to make further advances. These advances will have priority to the extent afforded by section 49(3) Land Registration Act 2002.
- 5 (22.07.2015) UNILATERAL NOTICE in respect of a charge dated 11 July 2013 made between (1) Nicola Patricia Baker and (2) Security Trustee Services Limited.
- 6 (22.07.2015) BENEFICIARY: Security Trustee Services Limited (Co. Regn. No. 08492303) care of 27 Barnack Business Centre, Blakey Road, Salisbury, SP1 2LP and emma.reeve@novitasloans.co.uk.

End of register



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**This title is dealt with by Land Registry, Wales Office.**

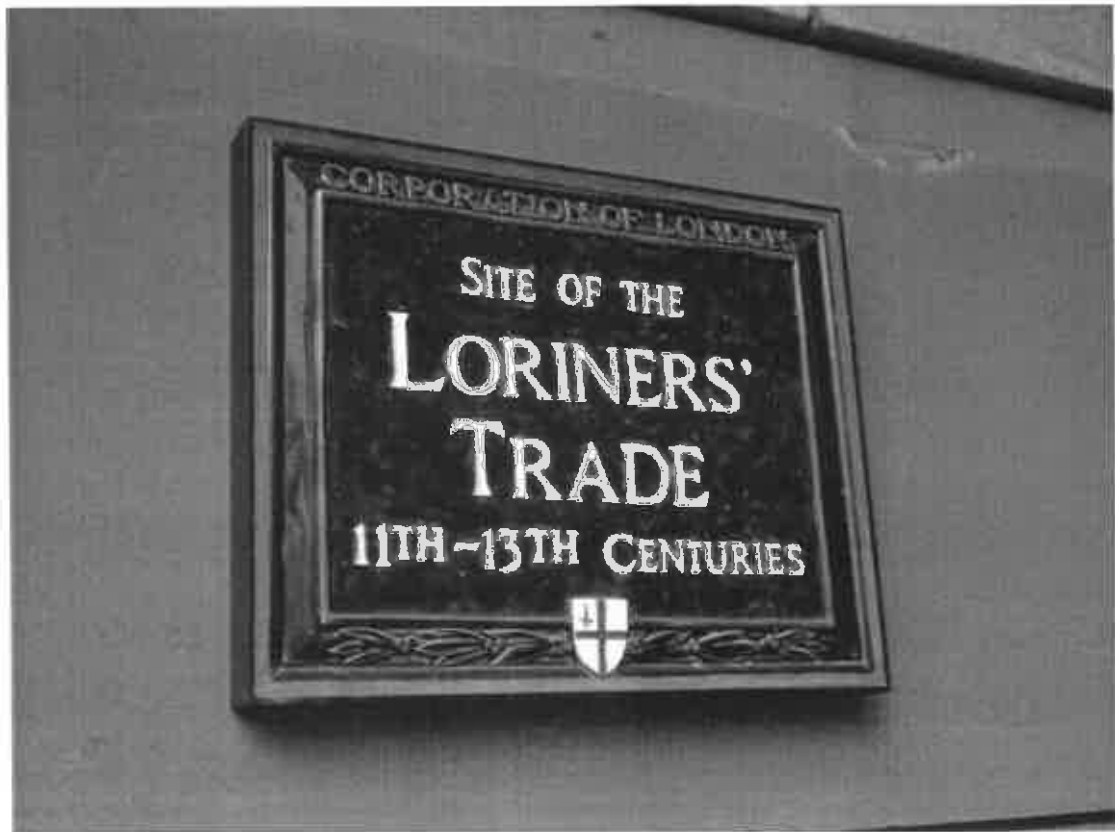
# Examples of Livery Company Plaques



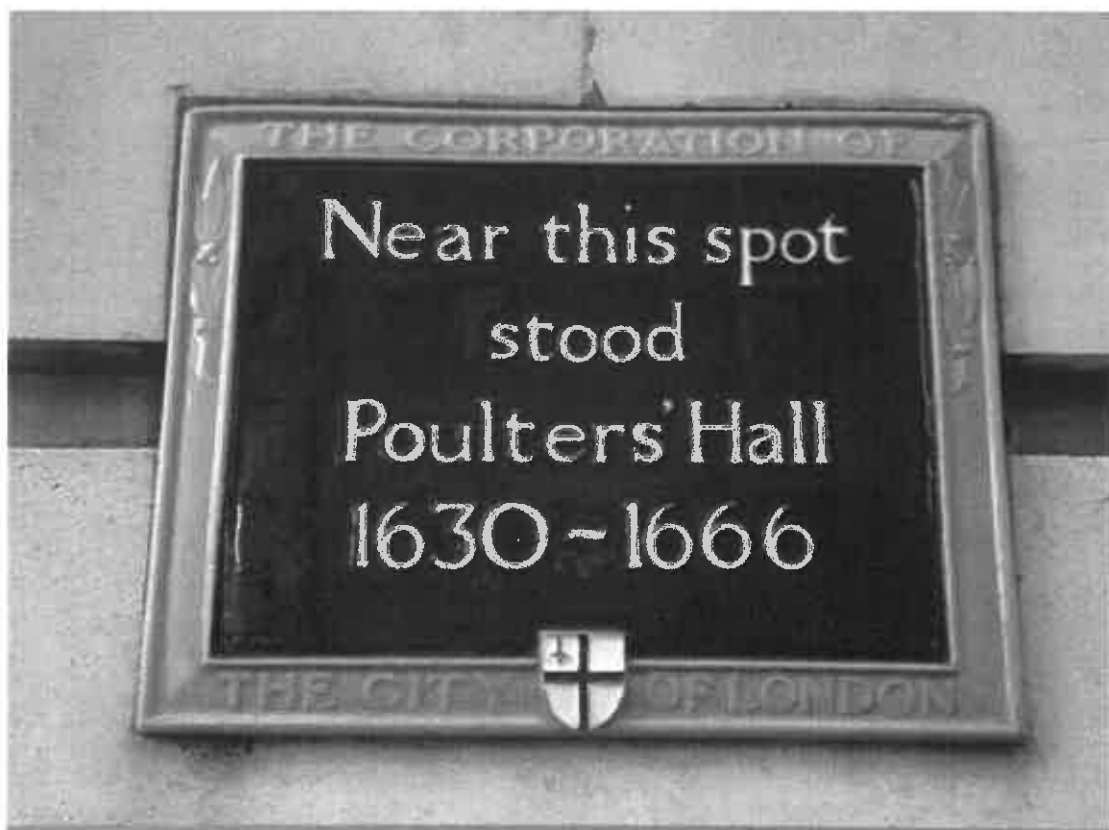












CORPORATION OF LONDON

SITE OF  
UPHOLDERS' HALL  
DESTROYED IN THE  
GREAT FIRE 1666

