

Greetings from the Mayor of Aalborg

Aalborg is a wonderful city. Aalborg is a funny and a festive city, with room for enthusiasm. Aalborg is also a city where on one side progress is essential and where on the other side traditions are highly cherished. A fact that in many ways is in conflict, but here on the contrary is instrumental in intensifying the experience.

Christian The Fourth’s Guild has some traditions which we in Aalborg municipality cherish and highly value.

I am very happy that some far-sighted persons suggested that the Guild - though its original purpose in fact was accomplished when Denmark was liberated in 1945 - should continue to welcome special guests to the city.

It has amounted to a great many welcomes over the years - and every time it is a great and very special experience for the city’s guests to get “involved” with the Guild - an experience that most of them remember with a happy smile.

You in the Guild have been able to hold on to your traditions and cherish them. And just that to hold on to and cherish traditions is a very essential quality in a time that in many ways is both fast, and superficial and where many things preferably should be altered. In this case traditions become something very important that should be protected and safe-guarded.

I am really happy that there is such an excellent cooperation between the Guild and Aalborg municipality, and we appreciate very much that



Mayor Hennig G. Jensen

you are open and willing to greet those of our guests whom we propose to be initiated in the Guild.

I know that both the guests from Solvang and the guests from this year’s Youth Games were very impressed by your initiation and the rituals that are included.

I am looking forward to a continued good cooperation and I want to wish all the members of the Guild a good and prosperous New Year.

Henning G. Jensen
Mayor



Girl triplets in Nibe. Viktoria, Camma and Johanne with address in Nibe are the names of the latest set of triplets that the Guild has paid tribute to with its Triplet Grant. The occasion took place in the home of the new-born triplets with their parents, HR project leader Trine Fage Krogh and department leader Troels Fage Krogh. The children got each a passbook of 1,500 DKK as a start of a savings account for children. The parents got some souvenir gifts and an invigorating beverage.

Return address: Postbox 1644, DK 9100 Aalborg.

The Guild’s new website has been well received. A great number has signed up for the “Newsletter”, while relatively few still want to receive “Laugs-Tidende” by ordinary mail.

After a somewhat difficult start when we New Year’s day almost closed down a great many computers because of a system error - which we luckily quickly stopped. The system is now working fine. The electronic “Newsletter” has given us a much closer contact to our members, which we appreciate very much.

I strongly implore those of our members who still have not signed up for the “Newsletter” to do so on: www.chr4laug@chr4laug.dk.



Guild Meeting 2012



Wednesday the 29th of February 2012 at 7.00 p.m. in Duus’ Vinkjælder in Jens Bangs Stenhus (booking of table directly to Duus’ Vinkjælder, telephone +45 98 12 50 56).

Subscription for 2012

For members paying annually the rates are: 100 DKK, 110 NOK, 125 SEK, 12 GBP, 20 USD or 14 EUR.

Lifelong membership

You can get a lifelong membership of the Guild by paying 600 DKK, 650 NOK, 750 SEK, 70 GBP, 120 USD or 100 EUR.

New lifelong members will receive a special letter

of welcome, signed by the chief bencher and the treasurer, and their names will be entered into the Guild’s “Golden Book”.

Christian The Fourth’s Guild

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Our Mayor is a frequent guest

It has been a great pleasure for newly initiated members of the Guild, for the Guild’s board and probably for the Mayor himself that the Mayor Henning G. Jensen frequently has been present at initiations in Duus’ Winecellar in Jens Bangs Stonehouse. It should be mentioned though that it usually has been to initiations ordered by Aalborg municipality’s Event-department for participants in various official arrangements.

One of these were the Youth Games in Aalborg, which in August gathered 1,100 young sport enthusiasts from 23 of Aalborg’s 33 twin towns from all over the world. Aalborg Events had wanted to give leaders and officials an extra experience through an initiation in Christian The Fourth’s Guild. We were delighted to comply and 27 persons became new members of the Guild.

Mayor Henning G. Jensen had left his summer cottage on the west coast of Jutland in order to attend the initiation in Jens Bang’s Stonehouse. And it thrilled him so much that the holiday-clad

Mayor joined the “crocodile” round the Stonehouse and the old City Hall to the Guild tree and further on to the Stonehouse’s backdoor and “The Secret Passage” to Duus’ Winecellar. On the photo you see the Guild archivist Tom Thylkjær in front and after him Alexandra Carlic who is personal adviser to the Mayor of Tulcea, The Rumanian twin town of Aalborg. Behind them you see Mayor Henning G. Jensen and the other prominent Guild members.

Two months later 46 citizens from the American twin town Solvang in California were initiated. The guests repaid for the initiation by singing a song in Danish. The American company celebrated the occasion of Solvangs 100 years jubilee with a privat visit to Denmark. Henning G. Jensen was also present at this occasion and in September he was in Solvang to celebrate the jubilee. During the Americans’ stay in Aalborg the Mayor invited them to a special reception in the old City Hall.

New Years greetings from the Guild’s Board

In accordance with the tradition the annual Guild meeting was held the last Wednesday in February, in week no. 8. In 2012 the annual Guild meeting will be held in week no. 9, the 29th of February.

Two prizes were donated in 2011: The Prize of Honour was given to Ib Skovfoged Laursen, retired policeman and local historian, and the the Fanfare Prize to chief-trainer for AaB men’s handball team, Peter Bredsdorff-Larsen.

We have performed 28 initiations and initiated 700 persons from 27 nations.

There has throughout the year been many exciting - and different - initiations, among these an initiation of 39 ladies in high spirits, among them two Swedish and two Norwegian ladies, who were in Aalborg to participate in a founding convention.

The 3rd of March the Guild presented 2x1,000 DKK to respectively Sonny Nautrup Nielsen and Jens Chr. Østerby as a small acknowledgement of their courage when they rescued a man out of a sinking car in the iced over Limfjord.

As usual the Guild from Oslo visited us in May. In 2011 it was 20 years ago that the Oslo branch was established. On that occasion the Chief Bencher, the Vice Chief Bencher and the Guild clerk were invited on a sea journey to Oslo and the next day accompany the future members plus their companions - 120 persons in all - back to Aalborg. On board at a small ceremony the Oslo branch was presented with our new carafe of honour.

The following day there was an initiation in Aalborg. As usual it was a very cheerful and nice event. After the initiation everybody walked down to the harbour where there was a cannon salute. The event was followed by a luncheon with speeches among other by the Norwegian consul, Jens-Chr. Schmidt.

The 4th of July festivities started as usual with an initiation in the morning, after that participation in the tent luncheon, where the Chief Bencher presented the main speakers with respectively a C4 necktie and a C4 scarf. The recipients this year were Steny H. Hoyer, American main speaker with Danish roots and journalist Ida Wohler, youth speaker. The Danish prime minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen was the Danish main speaker, but he participated not in the tent luncheon why we owe him a C4 necktie.



Optagelse af besøgende fra venskabsbyen Solvang.

The 31st of October the Board travelled to Oslo to the annual initiation in Oslo Military Society’s interesting premises where 19 persons were initiated. As usual we were splendidly received. Among other things we were taken up to Holmenkollen and shown the new ski-jump installations. Unfortunately a heavy fog prevented us from enjoying the grandiose view.

Also this year we had the pleasure to hand over 3 times 1.500 DKK to a set of triplets. Trine and Troels Fage Krogh are the proud parents. Chief Bencher, Guild archivist and Guild Clerk presented the passbooks together with flowers and 3 small bouquets to mother and daughters while the father had to be content with a bottle of Laugsbitter. The small event took place in the family’s home in Nibe.

Finally a great many thanks to all the people and organisations who through their co-operation have supported us in 2011. Also a heartfelt thanks to the members of the Board for many hours of cheerful and pleasant company and good co-operation.

With kind regards

Niels Voss Hansen

Ib Regnarsson

Chief Bencher

Treasurer



Gunpowder, Cannons and Champagne

For Christian The Fourth’s Guild and for the board of the Guild’s Oslo branch there was something special about this year’s visit from Oslo, because in that same month 20 years ago the Guild in Aalborg confirmed the establishing of the branch in Oslo.

It should be celebrated, and it was celebrated. The branch in Oslo had invited Chief Bencher Niels Voss Hansen, Vice Chief Bencher Kaj Handberg and Guild Clerk Henrik Jensen to travel to Oslo in order to follow the Norwegian board members back by ferry to Frederikshavn and from there to Aalborg. On their way back the three Danish “musketeers” were invited to dine on board. There were toasts and “do you remember –“ speeches, and Chief Bencher Niels Voss Hansen presented the gift from the Guild, the third specimen of the Guild’s new carafe of honour.

The Norwegian board arrived in Aalborg with 125 members of the Oslo branch and 17 persons to be initiated in Duus’ Vinkjælder in Jens Bang’s Stonehouse. After the initiation the members of the boards and their ladies – in fine sunshine – walked to the new part of the harbour, where the Aalborg Cannon Guild resides, there were

The Danish/Norwegian gunners are placed. Left to right: Chief Bencher Niels Voss Hansen, Vice Chief Bencher Kaj Handberg, “Tordenskjold”, former Vice Chief Bencher (Oslo) Jahn Otto Johansen and leader of the Oslo branch, Vice Chief Bencher Trygve Sødring.

lots of colored signal-flags, and “Dannebrog”’s as well. “Tordenskjold” alias Master of Ceremonies Bernt Jensen, his sailors and loaded cannons were waiting. The members of the boards from Aalborg and Oslo stood behind the cannons, and then came the cautioning call and the order from “Tordenskjold”: Fire! While the shots still rang in the ears and the gun smoke was drifting over the Limfjord, the Cannon Guild served champagne.

At the following lunch the leader of the Oslo branch was presented with yet another gift from Chief Bencher Niels Voss Hansen: A bottle of Laugsbitter to be poured into the new carafe.

From the 31st of October to the 2nd of November the Board of the Christian The Fourth’s Guild visited Oslo and initiated 18 new members into the Guild. As usual the Oslo branch had made a fine program for the tour and the Danish guests were taken splendidly care of in every way.

Everyday’s heroes in icy water

On the 3rd of march Chriatian The Fourth’s Guild got an opportunity to honour two everyday’s heroes. It was the emergency assistants Jens Christian Østerby Jensen og Sonny Nautrup Nielsen, both 25 years old and from Aalborg Emergency Center. Very early a cold winter morning the 28th of February a 77 years old man from the vicinity of Aalborg drove in his car into the harbour where the water was covered with ice. When the Emergency turn out reached the harbour the car had just gone through the ice and had begun to sink 25 meters from the quay where the water is approximately 4 meters deep. Clad in wet suits the two rescuers swam out to the sinking car where the driver was sitting in ice-cold water up to the breast without being able to get himself free. The in-seeping salt-water had blocked all the car’s automatic door-locks.

The emergency assistants smashed the rear window and rescued the distressed man out that way. While working to get him free one of his legs got stuck and valuable seconds were lost for the three



The two rescuers were deservedly honoured by the Guild at a small celebration in the Guild’s meeting room where they each received a check of 1.000 DKK. In the background Chief Jørgen Pedersen and Inspector Peter Reinau.

men in the ice-cold Limfjord-water. But with a last great effort were the rescuers able to bring the 77 year old to the surface and to the waiting ambulance. The unlucky driver survived and the rescuers only got minor scratches.

Donations from the Foundation and “Good Spirit Prizes”

A busy and eventful year 2011 with many initiations ended traditionally with the C4 Foundation’s donations to “social, humanitarian and cultural purposes. The donations from the Foundation always take place on the first Wednesday of December, this year it was the 7th of December. The chairman of the Board of the Foundation, former Mayor Kaj Kjær, distributed over 100.000 DKK to 35 happy recipients. The celebration – as usual – took place in Duus Vinkjælder in Jens Bang’s Stone house.

The Foundation doesn’t support travels, excursions or individuals, but made an exception this year. The National Organization of KZ-prisoners from Neuengamme asked for financial support to send delegates to the opening of a KZ-museum in Esterwegen near the border of Holland. The museum will be part of a museum center for 15 labor-camps, which were placed along the border of Holland. The Foundation donated 3.000 DKK, mainly because the senior and most revered member of the Guild’s Board, Master of Ceremonies Karl Salling Møller, took part in this journey of remembrance. As a 19-year old member of a resistance-group in Nibe

he and the group was arrested by the Germans after a weapons dropping by air, and they were deported to Neuengamme and Esterwegen. Karl Salling Møller has donated some personal stuff to the new museum.

This year the Board of the Guild as usual wanted for the 22nd time to give away “Good Spirit Prizes” to a student from each of the grammar schools (gymnasiums) in Aalborg. Each donation amounts to 1.000 DKK and is not given for excellence in studies, but for good spirits and a positive attitude that has helped fellow-students and teachers to keep up their good spirits. The donations are given in connection with the Christmas celebrations in the grammar schools or at some other festive occasion.

