



Laugs - Tidende

CHRISTIAN DEN FJERDES LAUGS NYTAARSBREV 2025

Chief Benchers Report 2024

The year 2024 was marked by the 400th anniversary of Jens Bang's Stone House, which was celebrated in August.

Throughout the year, 258 individuals were inducted into the Guild, including 175 Danes. The remaining members represented 15 different nationalities, with guests from the USA and Norway making up the majority.

On March 23, we inducted 23 Norwegians from Risør in Southern Norway. It was delightful to hear Norwegian spoken in the cellar once again.

Our branch in Oslo is facing membership challenges, partly due to the low Norwegian krone exchange rate and reduced connectivity to Frederikshavn since Stena Line discontinued the route. It is likely only a matter of time before the Oslo branch closes.

On May 14, a small delegation traveled to Løgstør for the inauguration of a new Round Tower built at 1/10 scale.

The July 4th celebration was once again a magnificent event, with a fully booked tent for the luncheon. As per tradition, the Chief Bencher presented ties and scarves to the keynote speakers, with the addition of the stylish C4 cap this year. True to custom, heavy rain poured down just as we descended into the Hills.

On August 24, we inducted the crew of the frigate Absalon, Aalborg's adopted naval vessel. Our troubadour, Henning Kastrup, brought great joy by playing "All Sailors Love Girls"—not a dry eye in the house.

As part of the 400th anniversary of the Stone House, we held two Jubilee Inductions on August 10 and 18. Both events commenced with Aalborg Cannon Guild firing the "Danish Salute" at the bank square

opposite the Stone House. The inductions were a great success.

Over the years, we have observed a decline in public awareness of the Guild, which may be due to several factors, including the lack of media coverage in Nordjyske. While we cannot change this, we must reach a broader audience—therefore, in 2025, we will be active on social media, including Facebook.

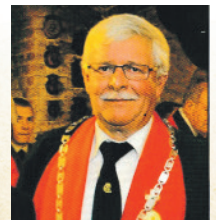
A positive trend in 2024 was the influx of new corporate and organizational members, which will enable us to distribute larger donations in the coming years.

As always, I would like to extend my gratitude to all our partners, including Venture, with whom we have an excellent collaboration on bookkeeping and membership records. I have already mentioned Peter and Lene Kragh - but one cannot mention them enough! I also want to express my sincere thanks to the Guild Board for their tremendous efforts in 2024, always carried out with great enthusiasm.

Finally, a special mention goes to our two troubadours, who make our induction ceremonies truly unforgettable.

Niels Voss Hansen

Chief Bencher



2025

Christian IV's Guild with King Christian IV at the forefront inaugurated the new Rundetårn in Løgstør...

The inauguration was witnessed by several hundred citizens, including Mayor Per Bach Laursen, the director of "the real Rundetårn in Copenhagen," Jeanette Bursche, and the head of communication, Rasmus Agertoft.

The Rundetårn in Løgstør was established in honor of the relatively unknown Løgstør native, Peder Nielsen Horrebow. Born into a poor fishing family in Løgstør, Horrebow later became an astronomer and eventually the director of Rundetårn in Copenhagen.

The idea to honor Peder Nielsen Horrebow by constructing another Rundetårn was proposed by Jens Aa. V. Schultz, now a local resident in the Løgstør

area. Schultz, with his past as Prior of the Aalborg Monastery and a member of the board of Christian IV's Guild, was aware of the Guild's possession of royal costume of Christian IV, originally sewn at the Royal Theater's tailor shop for the opera singer Ove Verner Hansen.

Thus, Jens commissioned a replica of Christian IV to participate in the inauguration of the new Rundetårn (the Jutland version).

As a result, Christian IV could participate alongside the brothers of Christian IV's Guild, contributing to a historical retrospective. Christian IV assisted the director of the Rundetårn (the one in Copenhagen), Jeanette Bursche, as she cut the red ribbon marking the inauguration of the new Rundetårn, which is an exact 1:10 scale replica.

The area where the tower stands will soon be transformed into a park, situated between the town and the fjord, where the Rundetårn is expected to attract visitors to the town. Additionally, the Rundetårn is anticipated to be beneficial for other events.

*Kong Chr. d. 4.
Palle Bjørnstrup
and fondsadm.
Jens Chr.
Schmidt.*



*Director of Kbh, Rundetårn
Jeanette Bursche opened the new
rundtårn together with Chr. d. 4.*

Awards from Christian the Fourth Guild Foundation 2024

The administrator of the Foundation Jens Chr. Schmidt welcomed those present and briefly explained the procedure for the upcoming award. He then handed over the floor to the chairman of the Foundation, Council, and regional member Vibeke Gamst.

Vibeke Gamst briefly explained the emergence and work of the foundation, including that the foundation was established with a modest capital, which over the years had developed into a capital of over DKK 2,000,000 - and fortunately for that, as the interest that the Foundation needs for distribution has been modest for some time. However, today's awards/donations totaled DKK 55,200.00.

Present for the award ceremony from the Board of the Foundation, in addition to the chairman and the administrator, were board member Former CEO

Ernst Trillingsgaard, and chief Bencher Niels Voss Hansen. In addition, several of the benchers from Christian the Fourth Guild attended.

Chairman Vibeke Gamst began by explaining that the foundation had previously awarded donations to the Aalborg Cannon Guild and to the Church Social. The distributed amounts are within the range of DKK 2,000 to DKK 5,000 per award.

The Natural Horn Players provided impressive horn signaling both at the beginning of the meeting and along the way. There was a friendly atmosphere during the event, and after Christian the Fourth's splendid dinner was served, the Guild's songbook was distributed, and the Guild's troubadours intoned a couple of songs - and there were still voices calling for an encore.

This Year's Good Spirit Prize was awarded

Good spirit Prize were awarded to a student at Aalborghus Gymnasium and a waiter apprentice at Restaurant Det Tredje Sted in Bispensgade.

The Guild delegation began their day at Aalborghus Gymnasium, and the "double" aspect became evident when the assembly in the ceremonial hall erupted in applause during the Guild's entrance, which, of course, was accompanied by music.

The chief bencher explained the criteria for receiving Christian IV's Good spirit Prize, noting that he had rarely seen such a comprehensive nomination that clearly outlined why Anna Hvidtfeldt Gade Sten was the chosen recipient.

Amid great applause, Anna was called forward, and the chief bencher presented her with both a diploma

certifying the award and a small envelope, which he suggested she use for something frivolous.

As the C4 delegation exited the hall, it was naturally accompanied by music and thunderous applause from everyone present - a cheerful atmosphere prevailed throughout the scholarship presentation.

Later in the day, the delegation visited Restaurant Det Tredje Sted in Bispensgade. All the restaurant's patrons looked up, undoubtedly wondering what was about to happen. Once they reached the bar, the chief bencher took the floor to explain Christian IV's Good spirit Prize. Again, there was an impressive nomination for the recipient, who was clearly unaware of what was about to take place.

When the chief bencher mentioned his name - Martin Dam - he practically jumped in surprise and let out an exclamation. He, too, received a diploma detailing the honor and an envelope whose contents he was encouraged to spend on joyful activities.

Martin's professional skills, in addition to his good humor, were demonstrated when the restaurant's manager, Jeanett, tasked him with serving the Guild members present. The Guild members also took the opportunity to greet the restaurant's other guests.

A double celebration with two happy awards and two delighted recipients - it couldn't have been more cheerful.



Reception August 30th.

On August 30th, Nordjyske Museums and the S.C. Strøyberg Foundation for the Preservation of Jens Bang's Stone House hosted a reception to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Jens Bang's Stone House and the release of Jacob Ørnbjerg's book "The Merchant, the Apothecary, and the Widows."

The Guild Board attended, almost in full, and the chief bencher briefly mentioned the Guild's 82-year association with the house, expressing joy that the former Apothecary had been restored to almost its original appearance. He also wished the Stone House good fortune for the next four hundred years. Additionally, the Guild Master presented the author, Jacob Ørnbjerg, with a bottle of the Guild's bitter. The Guild's two troubadours provided some musical entertainment, and we concluded by singing "We Belong to Aalborg."

Christian IV's Guild Jubilee Inductions Kicked Off with a Bang

In celebration of the 400th anniversary of Jens Bang's Stone House, Christian IV's Guild organized two jubilee inductions—at both events, more than forty people became new members of Christian IV's Guild.

Both inductions started with a bang, as the Aalborg Cannon Guild saluted the "Danish Signal" with three consecutive shots that echoed across Nytorv. All guests and Benchers were commanded outside Jens Bang's Stone House to witness this, and if anyone was not awake, they certainly were after that. The sound of the joyful salutes carried down into the cellar, where there was a lively and cheerful atmosphere as the Chief Bencher and Benchers entered the rooms. As usual, the induction began with the Toastmaster encouraging a toast among the Benchers and guests—though the guests had nothing in their glasses and could only watch as the Benchers refreshed themselves.

The Chief Bencher welcomed everyone and briefly spoke about the occasion, highlighting the 400th anniversary of the Stone House and then how the Guild was formed during World War II, now having occupied the Stone House for eighty-two of those four hundred years.

Following this, the Benchers were introduced to the guests, who were then educated on the Guild's history and



informed about its laws and regulations before finally being called to the main table for their formal induction.

Afterward, the guests were given a chance to get a feel for the city of Aalborg with a tour, this time along an alternative route for practical reasons.

It was checked that the key provided for the door to the Secret Passage worked, and once everyone was gathered back in the cellar, they were allowed to taste the ancient divine drink, mead.

Then it was time for the Guild's jubilee brunch, and especially to taste the "potato juice," consisting of Rød Aalborg. Afterward, the Guild's two-man band entertained the guests, and they sang beautiful songs about community and the value of togetherness.

The importance of this to the Guild is emphasized by the fact that the Guild has inducted more than 40,000 people from 120 nations over the years.

Everything comes to an end, including the good times at such an induction.

We are pleased to congratulate Jens Bang's Stone House on its 400th anniversary.



The Aalborg Prize 2023 was awarded to the Psychiatry House

The Psychiatry House emerged from a unique collaboration between the Municipality of Aalborg and the North Jutland Region, along with several user groups.

The prize was originally supposed to be presented at the Guild Assembly in February, but unfortunately, the leader Mette Holm Larsen was unable to attend. On Tuesday, May 27, Vice Chief Bencher Jens-Christian Schmidt, Master of Ceremony Sv. Aage Suhr, Guild cellar master Ole B. Kristensen, and Chief Bencher Niels Voss Hansen, along with Mette Holm Larsen, gathered for a small ceremony in our Guild Room where the amount of DKK 5,000 was presented.



General Assembly 2024

It was an evening full of experiences. When the Benchers entered a fully occupied Duus Vinkjælder, there was a full house with guests. As tradition dictates, this is the annual Guild Assembly, where many members take the opportunity to visit the Guild.

After the benchers had taken their seats, there was time to quench “our thirst first.” Subsequently, the chief bencher Niels Voss Hansen welcomed everyone to this year’s Guild Assembly, as well as the induction of new members. Former chief of emergency services Jørgen Petersen was proposed as the chairman for the Guild Assembly, and then he took over and conducted the meeting, addressing the eight items on the agenda. As usual, the chief bencher had to get used to someone else taking control. The chairman conducted the Guild Assembly, and all presents were informed about the Guild’s activities, finances, and there were also re-elections for the chief bencher, treasurer, cellar master, scrivener, and auditor.

During the event, awards were also presented to two young people from 4th May College in Aalborg, who received a token of appreciation to brighten their lives. The chief bencher concluded the Guild Assembly and urged the assembly to give the chairman a big round of applause for successfully conducting the meeting.

After that, we proceeded with the induction of eight new members into the Guild. They were initiated into the Guild’s rules, including becoming members

under the current king, His Majesty King Frederick the Tenth. The new members also learned about the history and activities of the Guild and took the obligatory walk through the old and new Aalborg, where they were shown the secret entrance and tested that the key provided to the door worked. Back in the cellar, the new members were introduced to the traditional drink, mead, and everyone managed to keep it down.

Next, it was time to celebrate with the new members, so the Guild’s splendid dinner was served. However, the chief bencher made it clear to the guests that the delightful “potato juice” awaiting them should not be touched until given the green light from the head table. The Guild’s two troubadours made sure the guests learned the songs in the Guild’s songbook. As it is customary during inductions, the benchers paradoxically leave the company at its peak, and so it was on this day as well.

On this evening, the chief bencher also took the opportunity to award the Guild’s gold medal to fund administrator Jens-Christian Schmidt. He has been a longstanding member of the board and has held various positions of trust in the Guild over the years, including fund administrator, scrivener, vice chief bencher, and more. In awarding the gold medal, the chief bencher highlighted Jens-Christian Schmidt’s always meticulous work with the tasks entrusted to him.

Soldier of the Year 2024: A Familiar Face to the Guild

At the annual New Year's Ceremony on Domkirkepladsen in Aalborg, Christian IV's Guild awarded the title of Soldier of the Year along with an accompanying grant.

The Soldier of the Year is selected by Aalborg Garrison, which seeks a candidate who exemplifies not only being a skilled soldier but also an inspiring and supportive comrade. This year, the honor went to Sergeant Casper Steen Christensen, who, before an audience of approximately three hundred spectators, received a diploma and donation as Soldier of the Year 2024.

Remarkably, this was not his first time receiving a grant from Christian IV's Guild. Back in 1996, the Guild awarded a Triplet Grant to his family, and Casper was one of the triplets.

On this special day, the entire Christensen family was present, including parents Henrik Steen Christensen, former Master Sergeant of the Queen's Life



Regiment, and Hanne Kjær Christensen, as well as older sister Maria Kjær Kristensen and twin brothers Martin, a former soldier in the Jutland Dragoon Regiment, and Jeppe, who serves in the Royal Danish Air Force and Military Police.



The giving of triplet prize in 1996

Guild meeting 2025

In Duus' Vinkjælder in Jens Bangs Stenhus. Thursday 27th februar 2025 - 18.30.

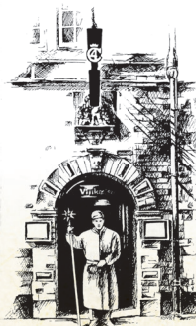
(Booking of table directly to Laugskældermester Ole B. Kristensen: olebech@stofanet.dk)

After the Guild's annual assembly an initiation is carried out.

Subscription for 2025:

Annual subscription: 150 DKK, 175 NOK, 200 SEK, 18 GBP, 23 USD or 20 EUR.

Payment for lifelong membership is unaltered: 600 DKK, 750 NOK, 750 SEK, 90 USD, 70 GBP or 90 EUR.



New lifelong members will receive a special Guild letter signed by the Chief Bencher and the Treasurer, and the names of the members are entered in the list of lifelong members.

Change of address: Directly to the Guild or via the website.

Newsletter: Members who have not yet signed up for our electronic newsletter are kindly requested to do so via the website, www.chr4laug.dk.

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