

# THE FREEMAN



## OFFICIAL JOURNAL AND PROGRAMME

of the  
GUILD OF FREEMEN OF THE CITY OF LONDON

The Master 2016-2017  
ALDERMAN SIR DAVID WOOTTON

The Master 2017-2018  
PETER R ALLCARD, Esq.

JUNE 2017

NUMBER 166

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# THE GUILD OF FREEMEN OF THE CITY OF LONDON



*“O, Most Gracious Lord, Defend Thy Citizens of London”*

**Centenary Master** Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal  
**Patron** The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Alderman Dr Andrew Parmley

**Honorary Member of the Guild**  
His Majesty King Michael I of Romania



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## The Guild of Freeman of the City of London

A Company Limited by Guarantee  
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### THE ORIGINS OF THE GUILD

The historic right of Londoners to claim the Freedom of their City was restricted to members of Livery Companies by a Charter of Edward II in 1311. In the 19th Century the Corporation of London decided that the Freedom should no longer be restricted in this way.

It was against this background that in 1908 the Guild of Freeman came to be formed. It became a focal point where the influx of new Freeman joined with the Freeman of the Livery Companies to develop and uphold the City's historic traditions and maintain its good works.

Today the Guild of Freeman of the City of London is an association of about 2,000 men and women who take pride in their City and who participate actively in the Guild's extensive and varied programme of educational, charitable, benevolent, and social activities.

All who hold the Freedom of the City of London are eligible to join the Guild and enjoy the benefits of belonging to the largest organisation of its type in the City of London.

'*The Freeman*' is normally published in the spring of each year. It includes a record of the many activities and events held by the Guild during the previous year and the programme for the forthcoming year. It is distributed to all members, to many organisations throughout the City, including Livery Companies, Guilds, Libraries, and other interested parties.

On behalf of the Guild, a big thank you to the advertisers. Without their generous support, we would not be able to produce such a high quality and respected journal.

### *The Freeman*

The Journal of the Guild of Freeman of the City of London  
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### The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Dr Andrew Parmley MusM Hon FGS



**Alderman** Dr Andrew Parmley is the 689th Lord Mayor of the City of London. He has been a teacher for over 30 years during which time he has built an unparalleled understanding of how education can promote social mobility, encourage economic development, and generate prosperity.

During his year as Lord Mayor, Alderman Parmley will promote the United Kingdom's exceptional financial and professional services that range from banking and law to engineering and advertising. He will reinforce the message that those services can be vital participants in healthy, wealthy, and sustainable communities, not just in large cities but throughout a country's entire economy. He will

take this message overseas, leading business delegations to explore opportunities and emerging markets.

The Lord Mayor's regional work is equally important. Alderman Parmley was born in Manchester and grew up in Blackpool, and he wants to use his year in office to highlight the immense and often under-appreciated contribution that communities outside London play in the United Kingdom's commercial development.

Andrew Parmley has been an elected Member of Common Council since 1992 and was elected Alderman of Vintry Ward in 2001. He has served on most of the City of London's committees and is involved in education and music and is a keen member of eight City Livery companies including the Musicians.

## The Lord Mayor's Appeal 2017



The funds raised from the Lord Mayor's Appeal will support London

Symphony Orchestra's Discovery programme, St Paul's Music Outreach, and Music in Hospitals, enabling them to continue their valuable work into the future.



The London Symphony Orchestra is one of the world's leading orchestras, and has been Resident Orchestra at the Barbican in the City of London since the Centre opened in 1982. Through its community work, the Orchestra brings people of all ages and backgrounds into contact with its 100 world-class musicians.

The breadth and depth of this education and outreach programme, founded in 1990, is unparalleled in the orchestral world. It reaches 60,000 people every year, throughout the City and East London, Greater London and internationally. Through inspiring musical experiences and insights, support, and training, it enriches lives and encourages creative interests and skills.

Making music together adds an entirely new dimension to many people's lives and may have a profound effect on their future involvement in music. Research shows that as well as increasing musical ability and understanding, it enhances personal skills such as memory and creativity, and life skills including teamwork, self-confidence, and motivation.

Funds raised through the Lord Mayor's Appeal will be used to provide opportunities for young people which actively educate, support, and inspire, engaging them in music-making through the LSO Discovery programme.

This includes an open access choral programme, side-by-side instrumental projects with LSO players, creative workshops for young people in special schools and hospitals, and guided full orchestral concerts for school pupils at all levels.



Music plays an important role at St Paul's and its choir and organ are world renowned. Central to its ministry is the training of choristers, and it is passionate about the transformative nature of music, and sharing this with children. Since 2014, the Cathedral has reached thousands of London children through its music outreach – Sing at St Paul's, the Hackney Children's Choir, and their Organ Project. St Paul's are passionate about giving children new skills and raising their self-confidence, and building the community at the same time.



Music in Hospitals has been improving the health and wellbeing of adults and children who find themselves in healthcare. Providing the therapeutic benefits of live music, Music in Hospitals delivers around 4,500 live music sessions across the healthcare spectrum throughout the United Kingdom.

In the last twelve months alone, Music in Hospitals has provided around 500 live music sessions in a variety of healthcare venues throughout the City of London and Greater London, supporting the London community.

The funds raised from the Lord Mayor's Appeal will support both St Paul's Music Outreach and Music in Hospitals to continue their valuable work into the future.



## **Alderman Sir David Wootton**

**Master of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London 2016-17**

*To be installed as Master of this great Guild is the highest honour accorded to a Guild Member. My year as Master would not have been possible without the support of my wife Liz, to whom I owe so much for her support of my City life. My year started with my Installation as Master at the Annual General Meeting at Tallow Chandlers' Hall. This was followed, in April, by the Annual Service at St Lawrence Jewry next Guildhall and the Reception and Dinner in the enchanting Girdlers' Hall.*

*My programme of events was well received and was designed to reflect my academic and legal background, my passion for rowing and my love of the arts. The visits to Jesus College Cambridge, The Leander Club, The Athenaeum, the Globe Theatre, and the Little Angel Puppet Theatre, where my son Chris, the Director, organised a tour and a private showing of *The Magic Beanstalk*, were all reflective of my background.*

*Tower Bridge was the venue for a reception and dinner to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's 90th birthday and to raise funds for the British Red Cross's Jailed and Bailed event. The reception was held in the east gantry, looking towards London's docklands and the dinner was held in the west gantry, with spectacular views overlooking the City and the Houses of Parliament.*

*I think that everyone would agree that the high point of our year is our Annual Banquet at Guildhall, and 2016 was no exception. We were pleased to welcome The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, Alderman Dr Andrew Parmley, and The Lady Mayoress, together with Alderman and Sheriff Peter Estlin and his wife, Lindy, and Mr Philip Jordan, the Duty Esquire. It was a very great honour and privilege to welcome many other prestigious guests, especially my guest speaker, The Right Honourable Sir Hugh Robertson. We were also greatly privileged to welcome several other important guests, too, including Mrs Annamarie Phelps, a former World champion rower and Chairman of British Rowing, and Mr Michael Welbank, the Chief Commoner.*

*High on the list of the other highlights during my year in office were my three holidays. First, in May, we visited Belgium, where we spent a day in each of the cities of Antwerp, Bruges, and Ghent. We enjoyed a guided tour of Antwerp by horse-drawn carriage; planted a wreath at the Menin Gate in Ypres in memory of the fallen members of the Guild; we saw*

*the 'Lamb of God' altar piece in the cathedral in Ghent and we were privileged to dine in the prestigious Falligan Private Members' Club, also in Ghent.*

*In September, a party of thirty-six adventurers flew to Belfast, to enjoy a four-day holiday in Northern Ireland. Whilst in Northern Ireland, the Mayor of the City of Londonderry hosted us, and we had an opportunity to reflect on the close historical links between Londonderry and our own great city of London. We also visited the Giants' Causeway and enjoyed a tour and tasting at Bushmills distillery. We were shown round some of the areas of Belfast that were made famous during the troubles, and were*

*privileged to be guided round beautiful gardens by the owners themselves and dine in their stately homes.*

*My third holiday, in February, I was delighted to take thirty-five Guild Members on a four day visit to Barcelona. With so much to see in this ancient city, we restricted ourselves to tours of the old city centre, the Gaudi cathedral and some of Gaudi's more famous buildings. We also enjoyed a day out at the famous Freixenet winery, and a trip to the hallowed*

*ground of Barcelona Football Club. Our wonderful holiday in Barcelona would not have been complete without an evening watching Flamenco dancing, and the gala dinner in a superb restaurant with stunning views over the city of Barcelona.*

*We commemorated the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Fire of London, the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare, and the 950<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Hastings. We also enjoyed a wonderful day at Henley on Thames, including lunch and a tour of the Leander Club, the oldest and most famous rowing club in the world; we enjoyed a lunch in the Athenaeum Club in the West End, and we had a fascinating tour of the Dickens Museum. My final dinner, in Gray's Inn, was another memorable occasion. It was a real privilege to dine with one hundred and fifty Guild Members and our guests in such a beautiful hall. There could not have been a better way to bring a wonderful year to an end.*

*I would just like to thank you, our Members, most sincerely, for the warmth, friendship, and support that you have shown Liz and me throughout the year. It has been a memorable and very rewarding one.*



# Annual General Meeting

## 106th Annual General Meeting Tallow Chandlers' Hall

**Wednesday 16th March 2016**

*The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is held in mid-March every year to discharge the Company's statutory obligations and to install The new Master, and Wardens.*

### Opening Ceremony

After processing into the Hall in company with the Honorary Chaplain and the Wardens, The Master, Poppy, Lady Cooksey, opened the Guild's 106th AGM.

The Clerk read out the names of those who had sent messages of apology and goodwill. Then everyone stood in silence in memory of the Guild Members whose deaths had been reported since the publication of the last Annual Review.

### Guild Business

The Minutes of the 105th AGM were read out, approved unanimously, and signed by the Master. The Master then drew attention to the Directors' Report that had been published on pages 3-4 of the Annual Review.

The Master then reflected on her year as Master and felt that, with the support of the members, the programme had lived up to the Guild's highest standards. The high point of the year had been the Annual Banquet, at Guildhall, at which she had been pleased to welcome The Lord Mayor.

The Master then reviewed other highlights in her programme, including the fabulous and unforgettable holidays in The Netherlands and the ancient Kingdom of Lombardy in Northern Italy, glittering dinners to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo and the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt, a visit to the Guildhall Art Gallery to view the City's copy of the Magna Carta to commemorate the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its signing, two memorable visits to the London Archaeological Archives and Research Centre, one of which was attended by the Guild's Centenary Master, HRH The Princess Royal.

The Guild's close links with the Government had been maintained by including a visit to 10 Downing Street and a dinner in the House of Lords.

Next, the Honorary Treasurer reported that the Guild's accounts for the year to 31st July 2015 had been examined by Kreston Reeves LLP and the financial statements had been published in the Annual Review. After outlining the income and expenditure over the year he reported that the Company's funds had increased by a little over £15,000 – in round figures from £480,000 to £495,000 – due largely to gains in the value of the Guild's investment portfolio. He then cautioned that the accounts showed the actual value of the investments at the closing date of the accounting period rather than the purchase price.

The Honorary Treasurer then reported on behalf of the Trustees of the Guild's Charity. Throughout the year the Trustees supported a range of charitable social welfare and educational organisations, including continued support for

two presentees at Christ's Hospital. In addition, 51 grants and awards (£56,850) had been made during the year.

Overall, because of Guild Members' generosity and favourable conditions on the stock market, the Charity's reserves increased by over £40,000, and at 31st July 2015 they had stood at £805,181.

The Honorary Treasurer concluded by reporting that the state of the Guild's accounts was healthy and recommended their adoption. The accounts were approved unanimously.

### Appointment as the Guild's Accountants

The Master reported that the Board had been very pleased with the work carried out by Kreston Reeves LLP as the Guild's accountants, and recommended their reappointment for the year to 31st July 2016. The recommendation was approved unanimously.

### Installation Ceremony



The Master then opened the Installation Ceremony by presenting Alderman Sir David Wootton as her successor. After a brief introduction, she handed over the Guild's Inventory Book and the Key to the Company Seal as symbols of the high office of Master. Alderman Sir David Wootton thanked Lady Cooksey for her kind words and acknowledged the great honour that had been bestowed upon him. He then installed his Wardens, namely Mr Peter Allcard as Senior Warden, Mr John Barber as Renter Warden, Mrs Elizabeth Thornborough as Junior Warden and Mr Anthony Bailey as Under Warden.

### Presentations



The Master then presented an Illuminated Address to the Immediate Past Master, Lady Cooksey, congratulated her on a successful year, invested her with the Immediate Past Master's badge and presented her with her own Past Master's badge. Lady Cooksey thanked the Master for his kind words and the presentations.

As her final duty, the Immediate Past Master, Lady

Cooksey, presented the Master's Lady's brooch to Lady Wootton and proffered her very best wishes for the year ahead.

### Closing Ceremony

Finally, the Master closed the AGM. After the Master and Wardens had processed from the Hall everyone gathered in the Parlour for refreshments.



Beirut/Lebanon \*



Luxembourg \*



Amman/Jordan



El Minzah/Morocco



Hammamet/Tunisia



Sharm El Sheikh/Egypt



Villa de France/Morocco



  
**Le ROYAL**  
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## Events of 2016-17

### Visit to the Little Angel Puppet Theatre

Tuesday 5th April

To a little French Restaurant named 'Le Sacré Coeur' in the heart of Islington, North London, some forty Guild Members and guests assembled for a hearty lunch of the traditional French dishes of Coq au Vin followed by Tarte Tatin.

Replete, we headed over to the Little Angel Puppet Theatre by St Mary's Churchyard. After an opening explanation of the running and purpose of the theatre, by Chris Wootton, the Director and son of The Master, we were treated to a private showing of The Magic Beanstalk with three girls working all the puppets. The first puppet to appear was a cow named 'Daisy' with a wasp on her nose. Jack followed with his magic shoes and then the story unfolded with Guild Assistant



Professor Joe Herzberg being asked to look after Jack from the giants. This caused a great deal of hilarity especially when Jack sat on Joe's head. Further audience participation took place with fizzy drink experiments! When the half-hour performance finished, Chris Wootton gave a talk on how the theatre came into existence.

It was founded in 1961 by John Wright MBE, a master puppeteer together with his wife Lindy having moved to the UK from South Africa. The building itself was originally a Temperance Hall and having been left derelict during World War II and beyond they decided it would be the ideal place to open a marionette theatre. John sadly died in 1961 but Lindy



continues and still, at the age of eighty-three, makes puppets at her bench in the workshop. Chris explained that some 45,000 children and adults attend the theatre during a year.

After a break for tea and biscuits we returned to our seats and were introduced to Master Puppeteer Ronnie Le Drew who became entranced with puppets at the age of 15 in 1963. He showed us marionettes carved out of wood from Malaysia and explained that each one is worked by strings, attached to hand bars, using finger and wrist movements. He continued by covering many aspects of his career such as working with Sooty



and Sweep, the Rainbow pre-school series and with Jim Henson on The Muppet Show as well as teaching adult and children's groups and helping at the Angel Theatre in between.

We finished this most interesting afternoon exploring backstage and as we said thank-you and goodbye agreed it had been a wonderful step back in time.



## Royal Courts of Justice and Lunch in Middle Temple

Thursday 14th April

Sixty members and guests spent a fascinating morning led by our Master visiting the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand and afterwards enjoyed lunch in the historic Middle Temple.



The Royal Courts were opened in 1882 by Queen Victoria and are home to the Court of Appeal and the High Court. No criminal cases are heard there as these are dealt with by the 53 Crown Courts around the UK and the Old Bailey. The High Court deals mainly with civil disputes and is split into three divisions namely the Chancery Division, the Queen's Bench Division, and the Family Division. Over 1,000 people either work in or visit the Royal Courts of Justice every day.



Our tour guides split us into two groups and the first hour was spent in one of the Courts learning about the history and work of the building





which spans some 7.5 acres. The land was purchased for £1.5 million in 1868 and more than 450 dwellings housing more than 4,000 people were demolished to build it. Following an excellent presentation, our guides led us on a tour of this beautiful building, before we adjourned just across the road to a fine three course lunch at the Middle Temple. The latter is perhaps the finest example of an Elizabethan Hall in the country being 101 feet long and 41 feet wide.

Some of us had the privilege of dining at the High Table reputedly a gift to the Middle Temple from Queen Elizabeth I. The Benchers of the Inn still dine at it as they have done since the 1560s when the Hall was first constructed. There was a most convivial atmosphere for this sell out event with members and guests all agreeing that we had benefited from two very special visits in one day, taking in both the Royal Courts of Justice as well as Middle Temple.

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a very successful  
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## Events of 2016-17

### Globe Theatre Tour and Lunch

Wednesday 20th April

The visit to the theatre was timed to coincide with the Quadricentenary of the death of William Shakespeare. On a glorious late spring day, the Master and seventy Guild Members were taken on a guided tour of the Globe theatre.

Shakespeare's Globe houses a reconstruction of the Globe Theatre, an Elizabethan playhouse on the south bank of the Thames. Originally built in 1599, the modern Globe is an

Sam Wanamaker Playhouse. This is a smaller, candle-lit space based on the indoor playhouses of Jacobean London.

During the tour, we learned how the theatre was built, then and now, and of the great attention to detail. The seating is still on wooden benches and the standing audience, or groundlings, have a little more comfort than their Elizabethan counterparts. Unlike current theatres, the best seats are reserved not to see the play but for their occupants to be seen by the audience.

After the tour, we were treated to a demonstration of how an



approximation based on available evidence of that and contemporary playhouses. It is considered quite realistic, though contemporary safety requirements mean that it accommodates only 1,500 spectators compared to the original theatre's 3,000. It was founded by the actor and director Sam Wanamaker, built about 230 metres from the site of the original theatre and opened in 1997. The site also includes the

Elizabethan Lady would dress, with assistance from a Guild Member. We then watched a demonstration of Elizabethan swords and sword fighting. Finally, we made our way to a local restaurant for a most enjoyable and convivial lunch.

We were treated to many Shakespearian quotes, but to finish with one, *"Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none"*.



## **Annual Service at St Lawrence Jewry next Guildhall and Reception & Dinner in Girdlers' Hall**

**Tuesday 26th April**

The Annual Service was held at the lovely church of St Lawrence Jewry next Guildhall. Once inside, we had some time to look around the white and gold interior of the Church with its stained-glass windows depicting various saints. The original church was badly damaged in the Great Fire of London and rebuilt before being hit during the second World War.



The service began as The Master, Wardens, Court of Assistants, and Clergy processed to take their seats. We were

welcomed by the Guild Vicar, the Revd Canon David Parrott. Then followed a rousing introduction to the first hymn, 'Joy to the World', set to the music of Handel. The Honorary Chaplain, The Very Revd Dr David Ison (Dean of St Pauls Cathedral), led the bidding and prayers. The organ, enthusiastically played by Catherine Ennis, signalled the first Anthem 'O Thou the Central Orb' sung by the very accomplished Choir of King Edward's School Witley, from their lofty perch in the gallery, led by Stasio Sliwka, Director of Music, by kind permission of the Headmaster.



The first lesson was read from Deuteronomy 17 by the Senior Warden Mr Peter Allcard; the second, from Peter 1, was read by The Master, Alderman Sir David Wootton. In his sermon, the Honorary Chaplain prayed for the wellbeing of the City and for things to come. He went on to speak about our forthcoming elections and reminded us how fortunate we are to be living in a democracy. He praised the selfless

devotion to duty of Her Majesty The Queen, now aged 90, who has given her life to our service. After the Blessing, we sang The National Anthem before the final procession to leave. There was a cheque presentation to the Director of Music. St Lawrence is the patron saint of the Girdlers so it was appropriate that supper was to be held in the very tastefully decorated Girdlers' Hall nearby. This charming building with lovely part-walled garden appears as an oasis towered over by



imposing glass office blocks. The original hall was destroyed in the Great Fire and its replacement was damaged in 1940. The Girdlers' craft concerned the making of belts or girdles which were often ornate and worn outside the tunic or gown either to gather in the garment or for suspending a wallet, purse or sidearm. The craft was important from medieval times until the end of the sixteenth century. The Company still has the honour of presenting the girdle and stole worn by the sovereign at each coronation.



After an excellent dinner, toasts and the Loving Cup ceremony, The Master thanked the Choir. He also thanked the Girdlers' Company for allowing us to use their magnificent hall and went on to draw our attention to the Indian carpet which at 8 yards long adorns one wall of the hall. It dates to 1634 and the design includes the Company's coat of arms. It was used to cover the Court Table and although the table was unfortunately destroyed the carpet was saved from the Great Fire which took 3 days to blaze its way to that part of the City. The evening ended with a presentation to Mr Ian Seaton, Past Master of the Girdlers who had sponsored our visit.



## Events of 2016-17

### Ceremony of the Keys Tower of London

Wednesday 4th May

On a pleasant May evening Guild Members and their guests headed into the Tower of London for a fascinating evening. Our host and guide for the evening was Yeoman Warder and Guild Member, Colin Smith, MBE, BEM. By the West Gate he gave us a resumé of the history of the Tower, its various uses, its famous or notorious residents and those who lost their lives there.

We then proceeded past the White Tower to Tower Green where our guide pointed out Queen's House where the Constable of the Tower lives and various other buildings within the Tower. Finally, we visited the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula, a Royal Chapel within the Tower directly under the jurisdiction of the Sovereign, and the venue for the Guild's Carol Service for the last few years.



We next proceeded to the Yeoman Warders' Club where a splendid buffet supper and wine awaited us. After this Colin Smith briefed us on the Ceremony we were about to witness. Past Master Tony Woodhead expressed thanks to Colin and presented him with a newly minted £20 coin to mark Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday.



We then assembled by Traitor's Gate to witness the Ceremony, which has taken place at 10 pm each evening for 700 years. The Chief Yeoman Warder with lantern and keys and accompanied by Foot Guards walked to the Outer Gate to lock it and the Middle and Byward Towers and then back towards the Bloody Tower where the sentry and Warder uttered the well-known phrases "Halt, who goes there" "The Keys"



"Whose Keys" "Queen Elizabeth's Keys" "Pass Queen Elizabeth's Keys" "All's Well".

On this occasion, we were privileged to have the Constable of the Tower Lord Dannatt and his dinner guests join us for the Ceremony, after which he gave us a few words of welcome to the Tower and the Ceremony. After the Ceremony, we all departed for home through a wicket gate in the main locked gate!



## **The CLINK Restaurant, HMP Brixton**

**Friday 13th May**

About ninety Guild Members and their guests arrived, with some fear and trepidation, it was Friday the 13th, at the gates of HMP Brixton to enjoy lunch in what can only be described as, unusual but welcoming surroundings.



Morning coffee and home baked biscuits welcomed us whilst we had the opportunity to look around the modern restaurant and interact with

the staff. The Master welcomed members and guests to a unique experience, and introduced Alberto Crisci CBE who founded the project. Alberto explained that the experiences he encountered during his teenage years, particularly his two close friends who found themselves imprisoned, motivated him to look at ways to help offenders seeking a second chance, and The CLINK was born.



The CLINK is a chain of high quality restaurants offering seasonal and sustainable menus for breakfast and lunch, operated by offenders within four prisons nationwide. Alberto was working as the catering manager at HMP High Down whilst the prison was undergoing an expansion programme. He took the opportunity to ask for training opportunities for the offenders to enable them

to learn skills, understand the workplace and be ready to reintegrate into society.



The CLINK recruit offenders with six to eighteen months of their sentence left to serve and trains them with recognisable NVQ qualifications in catering and hospitality. This allows them to work in a supervised environment under pressure and to a high standard before supporting them in finding work and mentoring after they leave prison. The sole purpose of The CLINK is to stop reoffending which has been very successful. After a fabulous lunch served with superb non-alcoholic cocktails, there was an opportunity for some retail therapy before heading home, having experienced something that will remain in the memory for a very long time.



## Events of 2016-17

### Holiday in Belgium

**Saturday 21st May to Wednesday 25th May**

The Master, Alderman Sir David Wootton with Lady Wootton, joined eleven Guild Members and tour organiser Odette Hooft Graafland for a Guild holiday in Belgium. The group were based at the Sandton Grand Hotel Reylof in the City of Ghent.

On Saturday Guild Members assembled at the hotel during the afternoon, where some took advantage of the warm afternoon sunshine to enjoy refreshments in the hotel garden. Early evening, the group departed from the Hotel by minibus to travel to Slot van Laarne, a 14th century castle located 15kms outside of the City of Ghent. The castle is now in the care of a private trust but still has residents. It was extensively



restored during the 20th century and now has many items of furniture and tapestries, and is home to the famous Dallemagne silver collection. The group were given a private tour of the castle before walking the short distance to the restaurant Kasteel van Laarne, where they enjoyed a reception and dinner in the private dining room.

Sunday morning the group departed from the hotel for the City of Antwerp where a visit to the Rockox House was our first stop. The house, which is now an art gallery and museum, was the former home of Nicolaas Rockox, a notable burgomaster of Antwerp. The Rockox House collection has been enhanced with several pieces on loan from the Antwerp Royal Museum of Fine Arts. The group were given a private tour of the museum, where the presence of many valuable pieces of art necessitated sensitive alarms and some of the members frequently tested the system out!



Lunch was taken at the Plateau Royal, a splendid fish restaurant overlooking the River Schelde. The weather deteriorated during lunch, which was of concern given that the programme for the afternoon included a tour around Antwerp in a horse drawn carriage. However, the carriage was in fact a horse drawn bus so all were accommodated inside in the dry. The two horses named Jack and Hilda coped with the traffic and slippery conditions affording the group a leisurely guided tour around the historic city of Antwerp. Afternoon tea was taken at the Hilton Hotel Antwerp where a break in the rain enabled several of the group to visit the Cathedral of our Lady which was a short walk away from the Hilton hotel. The departure from the Hilton to the Stadspaleis, our evening venue, was delayed due to the onset of heavy rain. However, the resourceful group eventually obtained taxis and arrived at

the venue relatively dry if a little late. The dinner was taken in the magnificent Hall of Mirrors Room, where the tour organiser's parents joined us for another delicious dinner.

On Monday, the group travelled to the City of Bruges. The walled city promised to be an interesting location and the group were not to be disappointed. The first venue of the day was to Adornes Domain, home to the Adornes family and one of the most prominent families in 15th century

Bruges. The family had strong links to Scotland, particularly James III of Scotland. The visit included a guided tour of the house, which is still used by the family, the private Jerusalem



chapel and the museum located in the old Almshouses. A short walk from here took the group to the Church of Saint Anne and thence onto lunch at Duc de Bourgogne. This restaurant is located alongside one of the main canals of Bruges. The afternoon commenced with a walking tour of Bruges before the group boarded the coach for the drive to Ypres.

On arrival in Ypres the group were taken on a guided tour of the 'In Flanders Fields Museum'. The museum is named after the poem of the same name written by John McCrae: – *"In Flanders Fields the poppies blow, between the crosses row on row"*.



The museum was both interesting and moving. After our visit, a short drive took the group to dinner at the lakeside restaurant Pacific Eiland. The group then departed for the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate. The gate records the names of the British and Commonwealth service men that had died at Ypres during WWI who have no known grave. During the visit to the 'In Flanders Fields Museum' one of the group discovered that a relative's name was recorded on the Menin Gate.

The Guild arranged for a wreath to be laid at the memorial on behalf of the Guild of Freeman of the City of London. Immediately after the one minute's silence, which follows the sounding of the Last Post, The Master, supported by two Guild Members, laid the first wreath. At the request of the Last



Post Association, who administer the daily ceremony, the reading of the exhortation for remembrance was delivered by a member of the Guild. After the ceremony, the group returned to Ghent where late evening refreshments were served and the events of the day remembered.

On Tuesday, our final day, the group departed the hotel for Kasteel Ooidonk, the private home of the Count t'Kint de Roodenbeke and located close to the City of Ghent. On arrival, the group were treated to a private tour of the house and could see many of the private apartments which are still used by the members of the de Roodenbeke family.

Lunch was taken at the riverside Restaurant Nenuphar, before departing for a tour of the Ghent Stadhuis (City Hall) which included a visit to the council chamber. This medieval building is still fully in use today. A short walk took the group to St Bavos Cathedral, which houses the famous 'Adoration of the Mystic Lamb' altar piece, which was painted by the van



Eyck brothers. The painting has been stolen many times over the centuries and was last recovered by the 'Monument Men' at the end of WWII. The group were given a detailed explanation of the painting by their guide before visiting the actual art work.

The group were then free to explore Ghent. The last evening's dinner was held at the Le Club Le Falligan, which is an exclusive gentlemen's club for the elite of Ghent. The club has some magnificent works of art which give a 3D effect using just light and shade. The Master thanked everyone for joining him and Lady Wootton in Belgium and all agreed that it had been an enjoyable experience. The Master then distributed small gifts and mementos to both the host for the evening and the tour organiser in thanks for their help in making the Guild's visit a success.

The group returned to the hotel where some members of the group completed the day with a nightcap in the bar.



## Events of 2016-17

### Tower Bridge, Her Majesty The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration Dinner

Monday 6th June

On a beautiful summer evening with not a cloud in the sky Guild Members and guests gathered at Tower Bridge to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday.

Tower Bridge is probably noted as the most famous bridge in the world and is an iconic symbol of London. The City of London Corporation decided in 1876 that a Bridge over the Thames was necessary and Tower Bridge was completed and opened in 1894.

The Master, Alderman Sir David Wootton, welcomed Guild Members and their guests to the reception in the east gantry with its far-reaching views down the Thames towards Canary Wharf. The glass floor walkway proved to be a real fascination to our Members with many fearing to walk on it and look down on the waters below.



We then moved over to the west gantry for dinner and the magnificent views up river looking up to the Shard, Westminster and over the Tower of London. The Master brought the evening to a close with a short speech.

This was also a fund-raising event, linked to the British Red Cross's Annual Jailed and Bailed Event. As the Master was unavailable on this date, the Immediate Past Master, Poppy,

Lady Cooksey, was due to be arrested at Mansion House on some rather spurious charges, taken before a Judge who will remand her in custody to the Tower of London where, provided Bail of over £1,000 is paid, she will be released to enjoy a Champagne Luncheon rather than the traditional bread and water! Indeed, through the extreme generosity of our Members £3,000 was raised for the Red Cross.

Our thanks go to Colin Sayers of Seasoned Events for donating the Guild free use of the venue for our Charity event.



## Visit to House Mill, Bromley-by-Bow and Lunch

**Wednesday 15th June**

On a warm summer day in the bustling East End of London, Guild Members and their guests found themselves in an historic oasis. The House Mill dates to 1776 when Daniel Bisson built it. The site appeared in the Domesday Book as a mill producing all the flour for bread makers in the Stratford area who supplied the City.



We began our day with an informative talk by some of the volunteers who have helped to restore and maintain the buildings. We were informed that the House Mill is one of only a handful of Grade I listed industrial sites in the country and that it is the largest existing tidal mill in the world. Bisson's mill was built between two houses occupied by the miller and his family, hence the name. It also

served as a distillery for Nicholson's gin and was sadly bombed in 1941. A group of Trustees now work tirelessly to restore the building and the machinery.



After the talk, we split into small groups to tour the building, seeing the huge wheels that drove the mill using the River Lea, and many of the drying rooms, grain stores, and milling stones. Our guide explained, in detail, about the working of the mill and the processes of producing the flour. We tasted a variety of gins with different botanicals, all of which were very different from those available in the supermarkets.

After a glass of wine in the beautiful garden that has been planted with herbs, with its views of the river, we all enjoyed a two-course lunch in the House Mill Café. It was then time to return to the 21st century! A fascinating visit that will live long in the memory!





### Farmers' and Fletchers' Hall Dinner

Wednesday 22nd June

On a muggy grey evening, with thunderstorms threatened, Guild Members and our guests assembled in the newly refurbished Farmers' and Fletchers' Hall. This is the most modern of Livery Company Halls and fortunately, air conditioning made the banqueting hall comfortable. An ingenious lighting system added to the intimate atmosphere. Fine company silver was on display and the Fletchers' wooden arrowheads were cleverly incorporated into the design of two walls in the hall.



After a champagne reception, we proceeded (carefully) down a spiral staircase to dinner; an excellent meal was served with accompanying fine wines. The Master, Alderman Sir David Wootton, who is a Fletcher, proposed the Loyal and Civic toasts and then introduced young performers from the West End Kids Company, a theatrical training company who had recently performed at the Windsor Castle celebrations in honour of Her Majesty The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. We were treated to the same spectacular display of song and dance by a large talented troupe of performers, with items ranging from Charleston and Ragtime through Music



Hall, to World War II favourites. The Master thanked the troupe for their energy and imagination and marvelled at their ability to "get their feet over their heads"; a feat (yes, that's deliberate) not easy to replicate by most of us present!

The Master then reflected on how in 1992 he had become a Fletcher and was then elected to Common Council and subsequently elected Lord Mayor, but now, most importantly, Master of the Guild of Freeman. The evening ended with presentations to the Master Farmer and his Lady. Despite the weather, this was a perfect summer dinner.





## GSMD Gala Evening

**Wednesday 29th June**

A Guild summer would not be completed without a visit to the Barbican Centre where, once again, over eighty Guild Members and guests assembled on The Conservatory Terrace for a pre-supper drink before heading down to The Garden Room for a two-course meal with wines. Several Livery Companies were represented at the evening too.



Each year at the end of June or early July the Guildhall School of Music and Drama Final Year students put on their 'swan song' before they head off into the future and the world of performing arts. To a full house this year's production was no exception for its entertainment value.



Once seated in the Silk Street Theatre we did not have long to wait for the curtain to go up on 'On the Twentieth Century'. The storyline for this version told of the passengers on one journey between Chicago and New York on this luxuriously appointed train. In its heyday of the 1930s this was the way to



travel and to see and be seen. The original story began life as a play but in 1932 was turned into a farce and a film followed in 1934. Many years later a musical of the tale opened on Broadway and two years after that in 1980 the production came to London in Her Majesty's Theatre.

So, we sat and were enthralled by the professionalism of the students giving their all to the singing, dancing, and acting out of their version of 'On the Twentieth Century'. During the interval drinks were served in the foyer and we could also read the biographies, on display, of the students in the production and where they might be headed in the future.

Back to our seats for the finale which was spectacular and to rousing applause and encores another group of final year students took their bow. Well done and good luck to them all!

## City Walks

**Tuesday 19th July and Wednesday 20th July**

On one of the hottest days of the year, we gathered at the gate to Paternoster Square for a walk around the city, concentrating on the Great Fire of London in 1666, that began in a bakery, swept through the city, and incredibly, only six people died.

This closely followed the bubonic plague the year before. This was the third such plague. Houses were wooden, mostly built on earth foundations, with straw floors, providing excellent conditions for rats to thrive, and at its peak 2,000 people per week were dying. People with the plague were quickly identified, isolated in their houses, and Pepys noted such doors were marked with a large red cross.

Though the river was quite near, there were no firemen or police, and there was no way they could get enough buckets of water to have any effect. The only way to stop the fire was to make a break, and no one said, "take my house". Eventually the King and the Duke of York mustered the



troops. The fire reached the river, but did not affect the old London Bridge, bearing houses, so the inhabitants made for the safety of Southwark by boat, and now the boatmen charged not the usual 2 pence, but 30 pence to cross.

Everything was gone, and the talk then centred on what new buildings sprang up. A new grid city was planned but the people wanted to rebuild as before. The young Christopher Wren, surveyor of the old Cathedral, designed and completed by 1707 the new St Paul's Cathedral. He is credited with the design of another fifty-two Churches. The Guilds too started rebuilding, anxious to remain the beacon for their members, and giving their liverymen/tradesmen protected status. The Bricklayers were slow to respond, opening the way for German builders to flood in for work.

Supper followed at Davy's in Mincing Lane, and where Past Master, Lady Cooksey, presented Peter Tompkins, our City of London guide, with a cheque for the Lord Mayor's Appeal.



## Events of 2016-17

### Henley and Lunch in the Leander Club

Wednesday 27th July

It was no surprise that The Master, Alderman Sir David Wootton, found space in our crowded diary for a visit to his beloved Leander Club at Henley. Sir David, a keen oarsman, has been coming here regularly since 1970.



The recent spell of dry weather had broken and the day started with summer rain. However, by the time we gathered for coffee in the Club bar the clouds were breaking up – Sir David's petitions for sunshine having been answered. The General Manager of the Club, Paul Budd, welcomed us to what is the oldest open rowing club in the world, founded in Westminster in 1818. It later moved to Henley and the Henley Regatta course, one mile and 550 yards, is the longest straight, non-tidal stretch on the Thames. Leander does not itself run the Regatta



but it has pride of place next to the Regatta site on the Berkshire bank of the river. There are

about 3,500 members who are entitled to wear the famous 'pink hippo' tie. About 75 'athletes' (rowers) are in training at the Club and at least 24 of them were about to leave for the



Rio Olympics that week. So far Leander members have won 111 Olympic medals – no other club in any sport comes near.

Skipper James greeted us on board The Waterman and we motored gently down to Temple Island which marks the start of the course. The building on the Island started life in the 1700s as a modest fishing lodge and the temple folly is much more recent. Cruising back to Henley we enjoyed Bucks Fizz, whilst passing the marker points of Remenham and Fawley Court. All without breaking sweat.

Our Leander lunch was splendid smoked salmon terrine, fillets of sea bass and Eton mess. The Master was his amusing self in





his after-lunch comments. Sir David pointed out that the Henley course is 112 metres longer than the standard Olympic length of 2,000 metres. The finish line – close to Leander – is between the Berkshire bank and what is now Oxfordshire on the other side. Since the Regatta is not based in Henley but on the Berkshire bank Sir David suggested it should be known as the “Wokingham Borough Council Regatta”. The Master will struggle to get that name change approved.



Sir David also explained the curious Henley dress code – rooted in its 19th century origins as a club for upper class gentlemen but which is now classless, and almost half of the training athletes are women (and the women outdid the men in the London Olympics – three golds to the men’s one). Loud clothes are de rigueur at Henley and The Master sported the Leander Club Blazer and white slacks, and a Jesus College tie. He went further still. His right foot was clothed in a Leander Club pink sock, whilst his left foot was in Thames River Club colours. It must have been dark when Sir David got dressed early that morning in Kent. We were relieved that this tour of The Master’s outfit went no further.

The Master presented Leander Manager, Paul, with a Halcyon Days enamel box bearing the Guild’s crest.



Our day ended with a tour of the training facilities. Athletes need to take in about 7,000 calories a day, and our guide athlete, Francis, claimed that it was difficult to eat that much food. Of course, that would be no problem for us Guild Members – these rowers seem to lack our dining stamina. However, we would struggle with their ban on alcohol. Another well-organised, interesting Guild outing.





## Events of 2016-17

### Holiday in Northern Ireland

Thursday 8th September to Monday 12th September

The Guild holiday in Northern Ireland was based at the luxurious Galgorm Resort and Spa, Ballymena, and it was there that thirty-five Guild Members gathered at the start of their Irish adventure.

On the first evening, we took a coach trip to Larchfield House and Estate, home of Gavin and Sarah Mackie, where we walked around the lovely gardens, looked at the out-buildings which had been converted into holiday accommodation, and admired the way in which the barn had been adapted into an atmospheric wedding venue.

After we had enjoyed a delicious dinner, the development of this successful commercial enterprise was explained to us in a



speech given by our host. Both he, and a special guest that evening, Mr Ian Paisley Jnr., spoke of the new hope which they felt for the future of Northern Ireland. The

troubles of the recent past were not an 'elephant in the room', but were discussed openly, without bias, and it was up-lifting to hear of the new confidence which was emerging in this part of the United Kingdom which has such a sad history.

The following morning, we set off by coach to visit the Walled City of Londonderry. The long journey meant that our stay at St Columb's Cathedral had to be cut short, as we were expected at the Guildhall to be received by the Mayor of Derry and Strabane. The group posed for a photograph on the steps of the Guildhall in very blustery conditions, and we were not slow in entering the impressive building where we were treated to hot coffee and cream scones.

This was followed by a tour of the Guildhall, which, as a building, has had a very up-and-down history. The main impression was one of admiration that it had been so beautifully restored, after so much had been destroyed on more than one occasion. That included the magnificent stained-glass windows, (exact copies of the original), which told the history of Londonderry and Ulster which does much to explain the centuries of unease leading up to the present day. The course of past events was explained clearly and concisely by our guide, with appreciated touches of humour.

Outside the strong winds had been joined by gusty showers, and we hung on to our hats as we struggled across to the interesting Tower Museum, and from there, we again struggled to reach the Timber Quay Restaurant for a good lunch.

Our afternoon itinerary consisted of a drive to Magilligan



Point, a ferry crossing of Lough Foyle, Mussenden Temple, Downhill Demesne, and Benone Beach. What could have been an idyllic walk across sands to admire the wonderful scenery was not to be. The weather had deteriorated so much that the ferry crossing was cancelled, not by the stalwart members of the Guild, but by the authorities. It was, quite clearly, unsafe. We compensated for this by retiring into a very old inn which served much appreciated Irish coffee. The inn was of such a character that it was easy to imagine its occupants in days of old, a perfect setting for a period film. We were now quite wet, and more than a little wind-blown. Wonderful thought – a trip back to the hotel for a much-needed shower and change of clothing? Well no.

If our hosts at Drenagh House, Limavady, were surprised to see distinguished guests turn up to dinner not at their most spruce, they were too kind to notice, and again, we were given a very warm welcome in their lovely home, where we soon relaxed to enjoy the evening. We returned to the comfort of the Galgorm after eleven o'clock, a fourteen-hour day, with another equally long day to follow.

Breakfast in the beautiful Riverside Restaurant of the hotel, in a lovely conservatory which over-looked a weir and a river tumbling in picturesque fashion over the rocks, and being looked after by the charming young members of the staff was guaranteed to have us keen and ready to venture out again.

It was interesting to be driven around the dock area of Belfast, and to be reminded that it was here that 'Titanic' was built. From there, we continued along roads and through areas whose names were seared into our memories not so long ago. The graffiti remained; protective barriers which were placed around Police stations were still to be seen; every lamp-post carried its flag or banner. It was a thought-provoking journey, and we could only hope that the bitterness of the past was, in fact, fading away, and that the true message of Northern Ireland is now one of hope for peace for future generations.

Another drive, and we were at Hillsborough, where, after a welcome coffee break in their oldest coffee-house, we toured the lovely Hillsborough Castle.

This is a Royal Residence, and, we walked around the elegant

dining room and drawing-room which, with bright sunshine streaming in through the windows, looked especially warm and inviting. One of the pleasures here was to see the heart-warmingly informal family photographs, particularly those of the newest members. Again, our young guide entertained us with amusing anecdotes about the castle's past.



Lunch that day was taken at Mount Stewart House, followed by a walk through the gardens, after which we set off in the coach once more this time to Ballywater Park.

We were greeted by our hosts, Lord, and Lady Dunleath. Lord Dunleath gave us an interesting and amusing account of the history of his family's home. This lovely building was built in Italianate Palazzo style, and we were very kindly invited to wander over the house before we entered the elegant dining-room for yet another very good dinner.

Our last full day dawned, fresh and windy, but no rain! It was excellent weather for our trip to Giant's Causeway. This natural wonder, those impressive, inter-weaving basalt columns, the result of sixty million years of volcanic activity, cannot be described adequately in mere words. It requires a Beethoven to do it justice; what mighty impact might it have had on him?

The visit to the Old Bushmills Distillery was in sharp contrast. Here, again, we had a charming young guide, who seemed to enjoy telling us about the various processes involved in creating a product of which they are very proud. The tour took us through various compartments, some very noisy, others rather hot, with whisky fumes threatening the balance of the vulnerable!

After testing our free samples, we left for the Distillers' Arms for a good lunch, then had a drive along the dramatic Antrim Coast on our way back to the hotel. Along the way, we saw the remains of the mediaeval castle which was the original home of the Dunluce family. This had fallen into ruin, and was poised so precariously on the cliff edge that part of the building had collapsed into the sea, prompting the then Lady of the house to declare she would no longer live there.

We returned to our hotel for a welcome shower, and it was a very smart group of people which set off for the final dinner, at Glenarm Castle, which is the present home of the Dunluce family.

Viscount Dunluce had travelled from London expressly to be able to welcome us most warmly to his beautiful home. He also gave an interesting and witty account of the history of the family and of the house, this time with delicate harp-playing in the background. Our delicious meal consisted of many ingredients produced on the estate. As happened at the end

of each of our dinners, The Master, Alderman Sir David Wootton, presented our hosts with special gifts; cuff-links for the gentlemen, and for the ladies, the lovely little Halcyon Days Box, and as always, they were well received.

We left the lovely Galgorm Resort and Spa the following day, as and when it suited us for our various flights. As ever, we had seen some interesting places, been made to feel most welcome wherever we went, and enjoyed the company of the others in the group very much. Some of the visits had been thought-

provoking, as visits to a new place should be. The trip did involve some very long days but there were good logistical reasons for that.



Thank you to The Master, Alderman Sir David Wootton, Michael and Belinda Keun and all who had organised and facilitated the holiday. A special

mention should be made of William Bortrick, who was our 'Irish Connection' on this holiday. An interesting and amusing companion, a Freeman of the City of London, but not yet a member of the Guild. William was a very popular and knowledgeable addition to the group.

It was a good holiday, and there must be some very good memories, among which must surely be that of Ian Paisley Jnr., telling us of the day his sixteen-year-old daughter came home from school, and asked him, "What were The Troubles, Daddy?"



## Events of 2016-17

### Jesus College Cambridge and Lunch

Friday 16th September

The Guild visit to Cambridge saw nearly one hundred members and friends don their old corduroy trousers or long skirts to trip down memory lane as they visited the ancient Jesus College.



The College is the 'alma mater' of the Master, necessitating a degree of disguise on his part, after becoming a Fellow of the College. Despite inclement weather for the arrival of the coaches, the environs immediately absorbed visitors into the atmosphere of an ancient academic institution stretching back to the end of the 15th Century. It consists of a mixture of very ancient greystone and more recent

redbrick, tastefully planned to blend with the antiquarian roots of this seat of learning.

Our group arrived in the tremendously atmospheric Cloister Court. This court is the core of the old nunnery, surrounded by the church, chapter house, dormitory, and refectory. In this 21st century, the court remains the very centre of a large and breath-taking campus, which radiates in every direction from this core. The fascinating and awe-inspiring Chapel of today is about half of the nuns' massive church, making one of the high points in our day.



After coffee in the Cloister Court we moved to the Chapel for an all-too-short absorption of the spiritual and academic ethos of the

ancient institution. In modern parlance, it was 'mind blowing'. The whole party sat down and listened to a most fascinating talk given by one of the Master's Tutors of yore, Peter Glazebrook M.A. – an Emeritus Fellow of Jesus College and expert in Law. It is no exaggeration to say that the audience was enraptured on hearing his potted history of the Chapel and growth of Jesus College.

The tour moved on to the Old Library, rarely seen by the public, to experience an amazing transportation to past ages. This proved another highlight of the day. The books are too valuable for general usage. A Modern Quincentenary Library (opened by Her Majesty The Queen in 1996) has been built by Old Members as a birthday present.



In true Oxbridge fashion, a most palatable luncheon was taken in Hall and thus our party



felt the whole ethos of university dining with leaders of bygone years peering down from their portraits on the wall.

There being so much of interest to see, our group were given an hour after luncheon to explore as they wished. Overall a splendid day!



## Watermen's Hall Dinner

**Wednesday 28th September**

A very successful dinner was held for Guild Members and their guests in Watermen's Hall, which was built in 1780 by William Blackburn and remains as the only original Georgian Hall left in the City of London. It must rank as one of the nicest dining halls in the City with its unique and stunning setting and whose elegance is further characterised by its 18th century domestic architecture.



Regretfully the lift was out of order on our visit which meant walking down the stairs to the Cloakrooms and back up again to the first floor where pre-dinner drinks were served

in the Court Room. There we could view the room's wonderful chandelier, one of the Company's prized treasures. From the Court Room, we moved into the Freeman's Room which was incorporated into the Hall in 1983 and where a large array of artefacts and paintings were on display for all to enjoy. To conclude the evening our Master gave us an insight into the Company of Watermen and Lightermen, of which he is a member, and whose current Master is also a Guild Member. The Company boasts apart, of course, from our



Master many of our country's best and famous oarsmen. The event finished well on time leaving us with memories of a most enjoyable evening.



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## Events of 2016-17

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### Day Trip to Battle, the Abbey and Lunch

Wednesday 5th October

The 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings was celebrated by a group of Guild Members and their guests descending on Battle. We assembled in the Pilgrims' Rest café where English Heritage's Jo Stewart spoke about the day's programme which she had put together for us. We were divided into two groups for our tour of the site, ours being guided by Richard who clearly wanted to let us in on some lesser known details of the battle and the history of the extensive site.

It is well known that Norman troops numbering somewhere in the region of 7,000 eventually landed their overloaded ships at Pevensey, after being held up by bad weather. King Harold was away in York fighting off a Viking invasion and hurriedly marched his weary troops south, gathering any soldiers who had returned home to help with the harvest as he went.

The battle took place on 14th October 1066 and raged the whole day. It was believed some 7,000 were killed, the bodies of the Norman soldiers being repatriated. Wealthy Saxon families paid for the bodies of their fallen relatives to be returned to their villages for burial, the



remainder being left on the battlefield until eventually a mass grave was dug, now believed to be beneath a cricket pitch! It is thought that Harold was not killed by an arrow in the eye but instead he was hacked to death, his remains only being identifiable by his wife.

As a mark of respect William then built the abbey, the High Altar marking the spot where Harold fell. A suggestion that in fact Harold was slaughtered at nearby Crowhurst has been discounted. After the abbey's roof was removed during the Reformation, the villagers ransacked the remainder to build



their homes and a pub so only the foundations are visible today.

We began our tour of the battle site at the Gatehouse which was added in the 13th Century as a fortification. There is still a small door within the main door through which Benedictine monks distributed alms to the poor. Many of our intrepid members climbed the deliberately uneven steps to the top of the tower to take in the extensive views. During WWII, the Luftwaffe bombed the Gatehouse but luckily the bomb rolled through the gates without detonating; the walls however bear graffiti scrawled by people taking part in the D-Day landings. The portcullis is long gone and a tunnel beneath the building is currently home to a colony of rare bats.

There have been many owners of the site since the monks left in 1539, including seven generations of a family named Webster who plundered the estate. A school was established on the site some 100 years ago, using existing buildings dating back to the 13th century with later additions. Eventually an American descendant of the Webster family purchased the land and donated it to the Ministry of Works, now English Heritage.

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### The Athenaeum Lunch

Friday 14th and Monday 17th October

It was fortunate that The Master, Alderman Sir David Wootton, could arrange a second date to accommodate all the members and guests who wished to visit this famous club, such was the popularity of the event. Founded in 1824 it moved into the Pall Mall purpose built building in 1830 and whilst there have been changes to the building since then it still retains the splendour of the original conception. The membership is largely drawn from the men and women who have excelled in the Sciences and Arts but there are members from all levels of society. Until 2002 it was a male only





membership but they paid homage to the ladies by naming the club after Athena, the goddess of wisdom.

Upon arrival, we went to the Smoking Room where smoking is forbidden, to join The Master for pre-lunch drinks and to access the long balcony which allows very interesting views across to St James's Park. Lunch was served in The Garden Room which is beneath the garden and was originally where ladies could visit and dine. An



excellent three course lunch was served and much intellectual conversation took place. The Master gave an interesting and amusing account of the club and its history. There are many neighbouring clubs, political and social, but it is accepted that The Athenaeum is the most intellectually elite of all London clubs.

This was a most enjoyable visit and again underlined the unique opportunities that The Guild of Freeman can give to its members.

## Carpenters' Hall Dinner

**Tuesday 25th October**

In commemoration of the 350th Anniversary of the Great Fire of London, The Master had chosen a fitting historical location since the Carpenters' Company is over 700 years old. The influence of the Carpenters' Company in the City during mediaeval times was massive prior to the Great Fire, but diminished somewhat after 1666 as many of the timber buildings were rebuilt in brick and stone.

The Carpenters' Company has been based on London Wall since 1429. The first hall had survived the Great Fire, but a fire in 1849 severely weakened the building which then required demolition and a new hall opened in 1880. The second hall was burnt out in an air raid in 1941. Despite the destruction, which led to the loss of the entire library and papers, many



items of furniture and paintings survived and the new hall (opened in 1960) manages to convey both the sense of history through the displays of ancient stained glass and artwork and a contemporary feel in the public rooms, which are light and airy. Apparently eighteen different types of wood have been used throughout the building highlighting the carpentry trades.



Such a backdrop for a reception and dinner of the Guild served as a great conversation starter and, as always, the joy of camaraderie and friendships renewed was fuelled by the ample supply of sparkling wine during the pre-dinner reception. The Master greeted us on arrival, and although black tie, the

atmosphere was generally informal, allowing guests to mingle and greet each other in a relaxed manner before processing into dinner. A superb menu had been planned accompanied by excellent wines – smoked salmon and smoked trout mousse accompanied by a delicious beetroot risotto was followed by cannon of Sussex lamb and the dessert was an appropriate 'Thomas Farynor' autumn pudding. One of the pleasures of Guild dinners is the wide variety of people one meets at these occasions, the chance encounters, and amusing coincidences. Dinner was very lively with much conversation and exchange of views on a range of topics from travel to medicine, aviation to publishing, holidays and wine, but hardly anyone spoke of 'Brexit'.

For many new members and visitors, the prospect of the Loving Cup is somewhat daunting, but light-hearted coaching from seasoned members assisted the progress. The usual toasts to Her Majesty The Queen, the Royal Family and the Lord Mayor and City of London Corporation were given in good heart. We were entertained by an enormously energetic and enthralling group of young people singing and dancing a range of hits from well-known musicals. Their vivacity encouraged a few members to stand up and join in the dancing and all of us were foot-tapping in time to the beat of Guys and Dolls 'Luck Be a Lady'!

We all left with a little gift of a 'Great Fire Biscuit' in a souvenir tin to commemorate a splendid evening.



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### The Lord Mayor's Show

**Saturday 12th November**

**P**receded by cold sunny days, the heavens opened overnight on Friday before the show. Torrential rain continued while over eighty Guild Members arrived in St Paul's Churchyard to take their seats in the south grandstand.

As the parade started, the rain continued but failed to dampen the spirits of all those gathered along the route to watch the show honouring the new Lord Mayor of London, and Patron of the Guild, The Rt. Hon Alderman Dr Andrew Parmley.

In keeping with the new Lord Mayor's interests and background in music and education, there was a strong musical theme throughout the show in addition to the usual formal marching bands.

It was a pleasure to see so many young enthusiastic people involved in making music of all kinds, including the terrific sound of the Forest School Big Band, founded by the Lord Mayor during his time there; The Boys' and Girls' Brigades London Massed Bugle Band; the Discovery Choir of twelve to eighteen year olds representing the London Symphony Orchestra on float 49 and the London Area Sea Cadets Band.

Many organisations in the show were celebrating their own important milestones. Among them, the London Fire Brigade displayed both vintage fire engines and specialist modern day rescue teams for their 150th anniversary. Air cadets proudly wearing uniforms from the 1940s to the present day celebrated their 75th anniversary. A big green lorry marked forty-five years since the largest privately-owned distribution company in the UK, Eddie Stobart, was founded.

All the City Livery Companies, and some from out of London, braved the rain with the bright sparks of the Worshipful Company of Lightmongers sporting illuminated bulbs on their hats.

Our Immediate Past Master, Lady Cooksey, represented the Guild carrying her bright poppy umbrella and received an enthusiastic cheer from all Guild Members when she passed. She was accompanied by three old friends, the President of the City Livery Club, Alderman John Garbutt, the President of the United Wards Club, Barry Scrutton and the Chairman of the Royal Society of St George (City Branch) Patricia Campfield.

Our Master, Alderman Sir David Wootton, as an 'Alderman Past the Chair', travelled with his fellow Aldermen accompanying The Lord Mayor's coach.

From our seats, we had a clear view of the Lord Mayor stepping down from his coach to receive a blessing from the Dean of St Paul's and the Guild's Chaplain, The Very Reverend Dr David Ison.

When the parade had passed, some sixty-four Guild Members made their way to Guildhall for a drinks reception in the dry



comfort of the Members' Private Dining Room before an excellent lunch accompanied by fine wines.

The Master, Immediate Past Master, Lady Cooksey, and the Clerk joined the Lord Mayor for lunch at Mansion House.



When The Lord Mayor's coach returned to Guildhall after depositing the Lord Mayor at Mansion House we had a grandstand view as it entered the courtyard drawn by the beautiful team of horses.

To round off the day there was a wonderful firework display over the Thames between Blackfriars and Waterloo Bridges – a fitting end to an historic day.

### Glasgow's Chain Gang forge historic links in The Lord Mayor's Show

*The Trades House of Glasgow made history when its Chain Gang took part in The Lord Mayor's Show.*

*The Chain Gang takes its name from the distinctive chains worn by the Deacon Convener and office bearers of the 14 Trade Incorporations – Glasgow's equivalent of the London Livery Companies. The glittering insignia was seen together for the first-time outside Glasgow on the Trades House float. It marked a year in which the Trades House of Glasgow is reaching out to the Livery and kindred organisations around the country in support of its charitable and educational activities.*

*In The Lord Mayor's Show, their 'Reaching Out' theme was an opportunity to bring their message of friendship to the City of London.*

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## Champagne Tasting Tallow Chandlers' Hall

**Wednesday 16th November**

On a wet and miserable evening Guild Members and their guests were welcomed into the warm and congenial surroundings of our City home for a wine tasting with a difference! On this occasion, the wines we were to sample were in fact seven fine champagnes.

The evening was jointly hosted by Mr Harry Vernau, grandson of Past Master Don Lunn, on behalf of the Red Bottle Company and Mr Nicolas Bauguet from the Champagne House Bauguet-Jouette. Nicolas is from a family of five generations of wine producers dating from 1822 and the House is a family run business with approximately fifteen hectares of vineyards growing Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Pinot Meunier grapes. Vinification takes place in cellars in Epernay. It is far easier for smaller Champagne Houses than large ones to produce small changes in the blends of grapes used for each champagne, every year, to achieve the optimum taste.

Harry Vernau and Nicolas Bauguet skilfully took us through a tutored tasting of five white and two rosé champagnes with helpfully provided tasting notes as an additional guide. There was a keen buzz of excited conversation around the Hall as we searched for notes of spices, ginger, pears, grapefruit, brioche, and other wonderful flavours, whilst also comparing sizes of bubble from various wines. What a discerning group we were! The champagnes were excellent and following the tasting, The



Master, Alderman Sir David Wootton, proposed a vote of thanks to Messrs. Vernau and Bauguet, presenting them with tokens of the Guild's gratitude. Finally, we enjoyed a lavish assortment of food of which I, keen to display my knowledge of expressions used in the military, asked our learned Clerk if they were "long or short eats", to be firmly told "it is a buffet". In all a wonderful evening, crowned by the opportunity for Guild Members and guests to purchase champagnes at special prices and many of us did so.



## DM Thomas Foundation Ball at the London Hilton Park Lane

**Saturday 26th November**

Twelve members of the Guild and their guests met at the London Hilton in Park Lane for the 17th Foundation Ball in aid of the DM Thomas Foundation for Young People.

The lobby of the Hilton was teeming with ladies in beautiful gowns and gentlemen in black ties – you could not tell who was coming to the Ball or those who were off somewhere else – a great atmosphere.

As usual we had to find our way to the Wellington Ballroom for the champagne reception and meeting up with other Guild Members before being summoned to the Grand Ballroom. This ballroom was most beautifully decorated in shimmering blues and silver for a Winter Wonderland theme. It took some while for all seven hundred and eighty people to be seated at the seventy odd tables.

We were treated to a sumptuous dinner. During the meal, we were entertained by the Essex Marching Band, made up of thirty-two children and young people who in their bright blue and white uniforms played a variety of tunes such as 'Land of Hope and Glory', 'All I Want for Christmas' and 'Don't Stop

Me Now'. The main purpose of the evening followed – that, of course, being to raise funds for the Foundation.

The silent auction, raised an amazing £75,000.

Matt Poole, former rugby international, helped compe proceedings and was the auctioneer for the evening, helping to raise a further £55,000 from the ten prizes on offer. Together with other events and donations from one hundred or so sponsors, including the Guild, the Foundation raised an incredible £420,000.

The highlight of the evening was an amazing performance from the cast of 'Motown the Musical', currently playing at the Shaftesbury Theatre in London's West End. Arriving after their Saturday evening performance, the cast enthralled guests with a selection of songs and dances from the show, including 'My Girl', 'Reach Out and Touch' and 'Dancing in the Street'.

The evening finished off with an excellent band and singers who encouraged us to get up and dance – a fantastic evening.

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for  
**YOUNG PEOPLE**

## Transforming young lives

DM Thomas Foundation for Young People is committed to creating brighter futures for disabled, sick and disadvantaged children. Working closely with our partners, we provide training, equipment, support and opportunities for young people to improve their education and well-being.

Thanks to everybody's generous support we have raised and donated £16.8 million to establish or sustain a range of projects, such as:

- Into work training for disadvantaged young people
- Music therapy and equipment for children in hospital
- Respite care and equipment for life-limited children
- Activities and experiences for young people with disabilities

Join us on **Saturday 28th October 2017** for the Foundation Ball at London Hilton on Park Lane to raise funds so that we can help even more young people to transform their lives. The Ball is a fantastic evening of fine food, entertainment and fundraising.

To book please contact: **0207 605 7733** or [events@dmthfyp.org](mailto:events@dmthfyp.org)

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## Events of 2016-17

### Annual Banquet at Guildhall

Monday 12th December

The highlight of the Guild's year is the prestigious white tie banquet held at Guildhall every December. More than five hundred Guild Members dressed in their finery gathered for the pre-dinner reception in the Old Library where the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor and The Lady Mayoress, Alderman Dr and Mrs Andrew Parmley, and Alderman and Sheriff Peter Estlin and his wife Lindy were greeted by a trumpet fanfare.

The Honourable Company of Pikemen and Musketeers provided the carpet guard, and the Guild's affiliated Reserve Army unit, 253 Provost Company RMP, were the honour guard. Even those who attend this Banquet regularly are still awed by the pomp and ceremony – the City at its best. The Master, Alderman Sir David Wootton with Lady Wootton and the principal guests were played into the Great Hall by the London Banqueting Ensemble.

And so, the Banquet began. The Honorary Chaplain The Very Reverend Dr David Ison, the Dean of St Paul's said the grace – marking the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death by quoting from Henry VIII: "he would have all as merry. As good company, good wine, good welcome, can make good people".

Mark Grove and the team at The Cook & Butler had prepared a delightful menu – Whitby fish with Yorkshire pudding to start, then fillet of Lancashire Beef, followed by Wakefield rhubarb crumble and finally Wensleydale cheese. A feast indeed! The Lord Mayor, a proud man of Lancashire was clearly agitated that three of the four courses came from the wrong side of the Pennines. Surely a deliberate tease from the Master, a loyal son of Bradford?

During dinner, the London Banqueting Ensemble performed a full musical programme, from 'The Roast Beef of Old England' via Leroy Anderson's 'Sleigh Ride' and a fantasia on British Sea Songs, up to 'Jerusalem' and 'Land of Hope and Glory'. The appreciation shown by the guests would have impressed the Albert Hall. Doubtless our musical Lord Mayor felt at home.

The Master toasted Her Majesty The Queen, then the Royal Family, and Senior Warden Peter Allcard gave the Civic toast eloquently. Peter, another Yorkshireman, admitted that it was not easy for him to toast a Lancastrian Lord Mayor. To make matters worse Peter referred to cricket! The Wars of the Roses still runs strong: some things are too serious to be overlooked, even at a Banquet. Never have the guards behind those drinking from the Loving Cup needed so much protection. Peter did give fulsome tribute to the Lord Mayor's devotion to music and education, remarking that Andrew was probably the first Lord Mayor to play the organ in St Paul's. The Lord Mayor replied on behalf of the Guests – including his 'elves', the civic party – with enormous good humour. As expected he complained – politely of course – about the preponderance of Yorkshire fare. He thanked the Senior Warden, pointing out that "you can always tell a Yorkshireman but you can't tell him much".





The Lord Mayor paid tribute to Santa's coming duties, reckoning that on Christmas Eve Santa had to cover half a billion kilometres at 390,000 kilometres per minute. And at every stop he had to eat a mince pie and a glass of sherry. "In total, the equivalent of one and a half Guild of Freeman dinners". He had a point. The Lord Mayor made a serious point about the United Kingdom's strength in 'soft power' – "America too is good at this, but not as good as we are. They have James Dean: we have James Bond. They have Donald Trump: we have David Wootton. They have the Trump Tower: we have Blackpool Tower. One of these Towers is a symbol of power: the other one is in the US". The Lord Mayor emphasised the importance of free trade, and closed referring to his motto for his year of office: "Educate. Support. Inspire". We were all inspired. And the Yorkshiremen present were educated.

The Master replied remarking on the "wonderful sight of five hundred and six people in Guildhall". Sir David remarked that this would be the last Banquet arranged by Brigadier Michael Keun who steps down in March as Clerk of the largest City association, and thanked Michael for all his hard work over many years. The Guild's social agenda far exceeds that of any other London association. Sir David presented the Lord Mayor with a cheque for his appeal – "£1 for every Guild Member, namely £2,000". Sir David also paid tribute to Annamarie Phelps CBE for all the good work she does for UK rowing, and her husband Richard, the first husband and wife stewards at Henley. Finally, Sir David welcomed all the guests and especially The Right Honourable Sir Hugh Robertson. Sir Hugh had excelled at cricket and hockey in his youth, is a former soldier who had commanded the Cavalry at the Trooping of the Colour, and served as MP for Faversham. Sir Hugh was Sports Minister from 2010 and the successful delivery of the London 2012 Olympics owed so much to Sir Hugh's efforts. Sir Hugh is now Chairman of the British Olympic Association.



Sir Hugh replied on behalf of all the guests, and spoke about his experience of both the London and the recent Rio Olympics.

He thanked the Master for his work when, as Lord Mayor, "he welcomed the world to our capital for the Games. The support from the City of London was extraordinary – holding parties before, during and after the events". The performance of the United Kingdom team in Rio was remarkable – the first team ever to win more medals than at their immediately preceding home games. Sir Hugh is determined that our extraordinary success will continue to Tokyo and beyond.

The Master then closed proceedings. But not before having the last word in the evening's War of the Roses. "Yorkshire won more medals in Rio than Australia".





## Events of 2016-17

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### Carol Service at the Tower of London

Monday 19th December

This year's Annual Christmas Carol Service was held in the Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula (St Peter in chains). This is the Parish Church of the Tower of London and has lain within it for some five hundred years. It contains the burial places of at least three Queens: Anne Boleyn, Catherine Howard, and Lady Jane Grey.

In the absence of the Chaplain, the service was taken by the Reverend Cortland Fransella, Assistant Priest. It was well attended with some one hundred and twenty Guild Members and guests. Bible lessons were read by Guild Members Katherine Ray, Geoffrey Aldridge, Josie Huggins, the Master

(Alderman Sir David Wootton), and the Assistant Priest who, in addition, gave a most thought-provoking sermon.

The Chapel was magically lit and reverberated with the heavenly sound of the exceptionally good Choir of this Chapel Royal. The members of the Guild rose to the occasion with gusto and considerable musicality! After the service, this wonderful evening ended in true festive style with canapés and wine being served in the church. The throng then emptied into the cold, moonlit air of the Tower precincts to wend their way homeward, spiritually, mentally, and physically revived and uplifted with the real meaning of Christmas.

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### Burns Night Supper at Trinity House

Monday 23rd January



This year the Master took us to the splendid setting of Trinity House to celebrate the 258th anniversary of the birth of the Scottish Bard, Robert Burns.

Trinity House has been based at Tower Hill since 1796. Its history dates to 20th May 1514, when Henry VIII incorporated Trinity House as The Master, Wardens and Assistants of the Guild Fraternity or Brotherhood of the most glorious and undivided Trinity and of St Clement in the Parish of Deptford Strond in the County of Kent.



Its present role is a charity dedicated to safeguarding shipping and seafarers; providing education, support, and welfare to the seafaring community. It has a statutory duty, as

a General Lighthouse Authority, to deliver reliable, efficient, and cost-effective aids to navigation for the benefit and safety of all mariners.

The Master joined the guests for pre-dinner drinks in the well-appointed reception rooms. He later commented how splendid everyone looked in their tartan, including the men in their kilts. Indeed, he had never, "seen so many Englishmen claiming Scottish ancestry"! The Piper then called everyone to receive their 'Scottish Fayre' in the magnificent setting of the Banqueting Room overlooking the Thames.

After the Selkirk Grace and starter of poached duck egg with



sea bass, it was time for the 'Chieftain o' the puddin' race'. The piper led the 'wee beastie' in and oh what a glorious sight, to see Past Master Dr John Smail deliver another superb and humorous rendition of the 'Address to the Haggis'. During our Haggis Neeps and Tatties the piper played for our enjoyment. Continuing the Highland theme, the main course was fillet of beef.

After dessert and toasts, Past Master Don Lunn gave a most entertaining speech to 'The Immortal Memory' of Robert Burns. The Master then proposed the traditional toast to 'The Lassies', to which Dorothy Newlands of Lauriston gave the response. A few words from the Master reminding us all that "The rank is but the guinea's stamp, The Man's the gowd (gold) for a' that". We all then sang 'Auld Lang Syne' and departed after another evening of fun.



### The Old Bailey Visit

Wednesday 25th January

The Old Bailey stands on the site of the old Newgate Prison which itself replaced the original Roman west gate into the City. All the courthouses have been built on the line of the Roman city wall, a section of which is still preserved in the basement of the modern building.

We were escorted to Court Number 1 and met Charles Henty the Under Sheriff also known as The Secondary. The Old Bailey only tries serious criminal cases such as murder. Court Number 1 has seen many famous cases, such as the trials of Dr Crippen & Peter Sutcliffe.

The Lord Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London are entitled to sit on the Judges' bench during a hearing but do not participate in hearings. By tradition the Judge sits slightly off-centre in case the Lord Mayor decides to come in; if he did he would take the centre chair.

The Old Bailey deals with about twelve to fourteen murder cases a day. We were then shown to the Great Hall, fabulous in Italian marble, the dome of which mirrors the nearby dome of St Paul's Cathedral and was opened by King Edward VII in 1907.

From the Great Hall we went down to the prison cells which



were quite depressing, all defendants are not kept overnight but go back to their respective prisons where they are on remand. Up at ground level again we went into a more modern Court Room, Number 13, this is part of the new building built in 1972.

Guild Court Assistant Cllr Lisa Rutter thanked Mr Secondary for giving us this stimulating and informative visit. She presented Mr Henty with a cheque from the Guild for his charity the 'Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund' which is used to help ex-prisoners rehabilitate. We then had dinner in the Members' dining room at Guildhall. It was a perfect end to a very interesting evening.

### The College of Arms Tour

Wednesday 1st February

Hark the Herald! Did you know that your country needs heralds? Well, we do – a very lucky group of Guild Members attended a private behind the scenes tour at the College of Arms, so we can tell you exactly what heralds do. And they've been doing it since 1484 – not the same ones obviously.

They have been arranging State Processions and Coronations ever since that date under the direction of the Duke of Norfolk. In return, they get a salary from the Monarch via the Civil List. There are currently seven heralds and in total the annual salary is around £250 pa – a royal sum when it was last fixed in 1555 when the College of Arms was reincorporated. A good case for a pay review I feel.

The heralds are housed in one of the finest Grade I listed buildings in London and it dates from the 1670s. They lost their old building in the Great Fire of London, but as the fire took two days to reach them, they could get all the records out to the safety of Westminster.

So how do they make ends meet? Well, one of their other jobs is to maintain the records of coats of arms, which was originally a method on the battlefield to distinguish who was who, so you didn't kill the wrong person. Since then, people of rank and privilege have recorded their coats of arms here. In addition to ancient coats of arms the College will design your



own coat of arms, so if you want one, it will cost you about £5,700 – the ultimate vanity present for someone who has everything. Good value really, as you can pass it to your children when you die (males only please).

We saw some astonishing coats of arms and records dating from the 1400s to the present day when we saw those of Lord Sugar, Sir Elton John, and Sir Harry Secombe. The workmanship is exquisite, alive with beautiful colours and heaving with gold-leaf. We even saw the procession arrangements for Queen Elizabeth I Coronation.

Computers have yet to make any inroad here and the records are kept with amazing efficiency by an elaborate card index system. It sounds a bit cranky, but one of the heralds could locate a crest for us in less than a minute.

### House of Lords Dinner

Friday 10th February



The Guild was honoured again to be able to dine in the corridors of power.

Before the reception, and for those who wished, two groups went on 'Line of Route' tours starting out in Westminster Hall and then going to the Lower and Upper Chambers of the Palace of Westminster with informative and amusing guides.

Having worked up a thirst with all that imparted knowledge they were ready to join the rest of the group for a 'sparkling' reception in the Peers' Guest Room. The Beadle then called us into the Peers' Dining Room for a delicious three course meal. During coffee, we were entertained by the 'West End Kids' singing songs such as 'Amazing Grace' and 'Impossible Dream' with great gusto at being in such a special venue.

The Master following his thanks to the young people for their delightful renditions then introduced his Guest Speaker, the Lord Bilimoria of Chelsea, who was our host for the evening



since the Lord Mountevans, whom we expected to be our host, had travelled unexpectedly to Antarctica. Lord Bilimoria is well known for being co-founder of Cobra Beer but this is only one aspect of his busy life. He gave us an insight into his world and delighted the full house of Guild Members, guests and the Head Boy and Head Girl of the City of London Freeman's School by relating some of the traditions of the House of Lords, which he had been a member of for ten and a half years. In conclusion, he touched briefly on 'Brexit' and said that we should have a great belief in ourselves and our abilities as a nation. He then recited Mahatma Gandhi's words of wisdom – "Your beliefs become your thoughts..... your values become your destiny". The Master then thanked Lord Bilimoria for making the evening possible and for his wise words before presenting him with a small memento of the evening. He wished us, as the Irish say, 'safe home', and thanked us all for coming.

### Dickens Museum Visit

Wednesday 8th February & Wednesday 15th February

By popular demand and with thanks to The Master, Alderman Sir David Wootton, who is Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Charles Dickens Museum, the Guild could take two private visits to the one-time home of the famous author.

It was with 'Great Expectations' that Guild Members and guests entered the doors of 48 Doughty Street to be greeted by our guides. Divided into two groups one set off on a tour of the house whilst the other group had some light refreshment until they changed places with the first group. Our expert guides Nikki and Ben gave us a clear insight into Dickens' life there.

He moved into the house in 1837 with his wife Catherine and three of their children. They were to have ten children in all. Whilst living here he wrote his novels 'Oliver Twist' and 'Nicholas Nickleby' and some of his short stories and poems. The house contains many original features and possessions including the desk he sat at, with quill pen in hand, to write. Being a social man he and his wife entertained a great deal and the dining room is dedicated to 'Mr Pickwick'. As we



wandered through the various rooms, from the wine cellar to the bedrooms you could get a real sense of family life and almost felt Charles Dickens was there with us. It was certainly a warm and not a 'Bleak House'.

We thanked our guides for an excellent tour as we exited via 'The Old Curiosity Shop' into the night air and headed for Lamb's Conduit Street and Ciao Bella Restaurant, a very popular Italian eatery where we enjoyed a three-course meal and wine. This was somewhat different from the food eaten by the Dickens family and 'Oliver Twist' but a convivial end to a very interesting evening.



### Holiday in Barcelona

Saturday 18th to Wednesday 22nd February

Thirty-two members of the Guild met at the K+K Picasso Hotel in Barcelona for the spring holiday. At the welcome reception on the first evening, we were treated to an exhibition and presentation on Catalan art by Francesc Mestre. Some of the paintings were rather lovely, and sported a red dot by the end of the evening. A brisk walk found us at the Passadis de Can Pep, where we were served a dizzying array of delicious dishes.

We had gone in the hope of finding winter sunshine, and we were not to be disappointed. Our first morning began well, with a short coach ride up into the hills above Barcelona to the Miró Foundation, which had been presented to the City of Barcelona by Joan Miró, and contained many of his paintings. It was interesting to see how his work had developed in style over the years. His early works depicted recognisable scenes in nature, whilst the later ones were at times perplexing to the untrained eye. A walk around the courtyard enabled us to see some of his most iconic sculptures, imaginative shapes painted in vivid primary colours.



We visited the Foundation before the official opening hours, so we could stand back and view the art work and listen to our very good guide in comfort. This was a special privilege, the first of many which we enjoyed each day. We then had a guided tour of Barcelona, a welcome coffee break, and travelled on to the El Elx restaurant for lunch. The restaurant was situated on the water-front, and we joined the Sunday morning crowds, walking across a bridge in a river of people, in anticipation of the paella which was to be served.

An afternoon walking tour around the old city culminated in a stop to partake of churros dipped in a confection of very dark, thick, hot chocolate. Wickedly delicious!

Dinner on our second evening was rather different, in that we arrived at El Amparo de Alegria to find a delicious buffet supper. We then entered a rectangular room which had a plain wooden floor, and the walls were draped with black curtains. We sat in chairs which lined the walls and waited for the special display of flamenco dancing which had been promised. This was every bit as impressive as we had been led to expect. It was not a flamenco show of the pretty-pretty type normally enjoyed by tourists, but an authentic gypsy dance, performed by a leading exponent of the art. It was breath-taking to watch, with the accompaniment of a guitarist, a drummer and a man who sang in a strong, throaty voice which conveyed much emotion.

Then, a male dancer stood up, and slowly began his performance, building up to a crescendo of foot-tapping. This,

again, was exhilarating, and we could only wonder at the energy and precision of it all. A real treat! The evening was not over, as we were now treated to profiteroles and strawberries which were dipped into hot black chocolate!

On a sunny, but very chilly Monday morning, we joined the crowds at the Sagrada Familia Basilica, Gaudi's famous building, still under construction. The elaborate towers stood out in a brilliantly blue sky, alongside tall cranes which lifted large shapes in concrete a few yards from where we waited for our turn to go inside. The interior is now completed, and forms a vast space in organic forms of concrete, with striking stained-glass windows.

We drove from there to another Gaudi building, the Casa Milà, and it was there that we had coffee. This was a modernist design, revolutionary when it was built, (1906-1912), and it soon earned the derogatory term, 'La Pedrera', or 'Quarry'. Walls and ceilings were curved; it was constructed with all the 'mod-cons' for the time, e.g., electricity, a lift. The roof was especially interesting, undulating, with strange sculptural shapes disguising a ventilation system.

Lunch that day took place at the Barcelona Football Club, in the Roma Espai 2009 gastronomic restaurant. Drinks were served where we could look down on the immaculate green of the pitch, and lunch itself was a delicious meal. We were very honoured to be welcomed here, and then to be shown around the club to admire the facilities.



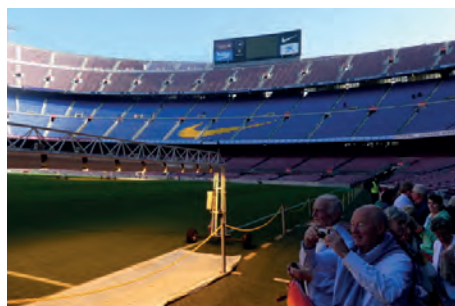
An opportunity to do some shopping followed, and the evening meal took place at Ten's Restaurant, a variety of beautifully presented tapas.

Our last day dawned, and the warm, brilliant sunshine made our drive into the countryside particularly enjoyable. The local architecture, the vineyards, the olive trees, and the almond blossom had a wonderfully relaxing effect.

The purpose of our drive was to visit the Freixenet winery. The object in front of the attractive building looked, at first glance, to be a primitive rocket. It was shaped like a wine-bottle, and was certainly not stream-lined, but it was, apparently, a motor-car which had a Jaguar engine, and had been driven at one time. Once inside, we watched a film which gave the history of the two families which, having joined by marriage, started the vineyard. After a major set-back due to a crop disease, new strains were introduced. After the film show, we had a very comprehensive guided tour of the earlier part of the business, then the enlarged modern facility, with its enormous vats, robots in action, and ending with a sample tasting of their Cava.

We left by coach to visit a house which was part of the business, this time producing, on a much smaller scale, a red wine. The house was high up the side of a valley, and

## Events of 2016-17



it involved a walk in warm sunshine, with another wine sample to greet us on arrival.

Lunch itself was at the second home of

the original founders and here, again, we were very privileged to be here – only the third group ever allowed to partake of a meal in this lovely setting. We parted from our hosts, each of us bearing a gift of a rather special, signed bottle of red wine.

Time for our last Gala dinner. A drive through darkened country-side found us high up above the city at El Mirabe restaurant, looking down on a Barcelona which was beautiful at night. The excellent Brossa Quartet entertained us as we sipped our drinks and were served appetisers. The meal was excellent, and as we finished, the Brossa Quartet re-entered, this time with an accordionist and a drummer in tow. They accompanied a young woman who sang songs which had been sung by the members of the Internazionale during the terrible Civil War. There was no necessity to understand the words. The songs were sung with both passion and pathos, in a rich voice which ranged from a strong throatiness to a very tender, sweet sound. It was incredibly moving, and a beautiful ending to our holiday.

However, we were not yet finished, as Salvador Rey, our 'Man in Barcelona' demonstrated his versatility by appearing armed with a ukulele. He gave an amusing speech, in which he paid tribute to our clerk, Brigadier Michael Keun, and his wife Belinda, thanking them for all the hard work which had been put into arranging a very successful holiday, and wishing them well in their retirement. He ended this by inviting us all to join with him in singing 'Goodnight, Irene', and I suppose it dated us all in that we all knew the words, and joined in with gusto.



It was a very happy holiday, and, thanks are also due to our Master, Alderman Sir David Wootton and Lady Wootton, who helped to ensure that we were enjoying ourselves. We were very fortunate to have Salvador Rey to look after us. Carlota Wigglesworth deserves a mention, as her connections with this part of the world played a big part in our being received with such warmth and kindness everywhere. Finally, thank you to the staff at the K+K Picasso Hotel for the friendly and accommodating way in which they contributed to the success of the holiday.



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## Honourable Society of Gray's Inn Dinner

**Friday 3rd March**

The final event of Alderman Sir David Wootton's year as Master saw one hundred and fifty Guild Members and their guests assemble in Gray's Inn where Sir David is an Honorary Bencher.

We were welcomed by several past members of the Inn looking down at us from their portraits, including The Rt. Hon. Kenneth Clarke, CH, QC, MP. A drinks reception was held in the Large Pension Room with its ornate chandeliers and marble fireplace, a perfect place for members to mingle, renew acquaintances and make new ones.

Following grace said by our Honorary Chaplain, The Very Reverend Dr David Ison, a delicious four course dinner, accompanied by some excellent wines, was consumed whilst being serenaded by the Five Piece Salon Orchestra provided by The London Banqueting Ensemble. The portraits of Elizabeth I, Thomas Cromwell and Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, amongst others, looked down on Guild Members, as did a bronze of Sir Winston Churchill.



After the toasts, Sung Grace, the Loving Cup, and a superb and humorous rendition of The Post Horn Galop, The Master rose to address the assembled company,

remarking that his 'Final Dinner' reminded him of lunch that day when he was in the Old Bailey, going along 'Dead man's Walk' where prisoners used to go to their last meal before execution! Sir David reminisced about his enjoyable and happy year, and thanked Guild Members for their support. Thanks, were also given to the Beadle, John Hollingsworth, and Guild Administrative Assistant, Judith Westall. A special thank you was extended to the Clerk and his wife, Belinda, for all the hard work they had put into making Guild events successful over the past sixteen and a half years. This received a standing ovation!

The Master introduced His Honour Judge Stephen Kramer, QC, Master of the Bench, Gray's Inn, who is a judge at the Old Bailey. He spoke about the history of the building which



was founded in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and has been a place of education for lawyers ever since. He spoke of the Screen which is said to have been made from the wood of a captured Spanish galleon during the Armada, and presented to Elizabeth I. He explained about the stained glass and the shields and crests of the Treasurers, also dating from the 16th century, which adorn the walls. It is still possible to see the place in the ceiling where the chimney used to be for the large stove which was once situated in the centre of the Hall. 'The Comedy of Errors' was first performed in the Great Hall in 1594. The evening was rounded off with a phrase used in Northern Ireland – 'safe home'!



## New Golfing Members Welcome

The members and guests were fortunate to have reasonable weather at all three of our meetings this year, which were held at Broke Hill Golf Club near Sevenoaks in Kent, West Byfleet Golf Club in Surrey and The Army Golf Club near Aldershot, Hampshire.

Although the numbers attending continue to be low, the golf was enjoyed by all those present as was the companionship and friendship during the day and afterwards at the dinners. Our Captain John Seaton, enjoyed his year as Captain but owing to his decision to move back North to Southport, he has reluctantly resigned. A new Captain has yet to be appointed.



Gail Sharp, who joined us this year, won The Kenneth Honey Trophy 2016.

We would welcome many more new

members. To all the golfers in the Guild please support the Society and come and enjoy the delightful courses we play and to the non-golfers please come and join us for dinner. In October, to the delight of our Captain John, the Guild team won the match at the North Hants Golf Club against The City Livery Golf Society for the Square Mile Golfing Goblet. This is a rare occurrence!



Steve Hyland (guest); **Army Golf Club**; 1st Len Tutt; 2nd Steve Hyland (guest); 3rd Steve Godwin (guest).

Guild trophies: **The Secretary's Cup** for the best of 3 matches, Tony Latham; **The Kenneth Honey Trophy** for the best of 2 matches, Gail Sharp; **The Ronald Ward Silver Salver**; Len Tutt as winner at the Army Golf Club and **The Septuagenarian Salver**, John Seaton for the best front 9 at the Army Golf Club.

Tony Latham, Honorary Secretary.  
abmlatham@aol.com 01708 454463 or 07940 913463

### Fixtures for 2017:

Tuesday 25th April - Broke Hill Golf Club  
Tuesday 20th June - West Byfleet Golf Club  
Thursday 21st September - Army Golf Club  
Wednesday 18th October, v City Livery Golfing Society at North Hants Golf Club



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## Farewell to Michael and Belinda

Michael joined as Clerk to the Guild in 2001 following a successful Army career culminating in his appointment as Brigadier and together with the assistance of his wife Belinda has run the affairs of the Guild since that date. To manage an organisation like the Guild requires much hard work and a commitment that stretches well beyond normal working hours. The Guild has nearly two thousand members many of whom have individual and sometimes very personal requirements, including the need for special transportation and travel facilities and dietary requirements.

Every year brings in a New Master each of whom has their own programme and individual style. It falls upon the Clerk to take these on board whilst at the same time ensuring that the programme of events maintains the high style and content that Guild Members have come to expect. This Michael certainly achieved. Whilst the content of the programme is the responsibility of the Master the costing, booking, and arranging fall to the Clerk to implement. The detailed programme, together with pricing, must be ready for distribution to members prior to the Annual General Meeting.

In addition to the Guild Programme there is a very busy office to run. Two of Michael's many achievements were the recruitment of Judith Westall to assist him, and his sense of enhancing the prestige of the Guild. Michael and Judith set about reorganising the office, ensuring that full and comprehensive records are maintained both regarding



the Guild Programme and the running of the business of the Guild itself.

During his tenure Michael has overseen the introduction of new Articles of Association for the Guild and the establishment of the Guild Charity, in succession to the Benevolent Fund. He has acted as Secretary to both throughout.

Whilst *'The Freeman'* magazine has its own Editor significant input has come from Michael and Belinda in raising advertising revenue, writing articles, and providing advice and photographs.

Guild Members who have been on one of the Guild's many holidays will be aware of the enormous amount of administrative effort that Michael and Belinda expended in arranging these spectacular holidays. The final

holidays, under Michael's attentive eye and shortly before his retirement, were to Northern Ireland and Barcelona. What a finale!

At the Annual General Meeting in March, and after appropriate good wishes from The Master, Michael and Belinda formally took their leave of the Guild. The Master, Alderman Sir David Wootton escorted Michael in City ceremonial style from Tallow Chandlers' Hall. The end of an eventful seventeen years era in the Guild's history.

We wish Michael and Belinda a long and happy retirement, particularly in their new role as grandparents.

## A Warm Welcome to Christine



The Court of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London is delighted to announce the appointment of our new Clerk, Mrs Christine Cook. Christine started on 2nd May 2017, which nicely coincided with the office move.

In a varied career Christine has held senior management positions in the civil service, including the Foreign Office, Privy Council Office (where she remains Deputy Clerk of the Privy Council), Treasury Solicitor's and the Home Office. She has also had a long prior career in retail management including Debenhams, Dorothy Perkins, Mothercare, and finally The Edinburgh

Woollen Mill where she was an Area Manager responsible for fifty stores across England.

Christine is delighted to have been appointed and has spent the last few weeks getting to know more about the Guild and its members and traditions, as well as picking up the organisation of The Master's programme for this year. Christine has also worked closely with Judith Westall, to whom she extends her thanks for holding the reins between Michael's retirement and her arrival.

Christine is looking forward to meeting as many members as possible over the coming months and can be contacted at [clerk@guild-freemen-london.co.uk](mailto:clerk@guild-freemen-london.co.uk).

The Court wishes Christine a long and happy period of service with the Guild.

### Congratulations

The Master, Wardens, Court of Assistants, and Members of the Guild congratulate the following Guild Members and Honorary Officers.

**Guild Member John Philip Brisset** promotion to an Officer (Brother) in the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem.

**Guild member HE Dr Mahfouz Marei Mubarak bin Mahfouz, FRSA** on being presented with an Honorary CBE for his charitable services to the United Kingdom by HRH The Prince of Wales, KG at Buckingham Palace.



**Court Assistant Alderman Timothy Hailes JP** on his award as European Regulatory Lawyer of The Year 2017, awarded by the Association of Corporate Counsel. The award is a peer nominated and awarded honour. Tim was the only Brit and was nominated with a Spanish, Dutch, and Swiss lawyer.



**Past Master Poppy, Lady Cooksey** on the wonderful news that she won two gold medals in the Commonwealth Games Veterans' Fencing Championships in New Zealand. Poppy's joy was further enhanced when her Consort Dr Graham Paul won a

gold and a silver medal in the same championships. Well done Poppy and Graham you are an inspiration to the more mature members of the Guild!

The following Guild Members who have become Masters or Prime Wardens of their Livery Company: **Richard Regan** (Blacksmiths); **Marsha Ratcliff** (Carmen); **Alderman Ian Luder** (Coopers); **The Master, Alderman Sir David Wootton** (Glaziers); **Michael Kemsley** (Pattenmakers).

**Court Assistant Alderman John Garbutt** on becoming President of the City Livery Club.

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### We Remember

It was with great sadness that the Guild learned of the deaths of **Guild Assistant Dr Brian Ridgewell** (March 2016) and his wife **Julia Ridgewell** (December 2015). Brian and Julia were enthusiastic supporters of the Guild and both will be greatly missed at Guild events.

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### Guild Office moves to the City of London

The Guild Office has moved from Kingston upon Thames to the City of London, and has taken up two rooms at 65 London Wall, a newly refurbished serviced office building with many period features on the south side of London Wall, opposite Finsbury Circus.

Thanks, are particularly due to Past Master Barbara Newman, Senior Warden John Barber, and Renter Warden Elizabeth Thornborough for all their hard work in planning the office move.

Christine Cook and Judith Westall have done a marvellous job getting the new offices in good order and Simon Branch, our IT guru did a sterling job in working round the boxes to get us up and running so quickly and efficiently.



The new address is **The Guild of Freeman of the City of London, Rooms 78/79, 65 London Wall, London EC2M 5TU**. The new telephone number is **0207 239 9016**. The email address is unchanged at [clerk@guild-freemen-london.co.uk](mailto:clerk@guild-freemen-london.co.uk)

Visitors are welcome but please call the Clerk in advance to be sure that the office will be attended.



## Obituaries

**HIS HONOUR JUDGE SIR  
GAVYN FARR ARTHUR  
KStJ, MA, DCL  
(1951-2016)**

**675<sup>th</sup> Lord Mayor of London**

**Master 2009-2010**

As was reported briefly in last year's edition of 'The Freeman', Sir Gavyn Arthur died suddenly on 16th May 2016 aged 64. He had just returned to his home from a trip to Rome with friends when he was taken ill.

Sir Gavyn was born in Durban, South Africa on 13th September 1951, the second and only surviving child of a Senior Colonial Administrator and his wife. His father and Sir Gavyn were descended from Lt. Gen. Sir George Arthur of Upper Canada, a 19th Century Colonial Governor, after whom all the Port Arthurs in the World are named. Sir Gavyn was proud of his forebears and until his premature death was heir to the Baronetcy.

He was educated at Harrow School, the University of Vienna, and Christ Church Oxford where he gained a BA (Hons) Jurisprudence, and then an MA and a College of Law Diploma. He was later to become an Honorary Doctor of Civil Laws awarded by City University.

Called to the Bar in 1975 in Middle Temple he joined 2 Harcourt Buildings now Harcourt Chambers first as a Member, then Senior Member, practising initially in General Common Law and then specialised in Family Law, particularly Child Protection. In 2001, he became a Middle Temple Bencher and was appointed a Recorder of the Crown Court in 2002. On appointment as a Circuit Judge in 2007 he soon became the Designated Family Judge in Luton, where he was highly regarded and came to love it there. This was most apparent by the wonderful words expressed at his Judges Tribute where his Court room was packed to capacity and spilled out into adjacent rooms and corridors. A sign of the respect in which he was held was in the flowers left with the

message – "HHJ Sir Gavyn Arthur, rest in peace. Thank you for giving me my children back. A Dad." In 2008 Sir Gavyn was appointed a Deputy High Court Judge where he had to make decisions on even more challenging cases.



His involvement in the City began through two of his colleagues in Harcourt Chambers who were on the Court of Common Council. He became a Freeman in 1979 and in 1988 he stood for election to the Common Council and represented the Ward of Farringdon Without. In 1991, he was elected as Alderman for the Ward of Cripplegate holding the office for 16 years and served on numerous committees and became a Governor of four City Schools. 1998 saw him elected Aldermanic Sheriff during the Mayoralty of Lord Levene of Portsoken. Then in 2002 he became the 675th Lord Mayor of London. In that year, he travelled to 27 different countries promoting this Country, the City of London, and its Financial Institutions and it is a measure of the man that he chose to have people around him who were experts in areas he was not. He hosted a very successful banquet in Guildhall to receive President Putin of Russia which took place during the first State Visit by a Russian leader to Britain since Tsar Nicholas II in 1874. Each year the new Lord Mayor forms an Association with Masters of Livery Companies to continue friendships formed in the Mayoral year and appropriately Sir Gavyn's became

'Coronation Masters 2002-03'. He was knighted in 2004 for his services to the City of London and subsequently he became Registrar of the Imperial Society of Knights Bachelor, an office he held until his death.

Sir Gavyn was one of those instrumental in having 'The Temple Bar' returned to the City. On 16th October 2003, as Lord Mayor, he unveiled a commemorative stone at Paternoster Square to mark the start of the reconstruction works for the return of Temple Bar. The Bar is an international symbol of English Common Law and, at the time, Sir Gavyn commented, "As a practising Barrister with chambers in Middle Temple, I recognise the significance of the return of Temple Bar to the City of London. It will showcase how the ancient and modern can sit side by side in the world's leading international financial centre and will be a constant reminder of the central role that the law plays in the City of London".

Sir Gavyn's Mother Livery Company was the Worshipful Company of Gardeners and he became their Master for 2007-08. In the 101st year of its formation and with just three weeks to arrange his programme Sir Gavyn was installed as Master of the Guild of Freeman of the City of London 2009-10. In 2010-11 he was Master of the Guild (now Company) of Public Relations Practitioners, an organisation he helped to found. He took a well-deserved 'gap' year in 2011-12, before becoming Master of the Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers in 2012-13.

Sir Gavyn was associated with and had held office in other City Organisations such as Chairman, and then a Vice President, of the Royal Society of St George, City of London Branch, but it is his year as Master of The Guild of Freeman that is relevant here. He organised the most exciting programme for us. We visited such places as his old 'alma mater', Harrow School, on a baking July day and drank Pimms while looking over the playing fields to the distant towers of the City. A visit and talk in Temple

Church reflected the legal aspect of his life. Splendid dinners in such places as his club Brooks's were enjoyed by all. He press-ganged old friends into offering us hospitality and we had many interesting visits to places not generally seen. The Banquet that year was full of the Pomp and Pageantry that this Country is renowned for and the City of London could muster. The guest list was a veritable Who's Who of the World! It was with his foreign visits that he could reveal his love for Central Europe with a tour from Lake Constance to Florence and an Advent visit to Vienna. Perhaps now the most poignant was the visit to Syria in early 2010, when some one hundred of us made the journey to see the wonders of so ancient a country.

At the end of his year, with all sincerity, Sir Gavyn said "I have found the last year the most immense and rewarding fun! It has been a great privilege to be given the opportunity to serve you all".

Sir Gavyn received many honours during his lifetime and on the Guild Tour of Romania he was made a Commander of the Order of the Crown of Romania (the first such award, since 1947, given by HM King Michael I) for "the effort he has selflessly made in strengthening the ties between Romania and British Society, in supporting public values, principles and activities of the Royal House of Romania". Until his death he had a close friendship with the Romanian Royal Family and just a few weeks previously had attended a service with HRH Princess Elena of Romania who later represented HM The King and family at Sir Gavyn's Memorial Service. In a tribute following his death the Royal Family of Romania said of him – "Sir Gavyn always showed a love for truth, fairness, consummate professionalism and loyalty to the Crown (both the British and the Romanian). His personality will always remain an example for posterity". In a ceremony at the Slovak Embassy in London, less than a month before his death, he was honoured and presented with the Presidential Medal of the Slovak Republic for services to the promotion of British/Slovak relations.

His achievements were many and wide ranging, his charitable patronages plenty and he was most assiduous in his work for them. Every other year he let stalwart Guild Member, Miss Audrey Tibbles hold a party in his flat in the Barbican to raise money for the British Red Cross Christmas Market at Guildhall. He held countless other positions both here and in the wider world. He lectured in many countries and had a unique knowledge of European Art and History particularly the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand. When the time came he assisted in the arrangements and attended the funeral of Archduke Otto von Hapsburg.

On a more personal level he was proud of his ten Godchildren and never failed to send them each a postcard from wherever he travelled to in the world or take an interest in their lives. Each year he returned to his roots in South Africa, to visit his cousins and friends there, and where his ashes now lie following his private funeral and then Memorial Service. The latter was attended by almost eight hundred people in The Temple Church, including HRH The Princess Michael of Kent and many other royal and distinguished guests from near and far, together with large numbers of friends and colleagues representing the different areas of his life.

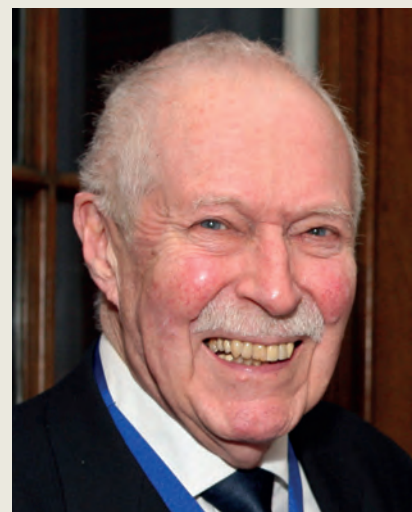
Sir Gavyn with his undoubted charm and presence will be very fondly remembered by a great many people. A wonderful story teller, he also possessed a great sense of fun and remained a true gentleman of the 'old school' who still had much to give.

He is a great loss!

**SIR JOHN ANTHONY GRANT  
(1925-2016)**

**Master 1979-1980 and 1997-1998**

Sir Anthony Grant was asked to fill the breach left by Lord Finsberg after his sudden death whilst speaking at the Stockholm Parliament in October 1996. He had supported the Master, Sir Peter Buchanan, during the



weekend visit in Portsmouth and five days previously had attended the dinner at Trinity House. Lord Finsberg, as Senior Warden had almost completed the plans for the Guild social programme and it was left to Sir Anthony Grant to adopt the plans.

John Anthony Grant was born in Surbiton on 29th May 1925, the son of Arthur Grant, physics professor, and the former Florence Webb. He was educated at St Paul's School and Brasenose College, Oxford. He trained at Sandhurst and took a commission in the 3rd Dragoon Guards during the 1939-45 War. From 1943-48 he held the rank of Captain. When he was Adjutant at GHQ Far East in Singapore he took an interest in the legal aspects of his duties. He became a solicitor in 1952. At the end of his Army service, he became a partner in a City firm of solicitors. He joined the Law Society and practised as a solicitor in the City until his work in Parliament led to a full-time career. He contested Hayes and Harlington in 1959 and was elected for Harrow Central in 1964 and for South West Cambridgeshire in 1983. He was Minister for Trade and Industry 1970-74 and in 1980 became Chairman of the Economic Committee of the Council of Europe. He had served as a Whip, a Vice-Chairman of his party and an executive member of the 1922 Committee. Sir Anthony had already decided to retire from Parliament at the General Election in 1997 and although looking forward to greater leisure time agreed to return to The Master's Chair.



As long-serving President of the Guild of Experienced Motorists, he campaigned for more driver training, particularly after a rash of accidents followed completion of the M25. He demanded more effort to reduce the four-fifths of fatalities not caused by drink, and voiced outrage when a judge refused to disqualify a woman caught driving at 103mph. Sir Anthony became a leading campaigner for reform of the General Medical Council and action against deceitful and incompetent doctors. "Nothing the GMC has decided," he declared, "gives me any confidence it can adequately regulate the affairs of the medical profession". Sir Anthony was granted the Freedom of the City in 1958, and was a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Solicitors and the Guild's Honorary Solicitor from 1965 until 1990. He captained the Guild's Golfing Society and had been a member of the City's Pickwick Club. He was a close colleague of Lord Finsberg from more than fifty years earlier as City Young Conservatives, colleagues in Parliament and the Council of Europe. He became Master in 1979 promising good fellowship and maintenance of the City traditions. In his second term as Master in 1997, he pledged the same theme.

The highlights of Sir Anthony Grant's stewardship can be best documented by the visits planned by Lord Finsberg. In June 1997, the Guild made a visit to the Bluebell Railway arriving at the restored Sheffield Park station to board the Golden Arrow Pullman. Lady Grant chose the luncheon menu. However, she was unable to be present as Sir Anthony had a long-standing engagement in Europe. The Golden Arrow arrived back at the start in time for a short visit to the National Trust Gardens at Sheffield Park and a Guild Cream tea. Dinner at the House of Lords took place in January 1998. The Guild had not dined in the House in recent years and unlike the House of Commons, the venue is much smaller. After an enjoyable dinner members were privileged to listen to Guild Member and sponsor Field Marshal Lord Vincent. In his response Sir Anthony remarked that after thirty-three years in the House of Commons he at last got into the

House of Lords. He referred to the changes going through the Houses and that the Lords and the City were classic examples of the adage "if it ain't broke, don't fix it". It was a delightful evening of reflection whilst re-enforcing the will to move forward.

Sir Anthony married Sonia Landen in 1953; she died in 2009. He is survived by a son and daughter.

**RAYMOND GEORGE HOLL**  
**MBE, CEng, MIEE, MCMI**  
**(1930-2017)**

*Master 2003-2004*



Raymond Holl, who died on the 12th January 2017, was Master of the Guild of Freeman in 2003-04. A proud Coventrian, he attended a local school and continued studying through apprenticeship and in Coventry Technical College, becoming a chartered electrical engineer and a Freeman of Coventry aged 21, through servitude. At 21, he undertook National Service with the RAF, returning to engineering development work in 1953. His apprenticeship and career were spent in the company, ultimately known as Lucas Aerospace Ltd. He was the site production manager, responsible for manufacturing specialised switchgear for civil and military aircraft to very precise tolerances and deadlines. This was particularly valuable around the time of the Falklands War in 1982. He was awarded the MBE in 1987 for

services to industry and retired in 1989.

Raymond was twice Master of the City of Coventry Freeman's Guild. He joined our Guild in 1988, and was elected to the Court of Assistants in 1993. He was admitted to the Livery of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths in 1994. He served as Master of the Guild in 2003-04. A commitment to furthering education in the young and to charitable work dominated his Civic life. In 1981-82, as Master of the City of Coventry Freeman's Guild, he chose the theme 'The Senior Freeman' and for his second term of office in 1998-99, 'The Young coupled with Endeavour'. For his year as Master of the London Guild his theme was 'City and Guilds coupled with Endeavour of the Young'. For many years Raymond had been a mentor of young apprentices and a visiting lecturer at Lanchester Polytechnic and Coventry Technical College, as well as serving as a badge examiner for the scouts. Raymond was the first civilian to Chair the Crime Prevention Panel in Coventry.

Raymond and his wife and soulmate Barbara, an engineer by training, worked tirelessly to foster close links between the London and Coventry Guilds, forging many close friendships as well as civic relationships in both cities. Additionally, Raymond supported Barbara's fundraising efforts for a school in a deprived and remote area of Nepal, and with Barbara hosted children, and friends from their Nepalese 'adopted family'. Additionally, with his commitment to education, Raymond wrote and published several books, including one about the history of Lucas Aerospace and another about the history of St Mary's Guildhall, Coventry. Despite his declining health, and assisted by Barbara, he wrote the second volume of our Guild's history.

Raymond's rather reserved and shy demeanour covered a great sense of fun and warm humour in those who were privileged to know him well. Raymond is survived by his wife Barbara and a son and daughter from a previous marriage.

### **The Guild of Freemen's Charity**

#### *Review from Trustee Anthony Miller*



True to the Guild founders' early objectives, our charitable giving remains at the heart of the Guild's activities today.

To ensure our giving remains impactful and relevant, five Trustees are elected to meet on a regular basis to evaluate ongoing and new giving. This involves careful examination of the charities'

activities and accounts and referencing the charity commissioner's database to ensure we support in the best way possible. Our Clerk Michael Keun deals with all the paperwork associated with running the Charity, our legal compliance and ensuring any financial giving is dealt with in a timely manner. The Trustees thank the Clerk for all the hard work he has done for the charity in the past and wish him well in his retirement.

We receive many applications for support which all need to be carefully examined and discussed in advance of any decision and can often lead to a visit by one of the Trustees. Many of the charities the Guild supports have been visited

this year by the Trustees to ensure we make the biggest difference possible with our limited resources.

I had the privilege of meeting a young man called Edward, an East End lad with difficulties in his childhood and limited opportunities in local education. Edward had the chance to attend King Edward's School in Surrey through the support of the Guild. Over lunch Edward expressed his gratitude for the opportunity the Guild had afforded him. He shared his plans regarding his future University course and how he had achieved the A-level results which would enable him to attend University. His mother was proud of his accomplishments and grateful for the support. As Edward leaves for University, another young person will benefit from the Guild's support and encouragement.

I also had the opportunity to visit Richard House in East London for a tour of the facilities of this excellent charity offering care and support to children and young people who are at risk of death because of a life-limiting or life-threatening health condition. Although we can only offer a small financial donation to this hospice, I was able to witness the tremendous difference they are able to make to the young people and their families.

With the current global economic conditions and the uncertainty of the 'Brexit' outcome, we have seen several of the Guild's chosen charities reporting that the support we can give is having an even bigger impact.

None of this would be possible without the very generous support of the members of the Guild, who continue to give. A huge thank you to everybody who has donated to the Guild Charity. Your gift continues to grow and continues to make a difference.

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### **Lord Mayor's 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Awards Trust**

#### *The Guild of Freemen of the City of London prize for best report*

#### *Zara Lee*

In 2015, I joined the King's English School in Southern India on a six-week volunteer internship. King's School is a boarding and day school for boys and girls. The school is funded and managed by the King's World Trust for Children (KWTC), was opened in June 2005, and has 1,500 students aged from 3 to 18 years.

The main aim of King's is to provide a mainstream education, in English, for children of all backgrounds, Indian castes, religions, including children with disabilities, in a happy, caring, and safe environment.

The school is a fee-paying school however there are bursaries for the many local children who have talents in one way or another and it struck me how nice it was that the children mixed naturally regardless of their background. I flew from Heathrow Airport to Sri Lanka where I travelled

for three weeks before flying from Colombo to Trivandrum in the state of Kerala in South India. I then travelled for a further three weeks before arriving at the school taking all methods of transport, including local trains and buses. The journey from Trivandrum to my base in Tamil Nadu took about three hours. All the travelling was fantastic – the sights were amazing – though it was very humid.

Sadly, for me, due to the time of year I was the sole intern for much of my time but I was looked after beautifully by the housekeeper, a lady called Badu. Badu didn't speak much English and my Urdu in the beginning was non-existent but we muddled along just fine.

The interns' accommodation only had fans and no air conditioning and inside the temperature was 39 degrees Celsius. The temperature was not much cooler at night. My



room only had one fan so it was very uncomfortable sleeping at night but still great fun.

My main job was to look after the children, assist the teachers in lessons and help organise, and take part in, sports events such as basketball and tennis. All of which I embraced. The school is run very much like an English boarding school and all lessons must be taught in English. The children must speak English to one another between the hours of 8 am and 6 pm.

I also taught music and English in lessons as well as art and undertook anything else that was required. I spent time in the office doing school administration activities such as writing the school's newsletter to parents and the school committee.

Every year a group of students from Hockerill College, Hertfordshire in the UK go and help at the school for two weeks and present a musical. This year the musical was 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' and it was amazing. I was invited to take part in the musical and I helped with the choir and music as well as costume design and make up.

I learned all aspects of school life from the perspective of

teachers and admin staff and I have now decided not to take up my place at music college but to make a career out of teaching. From April 2016, I have my first job working at Thomas's Prep School, Battersea, London.

I thoroughly enjoyed working at King's. I went to India by myself because I wanted to build up my confidence. It was tough (especially when the internet went down in week 1!) but I have no regrets and highly recommend volunteering to King's School to anyone. Even though some days were long, and I was challenged, my confidence has built and my six weeks with King's has noticeably changed me as a person.

The children and the staff were fantastic; friendly, and everyone looked after me so well. I was struck most of all by the respect both the children and teachers have for each other. And with so few material possessions they were not in the least down-hearted. I will never forget this life changing experience and thank the Lord Mayor's 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Awards Trust and everybody involved for giving me the opportunity to go to India. I really made the most of it.

The prize was presented at Mansion House on 12th December 2016.

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## The Jubilee Sailing Trust Award

### *Peter de Voisey*

*Through the Guild's Charitable Trust, the London Branch of the Jubilee Sailing Trust funded a voyage in October 2016 on the tall ship, Lord Nelson, for a severely disabled young man, Peter de Voisey. Peter's partner Simon Gray wrote the following inspirational report on Peter's behalf.*

Peter and I have sailed on the Jubilee Sailing Trust's ships, Lord Nelson and Tenacious, I for many voyages over twenty years and Peter more recently on four voyages as able-bodied voyage crew. But this voyage would be different. Peter recently suffered from a 'Cavernoma' (a type of brain tumour). The tumour and subsequent brain surgery resulted in disability such as loss of walking, eating difficulties and loss of some cognitive abilities.

However, despite needing professional care Peter is slowly improving and it was good timing that the Jubilee Sailing Trust's 'taster' voyages coincided with my assessment that Peter was ready to try another voyage. Due to an early sail from Portsmouth I decided to stay a night in a hotel before and after the voyage. This passed smoothly with Peter coping well with different surroundings. The first time in over two years away from a hospital or care home, he stayed in a hotel and then two days and a night on a tall ship!

Despite my worries Peter coped well (his first time back on the ship since his disability) and when asked afterwards if

he had enjoyed it he said, "Really enjoyed it, shame it wasn't longer". Constantine was an excellent carer, attentive to Peter and helping with the rather daunting task of giving various medications at different times of the day, and checking on Peter throughout the night.

Peter being the only wheelchair user on this voyage was the key player in the wheelchair evacuation drill and said afterwards that "it was ok – a bit bumpy". Fresh sea air, good company, familiar faces – especially Jo Hall from the Jubilee Sailing Trust and Jo Hicks, the Medical Purser – did us both a power of good. We had some good sailing in the Solent, dropping anchor near the Needles. Constantine, a novice to sailing, could spend time on the helm and help with sail setting, really enjoying it.

Another friend, John, who had helped the 2-6 Heavers to raise funds for the Jubilee Sailing Trust last year on a sponsored walk along Hadrian's Wall, also came on the voyage. He was a great help to Peter, and participated in the sail setting and helming. I could relax a little and talk to fellow voyage crew – many of them first timers – about the Jubilee Sailing Trust and the 2-6 Heavers fundraising activities.

Peter had a great time and the experience has helped him to think of more holidays and experiences outside the nursing home. The voyage has really benefited Peter – he seems more confident despite his disability and he says he would like to sail again. He says, "Next time on Tenacious as there's more space!". – **Simon Gray (Peter's partner).**

## **The Master**

**Peter Allcard**



I am thrilled to be elected as your Master for the coming year, and looking forward to meeting members, old and new, whilst we enjoy the various events of this year's programme.

It is a great privilege in succeeding Alderman Sir David Wootton who, as a well-known and respected figure of the City community has led a most interesting and successful year and will be a very hard act to follow.

Most of you will be aware that we have reached the end of an era due to the retirement of our Clerk, Brigadier Michael Keun who, with his wife Belinda, has served the Guild so well for some seventeen years. His efficiency and attention to detail have been a feature of his stewardship and will be

difficult to replace. They will be much missed by those members of the Guild who have come to know and respect them both so well.

The introduction of a new Clerk together with a move into new, City based, offices will bring about the winds of change, giving us the opportunities to embrace modern technologies and savings in overall costs with greater accessibility and convenience.

This year's programme has been kept reasonably uncomplicated to try to facilitate these various changes and began with our Annual Service followed by a dinner in the magnificent surroundings of Cutlers' Hall, just a very short walk from the church.

In May we repeated our visit to Brick Lane Music Hall which proved so popular during the last visit, and where we had been granted a special preview of their anniversary show.

The first of our two holidays will be based around Bakewell in the beautiful Peak District where we will visit Chatsworth, Haddon, and Hardwick Halls, as well as a morning in Castleton with its caves and caverns; a dinner at Cutlers' Hall in Sheffield and dinner at Hassop Hall where some of our guests will stay. This is intended to be a relaxed, sociable, and convivial weekend in one of our country's most lovely areas. The numbers on this occasion will be strictly limited so early application is particularly recommended.

Another 'special' event is the newly introduced 'Master's lunch' which will

be held at The Carlton Club, much associated with the members of the Conservative party, and where we will dine in The Wellington room with a special guest speaker (but subject to any special diversions in Parliamentary procedures).

Our second holiday will be a new venue for the Guild as we will be visiting the fascinating city of Budapest with its stunning architecture and public buildings, details of which can be found in the programme of events. A feature of this holiday is in the fine dining experiences in the most interesting of locations.

Our regular Black-Tie events will range from HQS Wellington, Skinners' Hall with a reception (subject to weather) on the roof garden. Innholders' Hall and for the first time, the Furniture Makers' Hall, plus our regular and popular visit to the House of Lords. A final dinner in Vintners' Hall is always a guarantee of some great wines.

The Annual Banquet is, as always, the most important date in our calendar, and this year will be no exception with a plethora of fine food and wine, supported by the Pikemen and Musketeers of the Honourable Artillery Company. Wonderful music and interesting speakers promise to make this, as always, an event which should not be missed.

I can now look forward to joining members, in the spirit of warmth and conviviality for which our wonderful Guild has become known.

With my best wishes to you all.

*Born in Sheffield in 1946, Peter was educated at Scarborough College after which he joined the family controlled firm of machine tool manufacturers in Sheffield. After several years, he left to pursue other interests, firstly in London where he became a director of a small company of retailers specialising in seasonal fashion and holiday wear, mainly along the south coast. After selling his interest in this business, he returned to his home town in South Yorkshire to a business which manufactured synthetic products for the equestrian and other related markets.*

*Following the sale of the family business, he took early retirement to pursue his interests of skiing, golf, travel and his Livery Company, The Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths, where he was proud to be their Prime Warden in 2001. He also qualified as a private pilot and scuba diver. Married to Pearl since 1970, he has two daughters and six grandchildren, four of whom live with his younger daughter and her husband in New Zealand.*





### The Senior Warden **John Barber DL MRICS FAISI FGIS**

Born in Ilford Essex John now lives in Epping Upland. Upon leaving school he joined the family run 1,000 branch estate agency business. He set up his own successful estate agency and property business in East London in 1981 and sold it in 1988. Following this he financed restaurants, owned an art gallery, and pursued other business interests in the City, East London, and Essex.

In 1991, he became Chief Executive, and now a Trustee, of a charity for the elderly of Newham, a role that he still enjoys and has furthered his interest in the City of London. John was Prime Warden of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths in 2006 and is a founding member of The Worshipful Company of Arts Scholars. He is Representative Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London with responsibility for Newham, President of the John Travers Cornwell VC Sea Cadets, a Vice Patron of

the Helen Rollason Cancer Charity, Chair of the Parish Council, and committee member of 007 Master Year. In his spare time, John enjoys travel, antiques and 20th century modern art.



### The Renter Warden **Elizabeth Thornborough**

Elizabeth grew up in the Home Counties, Norfolk and London and now lives in the City. After completing her education, she worked initially in Mayfair, then the Defence Industry and served for 12 years as an Officer in the WRNR, retiring to become a full-time mother. During this time, she helped set up and run the library at her daughter's prep school and worked from home for a magazine for the Military. Her final working role was in Property and Project Management for schools.

She became a Freeman and a Guild Member in 2003 and was invited to join the Court in 2010. Elizabeth is a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Upholders, Member of Aldersgate and Lime Street and Cornhill Ward Clubs, The United Wards' Club and The Royal Society of St George, City of

London Branch; a Freeman and Burgess of the City of Glasgow and a Member of the Incorporation of Wrights as well as a Volunteer for charities. Her other interests include travel, history, walking and writing for her own pleasure.



### The Junior Warden **Neil Redcliffe JP, BSc (Econ), MBA, FCA**

Born in Chingford and educated at Chigwell, Neil read Economics at Queen Mary College, University of London, before training with Price Waterhouse and qualifying as a Chartered Accountant in 1985. During the 1980s and early 1990s Neil ran his own building, property development and farming businesses, and gained an MBA from the Cranfield School of Management. In 1996, he was a founding member of start-up Currencies Direct, a leading commercial foreign exchange and international payments group, which was sold in 2015. Neil now runs an investment company and charitable education foundation with his wife Emma.

A former Alderman for Bishopsgate Ward, Neil served as Prime Warden of the Basketmakers Company (2012-13) and is a Trustee of the Company's Charitable Foundation. He is a Court Assistant of the World Traders' Company; Honorary Liveryman of the Paviers' Company, and a member of his Past Masters Association – The Great 13. A past President of the Bishopsgate Ward Club, Neil is also a member of Coleman Street and Tower Ward Clubs, a member of the Development Board of The Charterhouse London, and a Council member of the Royal Society of St George (City of London Branch). Neil is standing as a candidate in the June 2017 Shrieval Elections. In his spare time Neil enjoys the theatre, collecting art, rugby, skiing, swimming, yoga and playing tennis.



### The Under Warden **Alderman John Garbutt, JP, BSc Econ (Hons), FRSA, FRGS, FCSI**

Having obtained a BSc Econ Honours degree from the LSE, John entered the City to work for Rowe & Pitman and subsequently at ICI, Touche Remnant, Schroders and became Director, Head of Institutional Client Management, and Marketing at Kleinwort Benson. He then worked at HSBC as Head of various departments including Property and E-commerce and retired as Director, Global Head of Corporate Governance. He is now a Non-Executive Director of Stobart Group and Chairman of their Remuneration Committee. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment.

Outside work, John is the Alderman for Walbrook Ward, a Magistrate, President of the City Livery Club and Walbrook Ward Club, Lay Chairman of St Stephen Walbrook's Parochial Church Council, and is on the Council of the Royal Society of St George (City Branch). Later this year he will become equivalent to Master of his 'mother' Livery Company (i.e. Upper Bailiff of the Weavers) and is on the Court of the Joiners and Ceilers and a Liveryman of the International Bankers. He is Chairman of the International Students' Trust, an Honorary Visiting Professor at two Universities and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and the Royal Geographical Society. John's other interests include travel, collecting ethnic art and champagne.

## Programme for 2017-18

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### Annual Service – St Lawrence Jewry

**Thursday 27 April • 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm**

**Dress: Suit**

The Master's year will commence with the Annual Service, which will be held in the Church of St Lawrence Jewry. The service will be taken by the Vicar, The Revd Canon David Parrott, and the Guild's Honorary Chaplain, The Very Revd Dr David Ison, Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, will deliver the sermon. The choir from King Edward's School Witley will be supporting us once again. All Guild members and guests are most welcome.

### Reception & Dinner – Cutlers' Hall

**Thursday 27 April • 7.00 pm – 9.30 pm**

**Dress: Suit**

The Master has selected the magnificent Cutlers' Hall for the Guild's Annual Service Dinner. Built to the architectural style of a Scottish baronial manor, it uses a pine log as its main structural element and does not feature any curved lines anywhere in the building. The Guild will initially gather in the main chamber for a reception before dining in the Great Hall. During the reception, we will be joined by the choir from King Edward's School, Witley.

### Visit & Lunch – Royal College of Surgeons

**Wednesday 17 May • 10.45 am – 2.30 pm**

**Dress: Suit/Jacket & Tie**

With the Royal College of Surgeons about to undergo a major redevelopment of their London home in Lincoln's Inn Fields, the Master has managed to secure a last opportunity to lunch in the ornate surroundings of the Council Room in an atmosphere rich in surgical history and tradition. The lunch will be preceded by an opportunity to peruse the world famous Hunterian Museum, followed by a sparkling wine reception. Guild members will sit down to enjoy a fine two course lunch with wine. Finally, there will be a talk by a world eminent psychologist.

### Lunch and Show – Brick Lane Music Hall

**Wednesday 31 May • 12.00 noon – 5.00 pm**

**Dress: Blazer/Jacket & Tie**

The Brick Lane Music Hall is celebrating its 25th Anniversary with a compilation show and, by special arrangement, has granted the Guild a preview the day before the show's official opening. This hugely entertaining event will leave Guild members with a 'joie de vivre' after enjoying a wholesome lunch with wine and then sitting back to enjoy popular music, comedy, and pathos. All members will receive a souvenir programme as well as an insight into the company's outreach work within the local community. Housed within a listed church, this event is guaranteed to bring a smile to your face and a tear to your eye for one of the most entertaining shows of the year.

### Summer Gala – HQS Wellington

**Thursday 15 June • 6.00 pm – 10.00 pm**

**Dress: Black Tie**

The evening will begin with an exclusive Guild reception on board HQS Wellington's Quarter Deck with its wonderful vista of the river. After a welcome and introductory talk by

the Clerk to the Worshipful Company of Master Mariners on the history of the ship, members will be invited to the Court Room, originally the Engine Room, to enjoy a three-course dinner with wine.

### Reception & Dinner – Skinners' Hall

**Wednesday 28 June • 6.45 pm – 10.00 pm**

**Dress: Black Tie**

The Master is hosting his second black tie event in the glorious surroundings of Skinners' Hall, a venue we have all walked past many times. The evening will begin with a sparkling wine reception in the Italianate roof garden with fountain before enjoying a fine dining experience in the magnificent hall. The evening will conclude with the traditional Guild loving cup ceremony and a guest speaker.

### Visit to Apsley House and Supper in the Caledonian Club

**Wednesday 05 July • 6.00 pm – 10.00 pm**

**Dress: Suit/Jacket & Tie**

A visit has been arranged to 'Number One London', the London home of the Dukes of Wellington. The Guild has been granted private access to Apsley House for a guided tour of the Duke's treasures and magnificent art collection containing several Old Masters and given to the 1st Duke by the Spanish Royal family after his success at Waterloo. After the tour, Guild members will make their way the short distance for supper in the Caledonian Club on Halkin Street. Here members will be able to gather their thoughts during a reception in the library before enjoying a three-course supper in the Morrison Room under the watchful eye of Bonnie Prince Charlie!

### Supper and Show – GSMD Gala Evening

**Monday 10 July • 5.30 pm – 10.00 pm**

**Dress: Suit**

The Guild has secured tickets to enable members and guests to enjoy the gala evening at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama for a toe-tapping musical performance of the musical 'Crazy for You'. The evening will commence with drinks, followed by a two-course supper with wine in the Barbican's Conservatory and Garden Room before the start of the show. A copy of the Programme for the show and drinks in the interval are included in the price of the tickets, which the Guild is offering at the same price that individuals would pay at the Box Office.

### City Walk & Light Supper

**Tuesday 18 July & Wednesday 19 July**

**6.00 pm – 9.00 pm Dress: Casual**

Once again, our City Walks will be led by Peter Tompkins, who is currently the Master of the Wax Chandlers' Company, and for his theme he has chosen 'City Livery Halls'. Peter's route will concentrate on the northern side of the City. A fascinating tour will be followed by a simple supper in a local tavern. As before, Peter will be hosting the event at no charge, but has asked for a donation to be made to the Guild's Charity – for onward transmission to the Lord Mayor's Charity appeal. These two events will be identical.



## Derbyshire Weekend

**Thursday 31 August - Sunday 3 September**

**Dress: as shown in the event instructions**

In line with the Master's theme for his year, he has decided to offer Guild Members the beauties of the Peak District and Derbyshire. A world of contrasting natural beauty, with moors and dales, rivers, springs, and caverns. After arrival on the Thursday afternoon the weekend begins with a dinner at The Rutland Arms Hotel. The next day presents Guild Members with an interesting programme of events and activities beginning with a tour of the stunning Chatsworth House. There will also be the opportunity to visit Chatsworth's fabulous gardens as well as the renowned Chatsworth Country Show. Lunch will be served in the converted stables. That evening Guild Members have been invited to dine with the Master Cutler of Hallamshire in his private dining room. The Hall, located opposite Sheffield Cathedral, is Grade II listed and the third on the site since 1638. It is regarded as one of the finest livery halls in the north of England. Prior to the Guild's reception, members will have the opportunity to be guided round this magnificent venue. The next day presents Guild Members with the chance to explore two of the Derbyshire Dales famous caverns including a boat trip along the underground river. Following a stop for lunch, the party will visit Haddon Hall: once the seat of the Dukes of Rutland, this Elizabethan Manor House has been described as the most complete and interesting house of its period. The Guild will then have an opportunity to explore the charming town of Bakewell, located on the River Wye and well known for its local confection: Bakewell pudding. The day will end with a private reception and dinner in the beautiful Hassop Hall. Our visit to Derbyshire will conclude on Sunday morning with a visit to Hardwick Hall, the home of Bess of Hardwicke and where we will learn of the extraordinary life style of this lady. This amazing house is just a few minutes from the M1 motorway, and very convenient for those wishing to depart homewards immediately after lunch.

Please note that transport can be provided to and from Chesterfield station for those who will be travelling by train.

## Visit & Buffet Supper – College of Arms

**Wednesday 13 September • 6.30 pm – 9.00 pm**

**Dress: Suit/Jacket & Tie**

This annual event comprises a fascinating talk and tour of the College of Arms by John Petrie, Rouge Croix Pursuivant, who will give members the opportunity to view some of the spectacular examples of the College's work over the past 800 years. The tour will conclude with a light buffet supper.

## Reception & Dinner – Innholders' Hall

**Wednesday 27 September • 7.00 pm – 10.30 pm**

**Dress: Black Tie**

For the Master's third black tie dinner, the Guild has secured the unique surroundings of Innholders' Hall, known as the 'home of hospitality since 1473'. The evening will begin with a reception in the Old Court Room before moving into the Great Hall to enjoy a three-course fine dining menu prepared by the Innholders' Michelin starred chef. The evening will conclude with a guest speaker.

## Visit & Lunch – RNLI Selsey

**Wednesday 04 October • 8.30 am – 5.00 pm**

**Dress: Casual/Comfortable**

The Guild's visit to RNLI Selsey is a staple of the calendar and this year members have a once in a lifetime opportunity. As some Members may be aware, RNLI Selsey has been transformed since the Guild's last visit, with significant investment in both its vessels and facilities. The visit will commence at 11.00 am with The Master formally unveiling a plaque in support of the stained-glass window commemorating Vice Admiral Sir Peter Buchanan, KBE, a former Past Master of the Guild, and former President of RNLI Selsey. There will then be a guided tour around the station's new boathouse facility before watching an exciting demonstration of its new Shannon all-weather craft including a launch and recovery. The crew will also demonstrate the in-shore lifeboat before joining Guild members for a wholesome lunch in a nearby local hostelry. As in previous years, there is the opportunity for independent travel or to join other Guild members on the coach, which will depart from Guildhall Yard.

## Reception & Lunch – Carlton Club

**Wednesday 11 October • 12.15 pm – 2.30 pm**

**Dress: Suit**

The Master has decided to hold his 'Master's Lunch' in the opulent surroundings of the Carlton Club in St James's; which describes itself as the 'oldest and most important of all Conservative clubs'. The Guild's privileged access will begin with a reception in Cads' Corner, adjacent to the Grand Staircase, before enjoying a substantial lunch in the Wellington Room with a guest speaker.

## Supper & Show – Magic Circle

**Tuesday 24 October • 5.15 pm – 10.00 pm**

**Dress: Suit/Jacket & Tie**

Guild members will gather for a pre-show two-course supper with wine at The Wesley, which is a short walk from both Euston Station and the Magic Circle. An evening of magical delights awaits. Our visit to the Magic Circle begins with some parlour magic and a tour of the museum before being mesmerised by a show.

## DM Thomas Foundation Ball

**Saturday 28 October • 7.00 pm – 2.00 am**

**Dress: Black Tie**

Once more the Guild is hugely grateful to the DM Thomas Foundation (formerly the Hilton in the Community Foundation) for allowing Guild Members to attend this spectacular evening of champagne, dinner accompanied by fine wines, cabaret, and dancing, at a discounted price. The event will take place in the Grand Ballroom in the London Hilton in Park Lane, and special arrangements can be made for those wishing to stay overnight in the hotel.

## Lord Mayor's Show

**Saturday 11 November • 10.30 am – 12.30 pm**

**Dress: Jacket & Tie**

A chance to watch this lively show from the comfort of seats in the stands erected on the south side of St Paul's

## Programme for 2017-18

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Cathedral and to enjoy the longest and most historic pageant in the world; as well as to cheer the Master as he passes in the parade! Children are welcome. Please book early to be sure of getting the number of seats you require.

### Lunch after the Lord Mayor's Show

**Saturday 11 November • 12.30 pm – 2.30 pm**

**Dress: Jacket & Tie**

After the show, there will be a great opportunity to catch up with fellow members whilst enjoying a traditional English three-course lunch with wine at Guildhall. Members may book tickets for the show, for lunch or for both

### Wine Tasting – Tallow Chandlers' Hall

**Wednesday 15 November • 7.00 pm – 9.30 pm**

**Dress: Suit/Jacket & Tie**

The Guild's ever popular pre-Christmas Wine Tasting will take place in the beautiful surroundings of the Tallow Chandlers' Great Hall. The Master is delighted to welcome back Mr Harry Vernau of The Red Bottle Company Ltd, who will share his expertise with a Christmas and New Year selection. As usual, a selection of quality wines will be described and presented for tasting. After the formal tasting is over, members and their guests will be able to relax and enjoy a hearty variety of hot and cold snacks, together with wine supplied by the caterers.

### Advent Holiday in Budapest

**Monday 27 November – Friday 1 December**

**Dress: as shown in the event instructions**

For the Master's overseas break, he has selected the wonderful and beautiful Hungarian capital of Budapest. Straddling one of the great rivers of Europe, the city is a cornucopia of stunning architecture and magnificent public buildings, and sits on a series of thermal springs. The Guild party will stay in the lovely five star Boscolo Hotel. Those who wish may join the 13.25 flight from Heathrow, which can be included in the price. The evening will commence with a dinner at the Borkatakomba restaurant, which has been built into a wine cellar hewn into the hills at Budafok, and provides a genuine authentic atmosphere, with a folklore show. During the next couple of days there will be a tour of the City and St Stephen's Basilica, a visit to the famous Szechenyi thermal baths and a tour of the Castle district including entrance into the Fisherman's Bastion and the equally famous hospital in the rock. Also, included will be a tour of the Parliament buildings and Opera House. A little time is set aside to allow guests free time, with a suggested visit to the Christmas Markets. The last day will conclude on-board a private Danube Cruise with music and dinner. Day five will consist of breakfast in the hotel and transfer to the airport for those who are joining the Guild's 12.25 flight home. All meals are included and are a feature of the arrangements.

### Annual Banquet – Guildhall

**Monday 11 December • 6.15 pm – 10.30 pm**

**Dress: White Tie**

For the highlight of the Guild's year, the Annual Banquet will again be held in the magnificent medieval surroundings of the

Guildhall, watched over by Gog and Magog. Members and their guests will be welcomed by the Master and his Lady before enjoying a champagne reception in the Old Library interrupted by the fanfare as our Patron, the Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, the Sheriffs and their consorts arrive to join us. The formal announcement will then lead onto a sumptuous four-course dinner accompanied by excellent wines. The whole event will be one of colour and pageantry provided by the Pikemen and Musketeers from the Honourable Artillery Company, a wonderful selection of music and finally high-profile guest-speakers, all combining to show off the City, Guildhall, and the Guild at their very best.

### Carol Service at the Tower of London

**Wednesday 20 December • 6.30 pm – 8.30 pm**

**Dress: Suit**

The Guild is privileged once again to have been given permission to hold its annual Carol Service in the beautiful Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula, the parish church of the Tower of London, which is a Royal Chapel and a 'Royal Peculiar', directly under the jurisdiction of our Sovereign. The Service will be led by the Royal Chapel's own magnificent choir. It will be a family occasion, to which all are welcome. Refreshments will be served in the chapel after the service.

### Reception & Dinner – Furniture Makers' Hall

**Wednesday 24 January • 7.00 pm – 10.30 pm**

**Dress: Black Tie**

The Master has decided to start the new year with a reception and dinner in the Furniture Makers' Hall. Tucked away behind London Wall in Austin Friars, this intimate venue gives the atmosphere of a private dinner party. Built in 1882, Furniture Makers' Hall has many of the original Victorian features including an ornate oak staircase running through the centre of the building. Members will gather for a reception in the main hallway before sitting down to dine in the David Burbidge Room. As it is the Guild's first time in this unique venue, the Master has also invited the Master of the Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers to join us and inform us of the Company's history, its works, and their home.

### Visit & Supper – Dennis Severs' House

**Wednesday 31 January • 4.45 pm – 9.00 pm**

**Dress: Jacket & Tie**

The Master's interest in social history is encapsulated in this fascinating visit to Dennis Severs' House in Spitalfields. Saved from the destruction of development, this Georgian town house, which still retains its original features including a medieval cellar, is a journey through London in one building. With exclusive access, our journey will begin with an introductory talk by the curator before each group explores the silent museum to discover its secrets and identify the social clues. After our journey, Guild Members will retire to the King's Stores, a short walk away, to enjoy a hearty supper in the private dining room. Access to the house is limited and so there will be four start times of 5.00 pm, 5.20 pm, 5.40 pm and 6.10 pm.



### Reception & Dinner – House of Lords

**Friday 09 February • 6.30 pm – 10.00 pm**

**Dress: Black Tie**

Once again, the Guild is honoured and privileged to be able to hold a dinner in the House of Lords. Those who wish to do so may go on the 'Line of Route' guided tours of the Palace of Westminster, starting at 6.30 pm. Thereafter those not going on a tour will meet up with the others in the Peers' Guest Room for a pre-dinner reception, starting at 7.15 pm. Dinner will be held in the Peers' Dining Room.

### Visit to the Royal Courts of Justice & Lunch in Middle Temple

**Wednesday 21 February • 11.00 am – 2.30 pm**

**Dress: Suit**

Due to popular demand, The Master has decided to repeat this hugely popular private tour of the Royal Courts of Justice. The building is a marvel of Gothic Revival architecture in England intended to act as a cathedral to justice. Opened by Queen Victoria in December 1882, it is home to the Court of Appeal and the High Court of Justice of England and Wales. Guild Members will enjoy a 90-minute tour by expert guides visiting a courtroom and learning something of the wide variety of work that is done in the building and of the people who carry it out. (Please note that the tour includes some walking and a flight of

stairs.) After the tour members and their guests will make the short walk across the road to the Middle Temple, where we will join members of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple in the Great Hall for a sustaining three-course lunch with wine.

### Reception & Dinner – Vintners' Hall

**Thursday 01 March • 6.30 pm – 10.30 pm**

**Dress: Black Tie**

For his final dinner, The Master has selected the grand surroundings of Vintners' Hall with the theme for his final reception and dinner being the 60th Anniversary of the last Debutantes' Ball. The Master will welcome Guild members at the entrance to the Drawing Room. Taking full advantage of the elegance and charm of the hall, members and their guests will enjoy a sparkling wine reception followed by a traditional three-course dinner in the Livery Hall, before The Master and a guest speaker bring the evening to a close.

Applications for events received after the Ticket Allocation Date will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. Places are often available right up to the event itself, so please do not hesitate to apply for tickets after the Ticket Allocation Date. The availability of places after the Ticket Allocation Date can be checked by contacting the Guild Office.

## Notices

### COURT MEETINGS 2017-2018

**Tallow Chandlers' Hall  
(unless otherwise notified)**

**4.30 pm for 5 pm for Court Members**

**5.30 pm for 5.45 pm (approximately)**

**for joining Members**

**Ends by 6.30 pm**

**Dress: for Gentlemen – Suit;  
for Ladies – Day Dress or Suit**

The meetings of the Court of Assistants for the forthcoming year are to be held on the following dates:

**Wednesday 12th April 2017**

**Wednesday 28th June 2017**

**Wednesday 27th September 2017**

**Wednesday 15th November 2017**

**Wednesday 24th January 2018**

Applications for Guild Membership are presented for consideration at the first Court meeting after they have been received, and every applicant is advised of the outcome within a week of the meeting at which their application was considered. Thereafter, new members are invited to attend a Joining and Welcoming Ceremony, during which they are presented with their Warrant of Membership and they sign the Register of Members of the Guild. This usually takes place at the next Court Meeting. If, however, this is not convenient, the Clerk will seek to agree a mutually convenient date for the new member to attend.

*New members may apply to attend functions from receipt of confirmation of membership, and need not wait until after they have attended a Joining and Welcoming Ceremony.*

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR 2018

**Tallow Chandlers' Hall  
at 5 pm**

**Wednesday 14th March 2018**

**Dress for Gentlemen: Suit**

**Dress for Ladies: Day Dress or Suit**

ADVANCED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London will be held at Tallow Chandler's Hall, 4 Dowgate Hill, in the City of London, on Wednesday 14th day of March 2018 at 5.00 pm.

In view of the capacity of the Hall, this meeting is restricted to Members of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London. The business of the meeting will be to receive the Report of the Court of Assistants for 2017, together with the Guild Accounts for the year to 31st July 2017. This will be followed by the installation of the Master, and Wardens for the ensuing year. A copy of the Directors' Report and Financial Statements for the Year ending 31st July 2017 with the formal agenda will be sent in February 2018 to all members of the Guild who have paid their membership subscriptions by the time of dispatch.

By order of the Court of Assistants  
Christine Cook, Clerk of the Guild  
The Guild of Freemen

Rooms 78/79, 65 London Wall, LONDON EC2M 5TU

# The Guild Welcomes New Members 2016

## January

Mr Neil Cameron Bell  
Ms Soheila Benlevi  
Mr Thomas Francis Browne, MB FRCS MCh  
Mr Edward Joseph Galgano, CPA  
Mr George Lambert, HNC TQM  
Mr Roger Philip Marchant, BSc  
Dame Esther Rantzen, DBE Hon Fellow  
Somerville  
Mr John Reginald Humphrey David Taylor-  
Harding, MEd MA BEd Cert PhysEd  
Mrs Patricia Watts

## March

Dr Martin Robert Allen, PhD DLitt FSA  
Mr Jack William James Armitstead  
Mr Davinder Singh Chowdhury, JP MBA  
Mrs Elaine Irene Clack  
Miss Linda Mary Green  
Mr James Harkness  
Mr John Frederick Hudson, BA(Hons)  
Mr Robert Stirling Pryor  
Mr James Simon Thomas, BEng(Hons)

## April

Mrs Doreen Green  
Mr Andrew Stephen Leigh  
Mr Clifford Norman Russell, BSc(Hons)  
MBA Chartered Eng

Dr Gerald Edmund Sacks MB UB MRCGP  
Mrs Atlanta Jane Kenyon Wardell-  
Yerburgh, BA MA HGDip

## June

Mr Massimo Antoci  
Mr Colin Michael Brooks  
Mr Robert Charles Cousins  
Mr Sergei Cristo, BA(Hons) MCSI IMC  
Mr Jonathan Stephen Fenton-Vince  
Miss Virginia Lynn Hopson  
Mr Alan Gerald Humphries, BA  
Mr Kenneth Michael Palen  
Mrs Ita Mary Sacks  
Mr Joseph Sudhakar, MBBS FRCS FRCS  
(Trauma & Orth)  
Mr William George Thomas, CEng FEI  
FCIBSE FRSPH  
Mr Stuart Andrew Wilson, IDTA

## August

Mr Jamie John Bonnyman  
Mr Philip Hatch Chambers  
Mr Neil Fullbrook  
Mr Mark Gossington, CHFC SI MIO D  
Mr Anthony John William Hall  
Mr John Nigel Major McLean, OBE FCA  
Mr Andrew Roy Miles, CMILT  
Mrs Rebecca Ann Hallman Nacol, BBA

Mr Stephen Harvey Nacol, BBA  
Mrs Patricia Mary Olga Newman  
Mr Raffaele Petrone  
Mr Michael Stephen Withers

## September

Mr Edward David Deacon  
Mrs Patricia May Deacon  
Mr Peter Elston Germain, LLB(Lond)Hons  
Mr David Fenton Ratcliffe  
Mrs Frances Margery Ratcliffe  
Mr David Michael Scott, MA FCA CTA  
Mr Paul Graham Taylor  
Mr Leonard Adrian Wardle

## November

Mr Christopher James Edward Bowyer  
Dr Martin Collins, PhD MSc DO  
Mr Michael Richard Craft  
Mr Peter Simon Ellis, MBBS MRCP(UK)  
DipLaw  
Mr Alan Peters  
Ms Benita Plax  
Ms Stephanie Ann Reeves, BA MSc  
Mr Peter John Rodd

## Acknowledgements

**Cover design:** Rex Johnson and the late George Gibbs

**Printers:** Berforts Limited. 01424 722733

**Photographs:** The Guild is indebted to its official photographer, Peter Holland, who covered most of the events. A selection of Peter's images is shown on the Guild's Website [www.guild-freemen-london.co.uk](http://www.guild-freemen-london.co.uk). Further information and copies from the full range can be obtained from:

**PE Holland Photographic Services**  
4 School Lane, Hampton Wick, Kingston, Surrey KT1 4DF  
020 8973 0844 or 07962 4731164

The Guild wishes to credit additional photography to:

The Corporation of London (pages 2 & 27), Belinda Keun (pages 12 & 13), David Tyrwhitt-Drake (pages 20 & 21) and Tony Lofts (pages 35 & 36).

The Guild acknowledges the Corporation of London as the source for the background information on The Patron and The Lord Mayors Appeal for 2017 (page 2).

## Disclaimer

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that information appearing in this issue of 'The Freeman' is correct at the time of going to press, the Guild cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions. The opinions expressed in reports and articles in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the Guild.

## From the Honorary Editor

Stephen Osborne

Thank you to all of those who undertook the writing of reports on Guild events. I hope no one will be offended if the final version is not, for editorial reasons, exactly as you wrote or I have had to omit whole sections. As you will see, space is limited and there must be a balance between words and photographs. I hope I have the balance right.

I am also grateful to those who provided the written contributions and photographs found elsewhere in the journal. I am sure you will find these interesting, particularly those from young people whom the Guild has been able to assist with travel grants.

Thank you to Elizabeth Thornborough and her team of event reporters. This year they were Chris Hayward, David Wilson, Judy and Stephen Haylock, Tony Woodhead, Ann-Marie Jefferys, John Pond, John Smail, Joe Herzberg, Poppy Cooksey, Adrian Waddingham, Rita Lewis, Gordon Gentry, Anne Holden, Dorothy Saul-Pooley, Lisa Rutter, Colvin Rae, David Tyrwhitt-Drake, John Garbutt, Basil Preuveneers and Elizabeth Thornborough.

Once again, thank you to Elizabeth Thornborough, Michael Keun and Judith Westall for all their guidance and advice in producing this edition of 'The Freeman'. This year, a special thank you to Elizabeth Thornborough, Dorothy Saul-Pooley, Christine Cook and Judith Westall for their proof reading skills.





# Masters of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London

## Centenary Master 2008-2009

### HRH The Princess Royal

Cuthbert Wilkinson, Esq., CC	1909	1964	Frederick Utting, Esq., CC
Brodie Self, Esq.	1910	1965	Sir Harold Webbe, CBE DL
Sir Thomas Brooke-Hitchins, CC	1911		Frederick Utting, Esq., CC (from June)
Emile Chatrian, Esq.	1912	1966	Roy Stuart, Esq.
Alderman George Briggs	1913	1967	Douglas Dunstan, Esq.
Elliot Sparks, Esq., CC	1914	1968	Albert Chandler, Esq.
H S A Foy, Esq., CC	1915	1969	C H F Fairweather, Esq., JP CC
J R Brough, Esq., Deputy	1916	1970	Sir Stanley Morton
Alfred Lockett, Esq.	1917	1971	Colin Dyer, Esq., Deputy
W I Trice, Esq.	1918	1972	The Rt. Hon Lord Crook, JP
Henry Harrill, Esq.	1919	1973	Stanley Willcox, Esq.
Sir Edward Wilshaw, KCMG DL JP	1920	1974	Arthur Hodgkinson, Esq., JP
Francis Sully, Esq.	1921	1975	Charles Coward, Esq., JP, Deputy
T W Hewitt, Esq., CC	1922	1976	Douglas Dunstan, Esq.
Sir Lulham Pound, Bt JP	1923	1977	Harold Gould, Esq., OBE JP
Sir Gervais Rentoul, KC MP	1924	1978	Kenneth Honey, Esq.
Major R Rigg, OBE TD JP	1925	1979	Anthony Grant, Esq., MP
Colonel Vickers Dunfee, CBE JP Deputy	1926	1980	Dr P L Hogg
Oscar Berry, Esq., CC	1927	1981	John Harvey, Esq.
Charles Suffield, Esq.	1928	1982	Henry Duckworth, Esq., JP, Deputy
Sir Richard Sennett, CC	1929	1983	David Eldridge, Esq.
C G Wittich, Esq.	1930	1984	Alderman Sir Peter Gadsden, GBE AC JP (Lord Mayor 1979-80)
The Rt. Hon Sir Herbert Nield, KC JP MP	1931		
Lt Col Sir Hugh Turnbull, KCVO KBE JP	1932	1985	Bernard Morgan, Esq., CBE JP, Deputy
Holton Sturges, Esq., CC	1933	1986	Wimburn Horlock, Esq., Deputy
H I Eldridge, Esq.	1934	1987	General Sir Peter Whiteley, GCB OBE DL
Capt M Campbell-Johnston, MP	1935	1988	Donald du Parc Braham, Esq.
Major Francis Millman, OBE	1936	1989	Clifford Newbold, Esq.
Ernest Watts, Esq., CC	1937	1990	Dr John Breen
John Joy, Esq., JP CC	1938	1991	Rex Johnson, Esq.
Capt Francis Read	1939	1992	Derek Kemp, Esq., CC
T I McManis, Esq., JP CC	1940	1993	Sir Clifford Chetwood
James Gibauld, Esq.	1941	1994	Sir Colin Cole, KCB KCVO TD CC
Arthur Howard, Esq.	1942	1995	Alderman Clive Martin, OBE TD DL (Lord Mayor 1999-2000)
Walter Rose, Esq., MBE CC	1943		
Frederick Youldon, Esq., Deputy	1944	1996	Vice Admiral Sir Peter Buchanan, KBE
Arthur Harris, Esq.	1945	1997	Sir Anthony Grant
February to July: George Frizell, Esq.	1946	1998	Norman Munday, Esq.
July to end of year: Arthur Harris, Esq.		1999	Terry Nemko, Esq., JP
The Rt. Hon Sir William Jordan, KCMG PC	1947	2000	Joseph Byllam-Barnes, Esq., CC
Henry Bound, Esq., CC	1948	2001	David Irving, Esq.
Alderman Sir Frank Alexander, Bt (Lord Mayor 1944-45)	1949	2002	The Lady Moorea Black, MBE JP
John Crighton, Esq.	1950	2003	Raymond Holl, Esq., MBE
Alderman Sir Frederick Tidbury-Beer	1951	2004	Alderman Richard Agutter, JP
Major B W Shilson, OBE	1952	2005	Leslie Lewis, Esq.
Captain Julien Bennett, DL	1953	2006	Mrs Barbara Newman, CBE CC
Lt Col C C Surtees-Shill, CC	1954	2007	Gordon Gentry, Esq.
H J E Stinson, Esq., MC, Deputy	1955	2008	Mrs Pauline Halliday, OBE, Deputy
Major Stanley Wells, MBE	1956	2009	Sir Gavyn Arthur (Lord Mayor 2002-03)
Sir Denis Truscott, GBE TD (Lord Mayor 1957-58)	1957	2010	Anthony Woodhead, Esq., CBE
Percy Lovely, Esq., Deputy	1958	2011	Don Lunn, Esq.
Sir David Floyd Ewin, OBE MVO, Deputy	1959	2012	Mrs Anne Holden
Sir Sidney Fox, CC	1960	2013	Anthony B Fleming, Esq.
Charles De Ryck, Esq.	1961	2014	Dr John Smail JP
Stanley Phillips, Esq.	1962	2015	Lady Cooksey, OBE DL
Ronald Ward	1963	2016	Alderman Sir David Wootton
		2017	Peter R Allcard, Esq.

## Clerks

Bernard Smythe, Esq.	1909-1914	1938-1952	W J Cripps, Esq.
W N Rodgers, Esq.	1914-1917	1952-1987	David Reid, Esq.
J F W Hayns, Esq.	1917-1920	1987-2001	Colonel Derek Ivy
John Baron Oxenham, Esq.	1920-1938	2001-2017	Brigadier Michael Keun
		2017-	Mrs Christine Cook

# The Guild of Freemen of the City of London



The Freedom of the City of London was, in earliest times, an essential prerequisite for all who wished to carry on business and prosper in trade within the Square Mile. The privileges attaching to the Freedom were therefore eagerly sought, while the duties and obligations of Freemen were faithfully observed.

Not only did citizens practising specific crafts and trades tend to gather together in their own areas of the City, but they developed their own Guilds and Livery Companies founded on the triple bases of commerce, benevolence, and religion. They provided mutual aid and protection for their members, caring for the old and infirm, burying their dead, helping the widows, bringing up the orphans. Through apprenticeship schemes, product control and in other ways, they ensured qualitative standards that enhanced their own reputations and protected the interests of their customers.

The involvement of Freemen in the development of London's government can be traced back to the Saxon folkmoot and to the 'great concourse' of the early Norman kings. As London grew, its population, trade and craft industries expanded to such an extent that it was no longer possible for all Freemen to be directly involved in determining the evolving structure of local government. The direct involvement of Freemen in the government of London thus gave way to indirect involvement through the Masters and Wardens of their Guilds and Livery Companies.

It remains necessary to this day for Liverymen to be Freemen of the City and it is the Liverymen who annually elect the Sheriffs and who participate in the election of the Lord Mayor. Electoral law has changed considerably over the years and all who reside in the City aged 18 or over can now vote in national and local elections if they are not subject to any legal disability.

The proud history of the City of London is such that large numbers of men and women rightly continue to regard it as a privilege to be admitted to the Freedom; further, the charitable involvements of Freemen have been maintained in many ways by a great variety of City institutions.

Amid all the processes of change, it was decided during the nineteenth century to turn back the pages of history so that people could once again seek the Freedom of the City without first having to be Liverymen. This development led in 1908 to the formation of the Guild of Freemen so that Freemen of the City of London could associate together without necessarily having to seek membership of a Livery Company. Over the years, many Liverymen have also chosen to join the Guild, so that it is today uniquely representative of all who enjoy the Freedom of the City.

It has become traditional for each Lord Mayor to honour the Guild by becoming its Patron during his or her year of office, and one of the major events of its social year is the Banquet that the Guild is privileged to hold at Guildhall just before Christmas. The many links between the City and Parliament are marked by dinners held in the Palace of Westminster. An annual service is held in the church of St Lawrence Jewry next Guildhall, and Guild Members have the opportunity of participating in a variety of social and educational functions, which include events held in the historic halls of City Livery Companies.

True to the earliest traditions associated with the Freedom, the Guild maintains and administers a Charity, which originally was established to assist members in distressed circumstances as well as widows and children of deceased members. In addition, every year, the Trustees of the Guild's Charity consider applications from other charities, individuals and organisations which merit the Guild's support.

The Freedom of the City of London is not the prerogative of men alone. A Royal Commission was set up in 1880, known as the City of London Livery Companies Commission. Its Report referred to the fact that nearly all the ancient returns of the Livery Companies bore references to Sisters, from which it inferred that women were equally eligible for membership as were men. Today, irrespective of nationality, all men and women who have received the Freedom of the City of London are eligible to apply for membership of the Guild of Freemen.

Further information concerning membership of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London can be obtained by writing to the Clerk of the Guild at: Guild of Freemen, Rooms 78/79, 65 London Wall, LONDON EC2M 5TU, telephone 020 7239 9016 or by e-mail: [clerk@guild-freemen-london.co.uk](mailto:clerk@guild-freemen-london.co.uk).