Laugs-Tidende

CHRISTIAN DEN FJERDES LAUGS NYTAARSBREV 2026

The Chief Bencher's Report for 2025

The year 2025 was marked by a wide range of activities within the Guild of Christian IV. During the year, 345 new members from 23 nations were admitted, all in a positive and cheerful spirit.

Admissions included participants from the Military Police course (Normilpoc), and on the same occasion the Soldier of the Year 2024 was admitted to the Guild.

At the Guild Assembly on 23 February, three awards were presented, each accompanied by DKK 10,000:

- The Initiative Award to Keld Gregersen for his work with Gestus
- The Honorary Award to long-distance runner Stine Rex for her charitable fundraising
- The Aalborg Award to Jan Larsen for his contribution to placing Aalborg on the international sports map through Aalborg Handball

In August, the Guild was represented at the unveiling of Aalborg Municipality's first Stumbling Stone, commemorating resistance member and police officer Poul Larsen. Later that month, the Deputy Chief Bencher attended the inauguration of the Cannon Guild's new site by the Limfjord.

Thanks to increased support from donors, the Guild was able to donate DKK 50,000 to SafeHouse in Jomfru Ane Gade, ensuring the safety of volunteers during a critical period.

The Christian IV Guild Foundation distributed approximately DKK 90,000 to around 20 charitable causes during 2025.

The traditional Good Spirits Grants were awarded to students in Aalborg, and the Guild's Gold Medal was presented to Ceremonimaster Svend Aage Suhr in recognition of ten years of dedicated service.

The year concluded with the presentation of the Soldier of the Year Award at the New Year Ceremony on Cathedral Square, awarded to Alberte Bech Kristensen upon recommendation from Aalborg Garrison.

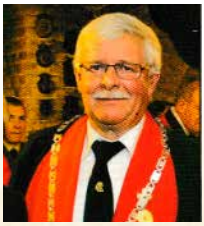
The year also marked the retirement of Treasurer Torben Røgild, who concluded seven years of distinguished service. In addition, Peter Kragh, and his wife Lene retired after three decades as restaurateurs at Duus' Wine Cellar, ending a family legacy that dates back to the founding of the Guild in 1942. The Guild expresses its sincere gratitude for their longstanding and valued cooperation.

The Guild has since established a positive and productive collaboration with David Olsen, the new restaurateur at Duus' Wine Cellar, and looks forward to continued cooperation in the years ahead.

With thanks to partners, board members, and the Guild's troubadours, 2025 concluded as a busy and successful year marked by strong engagement and good spirits.

Niels Voss Hansen

Chief Bencher



2026

NEWS – The Establishment of the C4 Donor Club

In 2025, the governing board of the Guild of Christian IV discussed how the Guild's social initiatives could be strengthened and further developed.

Although the Guild has for many years distributed a reasonable annual amount to various causes, such as the Good Spirits Grants and the Soldier of the Year Award, rising costs made an upgrade necessary, and the existing budget left little room for new initiatives.

From these discussions, the idea of establishing the C4 Donor Club emerged. A working group was formed, and the project was successfully launched with the support of donors including Nordjyske Bank, Pallisgaard A/S, Sparekassen Danmark, Himmerland Housing Association, Sparekassen Kronjylland, the Svend Andersen Foundation, Uggerly-El A/S, Spar Nord, Sigurd Müller's Wine Merchants, Danske Bank, the Real Estate Agents' Foundation, Fibertex A/S, the Gudrun and Palle Mørch Foundation, B&E Steel A/S, OKF Holding A/S, and KVG Bolig.

The Guild of Christian IV extends its sincere thanks for this generous support. It has enabled the Guild to strengthen its existing activities and has also created opportunities for new and innovative social initiatives in the future.

First Grant from the C4 Donor Club Awarded to Safe House, Jomfru Ane Gade

The first grant from the C4 Donor Club was awarded to Safe House in Jomfru Ane Gade, Aalborg.

The decision followed a newspaper article describing the organisation's urgent need for funding to hire security personnel in order to protect its volunteers during November and December. The required amount was approximately DKK 60,000.

The C4 Donor Club contributed DKK 50,000, enabling Safe House to secure protection for its volunteers. Safe House relies on a strong volunteer workforce, including four doctors and eight nurses, and has a total of 110 volunteers operating from its premises in Jomfru Ane Gade.

The head of Safe House, Martin, explained that every Friday and Saturday the organisation assists 250–300 people in need of help. This also includes young women who simply need a safe place, for example to use restroom facilities.

Overall, the situation reflects a concerning development: it has become necessary to protect volunteers who help people in distress, so they are not subjected to spitting, pushing, or physical assault. Sadly, this is the reality today.

Donations and Celebrations on Denmark's Liberation Day

On Denmark's Liberation Day, 5 May, Christian IV's Guild and its Foundation marked the occasion by distributing charitable donations in Aalborg. Founded in 1942, the Guild continues its long tradition of social engagement and support for local initiatives.

On this day, the Aalborg Prize was awarded to Jan Larsen, Director of Aalborg Handball, in recognition of his contribution to promoting Aalborg nationally and internationally. In addition, the Guild's Foundation distributed donations to seventeen recipients.

The Chief Bencher then handed over proceedings to Vibeke Gamst, Chairman of the Guild's Foundation. She began the presentation of donations, which were granted to seventeen recipients in varying amounts. Each recipient was called forward to receive an envelope containing the awarded donation.

In total, DKK 100,000 was awarded. The ceremony concluded with the Guild's traditional celebratory gathering, followed by cultural events at Aalborg Monastery, providing the recipients with a memorable and dignified experience.

There was a festive spirit all around as the Guild of Christian IV awarded its the Good Spirit Prize

A festive atmosphere marked the Guild of Christian IV's presentation of its Good Spirit Prize.

Led by the Chief Bencher and accompanied by the Guild's troubadours, five Benchers visited Nørresundby Gymnasium and later the goldsmith Kristian Otte in Aalborg.

At Nørresundby Gymnasium, student Magnus Nielsen was awarded the prize after being nominated by several teachers for his outstanding spirit and conduct.

Later the same day, goldsmith apprentice Mikkela Kristensen received the Good Spirit Prize at Kristian Otte's workshop, following a nomination by her employer.

Both award ceremonies were met with great enthusiasm and warm applause. The day reflected the Guild's continued commitment to encouraging good spirit, fellowship, and positive values among young people in education.

The Guild Assembly of Christian IV's Guild was held with Good Decisions and High Spirits

The 2025 Guild Assembly of Christian IV's Guild was conducted in a dignified and positive spirit, with strong attendance reflecting the members' keen interest in the Guild's activities and development. The Chief Bencher opened the assembly with the customary welcome and presented a comprehensive report on the past year's work.

The report highlighted a busy and successful year, including significant anniversary events, the admission of a large number of new members, and the establishment of the Guild's Donation Club, created to strengthen and expand the Guild's social and charitable initiatives. The financial report demonstrated sound and responsible management, resulting in a healthy surplus, and was approved by the assembly.

Next came the presentation of scholarships and donations.

- The Guild's Honorary Award was given to world champion runner Stine Rex for her remarkable achievements—not only for her outstanding athletic performance but also for raising 2 million kroner, which she directed toward improving young people's living conditions.
- The Guild's Initiative Award was presented to Keld Gregersen, the founder and chairman of the association Gestus, which conducts significant social work.
- The Guild's Aalborg Award was also scheduled for presentation, but the recipient was unfortunately unable to attend and will receive it at a later occasion.

As tradition dictates, donations were also awarded to students residing in the Churchill Room and Toldstrup Room on May 4th College.

Board elections were held in accordance with the agenda, including the appointment of a new treasurer, while continuity in the board was otherwise maintained.

The assembly and subsequent festivities followed long-standing Guild traditions, marked by ceremony, fellowship, music, and shared celebration, underscoring the strong sense of community within Christian IV's Guild.

The Chief Bencher's chain has been rebalanced

For many years, the Chief Bencher has struggled to wear the Chief Bencher's chain in the most dignified manner.
This has been due to an uneven weight distribution, which caused the chain to slide up toward the back of the neck.
Many may already have noticed that a substantial C4 pendant has now been added to the chain. It has been positioned so that it rests slightly below the Chief Bencher's neck, thereby performing the important task of creating balance, allowing the chain to hang in the most dignified and proper way. The beautiful pendant was created by goldsmith Kristian Otte of Østerå, Aalborg. It is not merely decorative, but also serves a practical purpose.

Gold Medal for bencher Svend Aage Suhr

At the Guild's annual founding celebration on 16 December 2026, the Gold Medal was awarded to bencher Svend Aage Suhr.

Svend Aage Suhr has been a member of the board for ten years and has, more than anyone, earned the Guild's Gold Medal. Through his great commitment and his achievements as Master of Ceremonies. He has helped to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere. His performance with "the worm" has certainly not made the initiation ceremonies dull either. He has made an outstanding contribution to Christian the Fourth's Guild, and you are therefore awarded the Guild's Gold Medal.

Unveiling of a "Stumbling Stone" at Gabels Square

Four benchers from Christian the Fourth's Guild participated in the event, together with the chairperson of the Guild's Foundation, councilor Vibeke Gamst. The Foundation had donated 5.000 D. Kr. to the project.

German artist Gunter Demnig created the Stumbling Stone Project. The first stone was placed in Cologne in 1995, and since then more than 116,000 stones have been laid across the world. Stumbling Stones are small memorials, the size of a cobblestone, laid in remembrance of people who were persecuted and perished under Nazism.
The first Stumbling Stone in Aalborg honors Police Superintendent Poul Larsen, who was highly active in the resistance movement during World War II. Poul Larsen was executed in Ryvangen on March 10, 1945.
The stone was laid by his son, Niels Peter Juhl Larsen.

Soldier of the Year 2025 Appointed at New Year Ceremony

At the New Year Ceremony 2025 on Cathedral Square, the Guild of Christian IV appointed its Soldier of the Year following a recommendation from Aalborg Garrison.

The honor was awarded to Private Alberte Bech Kristensen of the 2nd Medical Company, who was praised for her professionalism, dedication, and positive attitude despite a short period of service. She was commended for consistently

delivering an extraordinary effort, demonstrating strong teamwork, and placing patients and colleagues above her own needs.
The Chief Bencher highlighted her commitment, courage, and good humor as exemplary qualities of a modern soldier.

Guild meeting 2026

In Duus´ Vinkjælder in Jens Bangs Stenhus.
Wednesday 25th februar 2026 - 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 2026:
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.

Bank: 9280-1940028473
Mobilepay: 42116
IBAN. No.: DK1692801940028473
SWIFT/BIC: SPNODK22

Christian Den Fjerdes Laug · Jens Bangs Stenhus · Østerågade 9b · DK 9000 Aalborg
Tlf. +45 22 28 22 18 · info@chr4laug.dk · www.chr4laug.dk