

# THE FREEMAN



## OFFICIAL JOURNAL AND PROGRAMME

of the  
GUILD OF FREEMEN OF THE CITY OF LONDON

The Master 2017-2018  
PETER R ALLCARD, Esq.

The Master 2018-2019  
JOHN BARBER, Esq., DL MRICS FAISI FGIS

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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 Charles Bowman

## **Honorary Member of the Guild**

His Majesty King Michael I of Romania (d. 5th December 2017)



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Peter Allcard, Esq.

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**Junior Warden:** Sheriff Neil Redcliffe, JP; **Under Warden:** Alderman John Garbutt, JP

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*The Master, Wardens, Past Masters and Court Assistants are all directors of the company*

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## **The Guild of Freeman of the City of London**

*A company Limited by Guarantee*

*Registered office 4 Dowgate Hill, London EC4 2SH*

*Company No. 00109150*

### **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 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'**

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### *The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Alderman Charles Bowman*

Alderman Charles Bowman is the 690th Lord Mayor. He is a senior partner with PwC and Alderman of Lime Street Ward and served as Aldermanic Sheriff of the City of London in 2015-16.

Charles was born in Essex in 1961, educated at Uppingham School (where he is a member of the school's Foundation Board) and graduated from Bristol University with a degree in Architecture. He has worked internationally, learning Spanish following a secondment to Barcelona. His family have historical ties with Sri Lanka and his father worked extensively in Canada.

Charles has served on the Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England & Wales, is a former Chairman of



their Audit and Assurance Faculty and their Assurance Panel. He is the current Chairman of the Audit Quality Forum and sits on the Advisory Panel of The Prince of Wales' Accounting for Sustainability Project.

Charles was elected as the Alderman of the Ward of Lime Street in May 2013 and has served on several committees of the City of London Corporation including Policy & Resources, Finance, Audit & Risk and Markets. He was also co-Chairman of The City's Business – with a focus on youth employability.

Charles is a member of the Court of the Worshipful Company of Grocers and a liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Chartered Accountants of England & Wales. He is a Magistrate, a governor of the Mossbourne Primary Academy, Hackney, Ambassador for the Samaritans, Trustee of the Lord Mayor's Appeal and Advisor to The Mansion House Scholarship Scheme. His mayoral theme will focus on the 'Business of Trust'.

He is married to Samantha, a veterinary surgeon and liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Woolmen. They have two daughters, Grace and Charlotte and live in Suffolk. His other interests include golf, tennis, art and architecture and the countryside.

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### *The Lord Mayor's Appeal*

#### *A Better City for All*

The world, the United Kingdom and our City are changing fast, which is having a direct impact on the challenges facing society, our communities, and our City. Following a detailed research project with over 200 organisations, charities, experts and thought leaders, some critical issues have been identified.

The work of the Lord Mayor's Appeal will benefit two communities, City employees and their family and friends, as well as those who live and work in our neighbouring communities with the one aim to create: A Better City for All – helping one million people thrive. The new multiyear Appeal will work on four key pillars to build a City that is Inclusive, Healthy, Skilled and Fair.

A ground-breaking programme will be delivered, over three years, with three new charity partners: Place2Be, OnSide



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APPEAL  
CHARITY



**A Better  
City for All**



Youth Zones and Samaritans. The work with existing initiatives, Power of Diversity, This is Me and City Giving Day will also continue to be developed.

Full details of the appeal and the supported charities can be found on the Lord Mayor's Appeal website.



## **Peter Allcard**

*The Master of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London 2017-18*

The great privilege of being installed as the Master of the Guild of Freemen coincided with the retirement of our long standing and much respected Clerk, Brigadier Michael Keun, and heralded the start of exciting times for the Guild, and I felt very honoured to be elected to be part of this new era.

The first event in our calendar was our Annual Service, conducted, as usual, by The Revd. Canon David Parrott, with the sermon being delivered by our Honorary Chaplain, The Very Revd. Dr David Ison. It was also supported by the Choir from King Edward's School Witley. This well attended event was immediately followed by dinner at Cutlers' Hall where we were delighted to welcome Richard Regan, a Past Master Cutler, former Sheriff, Chief Commoner and the Prime Warden of my own Livery, The Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths.

These two events were unusual in that both took place without a Clerk, but were organised, seamlessly, by our assistant Judith Westall. We were also pleased to welcome Christine Cook, our new Clerk Elect, who joined us for the evening to acquire a little flavour of things to come.

One of the next occasions was a visit to Brick Lane Music Hall. Often described as one of London's hidden gems, this was without doubt one of the most amusing and entertaining evenings of the year and is becoming a regular feature of our calendar. Greatly enjoyed by all!

I was privileged to enjoy some wonderful evenings as a guest of The Royal Society of St George; The Information Technologists; The City Livery Club; The United Wards' Club and the Guild of Young Freemen: along with visits to the Coventry Guild, the Chester Guild and The Cutlers' Feast in my home town of Sheffield. I extend my sincere thanks to Liz Thornborough and John Smail who represented me, respectively, at York and Glasgow this year.

The highlight of our year was, of course, the Annual Banquet held at Guildhall on 11th December.

We were delighted to welcome as chief guests and speakers, our own Immediate Past Master, Alderman Sir David Wootton as Lord Mayor Locum Tenens; Sir David Brewer,



past Lord Mayor and former Lord Lieutenant of Greater London, and Andrew Coombe, the Lord Lieutenant of South Yorkshire. It was a great privilege to have been so well supported by Guild Members, guests, and many friends from around my home town of Sheffield.

I will also have special memories of the two Guild holidays, the first of which was in Derbyshire where a surprising number of members braved one hundred slippery stone steps to the underground river and boat ride to the Speedwell Cavern

and its lake. This was followed by a visit to the Peak Cavern (known locally by a much ruder name) and which entailed passing through several passageways in a crouched position. I did overhear several remarks to the effect that "that was an interesting experience, I am glad that I did it: but never again!".

Visits to Chatsworth House, Haddon Hall, Hardwick Hall, and Cutlers' Hall, Sheffield made for a fascinating and memorable weekend in such beautiful surroundings.

Our second trip was to the City of Budapest which proved a relaxing but fascinating few days in this lovely city; this was made even more enjoyable by the camaraderie of the group.

The Lord Mayor's Show was also another special event where I joined the Presidents of The United Wards' Club, The City Livery Club, and the Chairman of the Royal Society of St George (City of London Branch), in one of Her Majesty's landaus. During the swearing in of the new Lord Mayor at the Royal Courts of Justice, the five senior Judges wonderfully entertained us all. The evening concluded on HQS Wellington where we enjoyed the best view of the traditional firework display over the Thames in the company of the new Lord Mayor.

My final dinner in the beautiful surroundings of Vintners' Hall was another very memorable occasion, not least for the huge snow fall which prevented several guests from attending, but also for the majority who braved the storm to join us. Court member, and past Sheriff, Adrian Waddingham, was our guest for the evening and he entertained us with an amusing speech.

Finally, I must record a special thanks to both Christine and Judith for giving me the opportunity to enjoy every event.

# Annual General Meeting

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## 107th Annual General Meeting

Tallow Chandlers' Hall

Wednesday 15th March 2017

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, Alderman Sir David Wootton, opened the Guild's 107th 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 106th 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 reflected on his 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 he had been pleased to welcome The Lord Mayor.

The Master then reviewed other highlights in his programme, including the three fabulous Guild holidays to Belgium, Northern Ireland, and Barcelona. The lunch at the Clink Restaurant, HM Prison Brixton, provided an opportunity for Guild Members to learn about the valuable qualifications, training, and work experience available to men serving prison sentences in Brixton. Tower Bridge provided an iconic setting for the Guild's fund-raising dinner linked to the Red Cross's annual 'Jailed and Bailed' event. The Master's passions and interests were reflected in visits to Henley, Temple Island, and the Leander Club; his alma mater Jesus College Cambridge, where he is an Honorary Fellow; the Athenaeum and lunch, where he is a member of this most distinguished of London Pall Mall clubs. The Guild's close links with the Government were maintained by including a tour and a dinner in the House of Lords.

A visit to Battle to commemorate the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings included a guided tour of the battlefield and the remains of Battle Abbey. The final dinner, to celebrate The Master's legal qualifications and career, was held in the banqueting hall of Gray's Inn.

Next, the Honorary Treasurer reported that the Guild's accounts for the year to 31st July 2016 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 £7,000 – in round figures from £495,000 to £502,000. 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, 49 grants and awards (£38,860) 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 a little over £33,000, and at 31st July 2016 they were standing at £838,351.

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 2017. The recommendation was approved unanimously.

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



**Presentations** - The Master then presented an Illuminated Address to the Immediate Past Master, Alderman Sir David Wootton, congratulated him on a successful year, invested him with the Immediate Past Master's badge and presented him with his own Past Master's badge. Alderman Sir David Wootton thanked the Master for his kind words and the presentations. As his final duty, the Immediate Past Master, Alderman Sir David Wootton, presented The Master's Lady's brooch to Pearl Allcard and proffered his 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**  
HOTELS & RESORTS



## Events of 2017-18

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

*Thursday 27th April*

As is customary the Guild Annual Service was held in the early evening at the Guild Church of St Lawrence Jewry next Guildhall. Once the congregation was seated the Guild Vicar the Revd. Canon David Parrott opened the service by welcoming us all. Accompanied by the Church organist Ms Catherine Ennis and the Choir of King Edward's School, Witley conducted by their Director of Music, Mr Stasio Sliwka, we sang 'He who would valiant be'.



Our Honorary Chaplain The Very Revd. Dr David Ison, Dean of St Paul's, gave 'The Bidding'. Who could not be stirred when the choir sang the first Anthem before Mrs Elizabeth Thornborough,

Renter Warden read the first lesson from Exodus. After the Magnificat the Master, Peter Allcard, read the second lesson from Colossians and we then sang the wonderful 'Dear Lord and Father of Mankind'. The Guild Vicar led us in prayer following which we sang 'Praise my soul, the King of Heaven', and then the Honorary Chaplain gave a thought provoking sermon.

The service continued with another Anthem, the Act of Dedication and during the hymn 'Lead us heavenly Father, lead us' a collection was taken for St Lawrence Jewry. The Honorary Chaplain brought the service to a close with the



Blessing before we all stood to sing 'The National Anthem'. The Clergy, Master, Wardens and Court Assistants then processed out ready to greet Guild Members and guests before we all walked to Cutlers' Hall for supper. It was not long before we arrived at the Hall where we enjoyed a sparkling

Reception. The Cutlers' Company is one of the most ancient of the City of London Livery Companies having received its Royal Charter in 1416. Before entering the hall, we could see, on the outside wall, the finely carved terracotta frieze showing cutlers working at their craft. During the reception the Master thanked the Headmaster of King Edward's School, Witley, Mr John Attwater, for giving permission to the Director of Music and the Choir to sing at our Service. He then presented him with a cheque for the school for which the Headmaster was very grateful.



A good supper followed in the Livery Hall, famous for its Victorian Hammer Beam roof. Following the Loving Cup Ceremony, the Master introduced his guest speaker, Deputy Richard Regan OBE a prominent member of the City of London Corporation and well-known City figure. Deputy Regan is currently the Prime Warden of the Blacksmiths' Company, The Master's Mother Company. He is also a Past Master of the Cutlers' Company and held office as Non-Aldermanic Sheriff of the City of London in 2006.

At the end of his most interesting speech the Master thanked his principal guest and continued by thanking those involved in organising the evening and The Cook & The Butler for the catering. He then introduced Mrs Christine Cook, the



new Clerk to the Guild, explaining that she would take office on 2nd May 2017, in our new offices at 65 London Wall. Finally, the Master thanked all other guests and the Guild Members for attending and wished everyone a safe journey home.



### *The Royal College of Surgeons and Lunch*

*Wednesday 17th May*

London has a rich history of medical and scientific research. The visit to the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, which houses the unique collection of John Hunter, the 18th Century pioneer of medical scientific research, was well supported by Guild Members.



The Royal College of Surgeons is a professional membership organisation and registered charity, which exists to advance patient care by helping to improve skills, knowledge, research, policy, and guidance to those involved in surgery.



The Company of Barber-Surgeons was established in 1540, the Company was split at the request of the surgeons in 1745. In 1796 the government bought the Museum and collection of the late surgeon and scientist John Hunter and gave custody of it to the Company of Surgeons.

The College is housed in a magnificent, elegant building, set up around 1800 and

has a unique heritage and collection. We assembled for a self-guided tour of the Hunterian Museum and Surgeon's Library, which opened to the public in 1963. Unbeknown to us and just three days after our visit, this facility was to close on 20th May for a major ninety-million-pound redevelopment of the building with all the collections being removed from the site.

We now tend to take medical research as advanced technology, carried out in highly specialised facilities, so it



was a timely reminder that not so long ago these exhibits were the foundation of modern surgery. Some of the exhibits we viewed were not for the squeamish; this, however, did not seem to put Guild Members and guests off their lunch! We were joined at lunch by Stephen Cannon MBE, Vice President of the Royal College, who spoke to us about the history and role of the College.

The Master, Peter Allcard, responded on behalf of The Guild expressing appreciation to the Royal College of Surgeons for making us so welcome.





## Events of 2017-18

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### *Brick Lane Music Hall Lunch and Show*

*Wednesday 31st May*

More than seventy members enjoyed an afternoon at the fabulous Brick Lane Music Hall, which was celebrating its 25th Anniversary. Surrounded by bunting, fairy lights and a shrine to Danny La Rue we enjoyed a three-course lunch with wine followed by a fantastic and varied show admirably performed by the cast.

There was a traditional music hall montage, complete with Pearly Kings and Queens and a medley of songs performed in tribute to some of the artists who have supported Brick Lane Music Hall during its twenty-five-year history. A 'rock n roll' tribute and a homage to James Bond 007 brought the show up to date, followed by a hilarious comedy sketch performed by Founder and Master of Ceremonies Vincent Hayes MBE and Paul James.

A twelve days of Christmas finale show-cased each member of the cast with Vincent playing the Fairy. We heard about the excellent outreach work that Vincent and his team do with the elderly and local community in the Borough of Newham.

Everyone left with smiles on their faces, especially The Master's Lady, Pearl Allcard, who won a raffle prize. We will be back!





### HQS Wellington Summer Gala

Thursday 15th June

HQS Wellington, the ideal venue for a perfect summer evening, is the Livery Hall for the Honourable Company of Master Mariners and has stunning views from its Quarter Deck across the river to the London Eye, the Southbank and down to the City. The Master, Peter Allcard, and his wife Pearl greeted Guild Members and their guests to a sparkling wine reception on the Quarter Deck. During the reception the Clerk of the HCMM, Commodore Angus Menzies RN, gave a short talk on the ship's history.

We then proceeded below decks to the Court Room, originally the ship's engine room, but now a magnificent dining hall. Following grace by Past Master Dr John Smail, we were served a delicious three course meal provided by The Cook & The Butler and accompanied by good wines.

After the traditional toasts and the Ceremony of the Loving Cup the Master introduced us to our Guest Speaker, Captain Martin Reed, Master of the HCMM.



He told us that the Company was formed in 1926 and was made a Livery Company of the City of London in 1932 making it the first new Livery since 1746. Other Livery companies are entitled to the style 'Worshipful' but the

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Master Mariners are styled 'Honourable', King George V having granted them the honour in 1928. HQS Wellington was decommissioned in 1947 when the Company purchased it and carried out conversions to become their floating Livery Hall from 1948. It underwent a major refurbishment in 1991.

The Master thanked him for his excellent talk and presented him with a Centenary Halcyon Days Box and concluded the evening by wishing everyone a safe journey home.





# Events of 2017-18

## *Skinners' Hall Reception and Dinner*

*Wednesday 28th June*

One of the delights of a dinner at Skinners' Hall is the extremely short distance of barely 100 yards between Tallow Chandlers where the Court meetings of the Guild take place and the quaintly numbered 8½ Dowgate Hill address denoting Skinners.

The Skinners' Company is one of the 'Great Twelve' livery companies of London. It developed from the medieval trade Guild of Furriers and was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1327. Today it is a major not-for-profit organisation involved in running schools, sheltered housing and a grants programme for individuals, educational institutions, and a wide range of small organisations throughout the United Kingdom.

Skinners' Hall is Grade I listed, and a unique scheduled ancient monument. It has been home to the Skinners' Company for over 700 years. There are many interesting architectural features to attract the visitor and in Summer, one of the particularly charming assets is the roof garden where we were able to enjoy our pre-prandial drinks. Despite a somewhat inclement day, the evening was dry, and it was a relief to breathe the cool air before dinner.



The many wonderful reception rooms boast multiple artefacts too numerous to list, but provide a backdrop steeped in history and a plethora of interesting stories. The Banqueting Hall dates to 1670 having been rebuilt after the Great Fire and hosts a series of interesting paintings depicting aspects of the Company's history. Unfortunately, the stained-glass windows that graced this elegant hall were destroyed during the bombing raids of the Second World War.

This graceful hall hosted our excited group where we gathered to enjoy a marvellous dinner, which commenced with a taste adventure of Stuffed Courgette Flowers, containing Devilled Dorset Crab Mousseline accompanied by baby leaves and homemade artisan breads. This was washed down with a delicious Sauvignon Blanc from Bergerac.

For the carnivores, Seared Angus Beef fillet followed, with an inspired creation of tomato, orange, olives and watercress, star anise jus and crushed new potatoes with spinach.



The Chateau La Baronne Corbieres was pronounced superb! (It should be admitted that these comments are second hand, as being a non-meat eater who does not drink red wine, your reporter has had to rely on the remarks of dinner companions.) The finishing touch was the Pineapple and Black Pepper Upside Down Cake with Coconut Sorbet. Port was to



follow, then the Loyal Toast and the Loving Cup. Coffee and handmade chocolates completed our culinary delights.

More was to follow in the form of food for thought as we were introduced by our Master to our guest speaker, the present Master of the Guild of Young Freemen. Eloquent, polished in delivery, suave and modest, we were impressed and entertained by James Bromiley-Davis, whose poise and depth of knowledge belied his youth. He is certainly someone to watch for in the future, displaying enormous potential and his thought-provoking address stirred us from our post-prandial complacency to consider the important issues of the day.

Emerging into the cool evening to disperse for our trains and buses to all points of the compass, it was generally agreed that our evening had been most convivial and relaxed, surely epitomising that which is at the heart of our Guild?

### *Visit to Apsley House and Supper in The Caledonian Club*

*Wednesday 5th July*

Almost double the number of Members wanted to join this evening tour of Apsley House, but sadly our party had to be limited to fifty. Those lucky enough to join the Master gathered at 149 Piccadilly – better known as No. 1 London – on probably the hottest evening of the year.

The Keeper of the Wellington Collection, Josephine Oxley, greeted us warmly and thankfully allowed the gentlemen to remove their jackets.

Robert Adam designed this landmark house in the 17th Century, at a time when the surrounding area was undeveloped. Indeed, Park Lane was then but a farm track through Henry VIII's hunting park – now Hyde Park – and the house was one of a row of aristocratic houses on Old Piccadilly. No Intercontinental Hotel then.

In 1805 the house was purchased by Richard Wellesley, the elder brother of Arthur Wellesley, the 1st Duke of Wellington. However, by 1815 Richard's finances were strained and Arthur bought the House from him, and with the help of architect Benjamin Wyatt, set about extending and improving it. These changes included the addition of the huge Wellington Gallery on the west side, and the House was also covered in the delightful Bath stone that we see today.

In 1947, the 7th Duke gave the house and most of the contents to the nation, but the family do retain the use of an apartment in the building.



Wonderful though the House is, it is the contents that surprise the first-time visitor. Laid out on the enormous table in the Waterloo Gallery is part of a 400-piece gilded porcelain dinner service given to the 1st Duke by a grateful King Frederick William II of Prussia. The fabulous collection of paintings include works by Correggio, Velazquez, Goya, and Titian. Some of these came from a baggage train of Joseph Bonaparte, captured by the Duke after the victory at the Battle of Vitoria in the Peninsular War. The most interesting paintings are the contemporary portraits by Sir Thomas Lawrence of Wellington's generals, and Sir David Wilkie's tableau of a Waterloo Feast, which was held each year in the Waterloo Gallery on the anniversary of the battle.

We ate well too, if not of the same quantity, in the Morrison Room of the nearby Caledonian Club. If we get the chance for a repeat visit for those who missed out it would be well worthwhile.

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### *GSMD Gala Evening*

*Monday 10th July*

One of the most enjoyable events of the year is the Guild's annual visit to the Guildhall School of Music and Drama at The Barbican Centre. Members and guests enjoyed a sparkling reception and were entertained by a small ensemble of musicians in the second biggest conservatory in London, home to exotic fish and over two thousand species of tropical plants and trees.



This delightful start to the evening was followed by an enjoyable dinner with wine in the Garden Room, before we all moved to the

Silk Street Theatre. This year the Final Year Students gave their all in performing the comedy musical "Crazy For You", which charts the troubled love story of Bobby, son of a wealthy New York banking family and frustrated Broadway hoofer, and Polly, daughter of the proprietor of a failing theatre in Deadrock, Nevada.

Sent to close the theatre down, Bobby falls for Polly and, in the guise of a Hungarian impresario, decides to save the theatre by putting on a show.

The extraordinarily talented young actors delivered their performances like seasoned pros – they could all have held their own on a West End stage! After interval drinks we returned to the theatre in anticipation of the grand finale which was, of course, when the boy gets the girl. Altogether, a wonderful evening.



# Events of 2017-18

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## City Walks

*Tuesday 18th July and Wednesday 19th July*

Once again, we were blessed with glorious weather as we gathered at Temple Bar to meet our Guide Peter Tompkins who was, at the time, Master of the Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers. How lucky we were that Peter was able to fit our walks into his busy schedule.



This year the theme was Livery Halls on the North Side and we set off through Paternoster Square towards Stationers' Hall for the first stop on our route. Peter's knowledge and infectious enthusiasm knew no bounds as we found ourselves at Cutlers' Hall, Goldsmiths' Hall, Armourers' Hall, and others. The tour ended at Mercers' Hall, the premier Livery Company



and Mother Company of Dick Whittington, three times Master Mercer and four times Lord Mayor of London! The evening concluded with a relaxed and informal pub supper at Williamson's Tavern off Bow Lane, said to hold the oldest excise licence in the City, and originally a residence for the Lord Mayors of London.

Before supper the Master presented Peter with a cheque for £800, which those attending the event had kindly donated to the Lord Mayor's Appeal Fund. We look forward to next year's walk which Peter has kindly agreed to lead, the theme of which will be 'the Modern City'.



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Best wishes to  
The Guild of Freemen  
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### *Holiday in Derbyshire*

*Thursday 31st August to Sunday 3rd September*

It was on a lovely sunny day at the end of August that twenty-six Guild Members and their guests joined the Master and Pearl in Bakewell for a holiday in The Master's own 'back yard'. Some of us made our way by train from Scotland, Wales, and various parts of England, whilst others took the opportunity to have a road trip to the hotel.

We all gathered at the Rutland Arms for our first dinner and we took the opportunity to get to know each other over a drink in the bar before going into the private dining room where the Master welcomed us and hoped that we would all have an enjoyable holiday.

Our first full day saw us boarding the coach to take us to Chatsworth, the home of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire. It was a very full day, starting with a guided tour of the house which allowed us to admire the magnificent art and the grandeur of the fine rooms, as well as the smaller artefacts relating to the family. We were lucky to see a wonderful costume exhibition which highlighted five Centuries of Fashion at Chatsworth where the grand rooms of the house were dressed, with couture designer dresses, tiaras, and headdresses, christening and wedding gowns, coronation robes and 19th Century fancy dress, livery, and uniforms along with a wealth of ephemera. After lunch we were free to tour the Chatsworth Country Fair; some of us watched the events in the show ring or enjoyed the parade of vintage vehicles as they toured the grounds, whilst others went shopping!

That evening we dressed in our finest for the highlight dinner of the holiday – a Black Tie Dinner at Cutlers' Hall, Sheffield in the private dining room of the Master Cutler of Hallamshire. It is a truly magnificent building and we were treated to a guided tour conducted by the Master Cutler himself. The dinner was delicious and the Master's dining room is a beautifully intimate venue – a real treat. While Loving Cups have been made in Sheffield for many years, they had never been used in Cutlers' Hall. The Master Cutler kindly allowed us to hold the Loving Cup ceremony to bring the City to Sheffield. On the way to Cutlers' Hall our Master planned the route to take in Froggatt, an imposing escarpment with magnificent views across the Peak District National Park.

Saturday dawned, and the Master had planned a very different day out which both challenged and entertained us. The challenge? Well a visit to Speedwell Cavern where the hardest of us walked down the one hundred and five steps to take a boat trip through the underground passages...then we had to walk one hundred and five steps back up! There were challenges for everyone though – we carried on in the coach to the Peak Cavern where we had a guided tour of the cavern which involved walking hundreds of yards into the cave, including a section which was so low we had to crouch down, for quite some way, to walk through it. Everyone managed it; just as well as we (you guessed it) had to walk out the same way as we went in! There were comments of "never again!" but said with a sense of achievement.





# Events of 2017-18

*Holiday in Derbyshire continued...*

During our coach tour of the areas surrounding the caverns the Master took us via 'Grindleford Surprise View'; reputedly named when Queen Victoria came this way in a carriage from Sheffield and is said to have commented on the view: "Oh my, what a surprise!".

By now we had earned our lunch, so we repaired to 'The Plough' at Hathersage, a 16th Century Inn situated in nine acres of its own private land which gently sloped towards the banks of the River Derwent. We had a hearty and extremely well-cooked (and welcome!) two course lunch with a much-needed glass of wine – the roast beef was outstanding.

Onwards for our afternoon excursion to Haddon Hall. This wonderful Hall has been described as "the most perfect house to survive from the Middle Ages" and we certainly thought it deserved the title. It is not very large but there was plenty to see, including an impressive chapel - in the nave is a monument to Lord Haddon, who died aged nine, in 1894. In the Banqueting Hall we admired the original table and bench stand on a raised dais, and a 15th Century French tapestry hanging on a wall – a gift from King Henry VIII. We sat for a while in the lovely gardens enjoying the afternoon sun before leaving this jewel for our journey back to Bakewell.

Our third dinner was at Hassop Hall where we caught up with each other over a glass of sparkling wine and canapés. Dinner was a fine affair with roast beef carved in the dining room – could it match The Plough? Indeed, it did – the Peak District knows how to serve beef! Past Master Don Lunn thanked the Master and Pearl for arranging such an interesting and enjoyable holiday – and there was still more to come.

Our last day had arrived and we were off to Hardwick Hall for our final visit. While Haddon Hall was a small jewel, Hardwick Hall was a stunning masterpiece – a leading example of an Elizabethan 'prodigy

house'. The Hall was built by Bess of Hardwick, the richest woman in England after Queen Elizabeth I, and was conceived to be a conspicuous statement of her wealth and power.

The windows are exceptionally large and numerous at a time when glass was a luxury, leading to the saying, "Hardwick Hall, more glass than wall". The Hall's chimneys are built into the internal walls of the structure, to give more scope for huge windows without weakening the exterior walls. The rooms include one of the largest long galleries in any English house and also a little-altered, tapestry-hung great chamber with a spectacular plaster frieze illustrating hunting scenes.

All too soon it was time to leave for our final lunch at the local Hardwick Inn. After a carvery lunch and lots of goodbyes we ended a fabulous holiday having enjoyed (and endured) the best that the Master's 'back yard' had to offer us. Thanks again Peter and Pearl.



### *The College of Arms*

*Wednesday 13th September and Tuesday 6th February*

Most of our group of twenty were there early, and when the beautiful iron gates opened, assembled in the courtyard, and grouped on the fine double stairs of this historic building for the first of many photographs that were taken.



Once inside, we were shown into the Earl Marshal's Court room (only used once in the last century or so as a courtroom, but the layout remains). High up around the room, hang the banners of the Heralds, in ascending

order to the Garter King of Arms, and on the throne in the centre, the Queen's cushion from her coronation. The room's intimate size was very conducive to the introductory talk given by John Petrie, Rouge Croix Pursuivant of Arms.

He began by explaining some of the history of the building and the College, and telling us about the portraits, the uniforms they must wear - 'tabards - a bit like sandwich boards' and most entertainingly, their annual payment, which before tax, is under £20, I think I remember some figure like £13.92 or some such. Clearly you don't become a Herald for the money.

Next, we moved to the beautiful oak panelled Waiting Room, which afforded a welcome sit down for us, and a glass of wine, while John explained about the duties of Heralds, what the College of Arms does, the genealogical research undertaken, and the granting of arms.

Finally, we moved to the Record Room, where John showed us some recent applications, and a most magisterial framed illustrated document granting arms, with the seals below it. Then he pulled out ancient tome after ancient tome, displaying for our delight many of the historic arms and descriptions. As Heralds, they oversee great state occasions, coronations, state funerals and the state opening of parliament. We saw the book describing the funeral of Elizabeth I, and a fabulously ornate book made for George III, which he refused to pay for. (At the time it cost £2,000, which was an eye watering sum for those days.)

We completed the visit with a look at some more recent arms, the most delightful of which was Elton John's arms, featuring piano keys and CDs, and a football. Back to the Waiting Room, where we enjoyed another glass of wine and a buffet supper.

A truly unique and eye-opening experience, which led to more than one of us rather wanting to have their own coat of arms created!

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### *Innholders' Hall Reception and Dinner*

*Wednesday 27th September*

Ninety members and their guests, gathered for a wonderful dinner, many for the first time, at The Worshipful Company of Innholders, in their beautiful hall in College Street, filling it to capacity. The Innholders' ranks 32nd in the order of precedence of all the Livery Companies. Tracing its origin to the early 1300s, the Company became known as the Guild of Innholders in 1473. They received their first charter, setting out their 'rights and privileges', from Henry VIII in 1514. The Innholders' were originally known as Hostellers, but their name had changed by the time it was incorporated under a Royal Charter. This document hangs proudly above a mantelpiece where we could all inspect it.

The evening began with a sparkling wine reception where it was good to observe several Past Masters, and members of the Court displaying their badges, which members do like to see. The Innholders' enjoy the prestige of a three times starred and much decorated Michelin Chef, Austrian born Herbert Berger, who produced a truly delicious dinner of smoked haddock risotto with soft boiled quail's eggs in

an English mustard sauce, a magret and confit of duck in an orange sauce, followed by a dessert of rare delight and as always the meal was accompanied by excellent wines.



The Master made a short speech of welcome, and introduced his guest, the towering figure of Michael Allen, a Chelsea Pensioner well known to many members of the Guild, resplendent in his scarlet coat and medals. He gave an amusing talk about servicemen wanting to become Chelsea Pensioners. The hopeful individuals, who must be free of all wives, husbands, and partners, must come and stay for a few days and see if they 'fit'. He remembered our recent visits there and described how the accommodation has been so much improved over the past few years since women have been admitted.



## Events of 2017-18

### Visit to RNLI Lifeboat Station, Selsey

Wednesday 4th October

The Guild's association with Selsey Lifeboat Station goes back to the 1980s when the lifeboat was 'The City of London', which had been funded by two million pounds raised in 'the City'. A closer association was established when the Master of the Guild, in 1996, was Vice Admiral Sir Peter Buchanan KBE, who was also President of the Selsey RNLI Association.



The visit this year was very special since a beautiful memorial stained-glass window, designed and made by Mrs Chris Brown, was presented by the Guild, and dedicated to the memory of Sir Peter Buchanan. Prior to Fr Andy Wilkes making the dedication, the Master, Mr Peter Allcard spoke of the honour and pleasure the association with Selsey brought to the Guild. Past Master Anne Holden, Chairman of the Guild's charity committee recalled the outstanding year in 1996 and how the memory of Sir Peter will live on. It was a very special honour that Lady Buchanan could attend and be with us throughout the visit.



volunteers whose enthusiasm for the lifeboat operation is second to none. Welcoming refreshments were followed by conducted tours around the building and on to the boat which is now so highly technical and high powered that safety harnesses must secure the crew. No more deck rides for the visitors!

This was the first visit by the Guild to the brand-new lifeboat house which was designed to accommodate the new, state of the art, lifeboat, and towing tractor. On our arrival Colvin Rae, Guild Member and RNLI Branch Chairman welcomed us, along with a strong team of local



The boat was then launched in an entirely new way by being towed on a hydraulic platform which can be raised and lowered by the tractor unit. The launching unit cost a million pounds and the new boat was two million pounds emphasising the need for support to keep this magnificent volunteer service fully prepared for all emergencies. We were then treated to a superb display of seamanship before going to lunch at the Lifeboat Inn. After the visit both Colvin Rae and the Master spoke of the strong bond between the Guild and the RNLI.



### *The Carlton Club Reception and Lunch*

*Wednesday 11th October*

The recent concept of The 'Master's Lunch' saw ninety members and guests in the sumptuous surroundings of The Carlton Club in St. James's, long associated with the Conservative Party.

The present address of 69 St James's Street only became a clubhouse after the Pall Mall building was destroyed during the Second World War. Thankfully, many of the club's most valuable portraits survived and now adorn the clubhouse walls; we were able to view them as we made our way up to the sparkling wine reception in the Thatcher Drawing Room, where it was lovely to meet with old friends and make ourselves comfortable in the elegant Regency styled room.

After meeting the Master and his Lady, Pearl Allcard, and our guest speaker Eleanor Laing MP, Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, we made our way into the splendid Wellington Room for lunch.

Surrounded by magnificent artworks we were served a delicious three course lunch, after which Eleanor Laing



gave a humorous and informative talk about the workings of Parliament and the role of The Speaker and his deputies. It was a fascinating and non-political insight into the workings of Parliament.

This was a super lunch in a very special venue – a great privilege for the Guild.

### *Magic Circle Supper and Show*

*Tuesday 24th October*

We all met up at the Savannah Restaurant just a few minutes' walk from Euston station. About seventy-five of us had a very nice starter and main course with wine. The Master of the Guild, Peter Allcard, attended with his wife, Pearl, together with a few members of the Court.

After we had eaten, we made our way to the Magic Circle just around the corner. The Magic Circle is situated in a dark spooky street reminiscent of a scene in a Harry Potter film. We queued up outside whilst our tickets were checked



and were sent to four different seating areas around the building. This gave us a chance to interact with four different magicians who gave a very close up personal show. There was also a chance to visit the museum of magic where we listened to the curator talk about the life of early magicians in about 1910, who were more famous than even Harry Houdini.

We then all proceeded up a tight spiral staircase which seemed to go on forever to a small theatre on the top floor where we were treated to a show with stage, lights, sound, curtains, a compère and a further three magicians. Some of the magicians were very funny and one of the magicians said nothing but showed us many interesting tricks and skills with cards. A very enjoyable evening.





## Events of 2017-18

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

*Saturday 28th October*

The Guild, continuing a tradition of many years, had a table at this annual event at the London Hilton.

The event was the idea of Dame Maureen Thomas and raises funds for children's charities at home and abroad. Although the event is for serious causes it is a brilliant and fun night.

The night began by passing an exquisite ice sculpture on the way into a champagne reception where the buzz of anticipation started. We then entered the ballroom that was decorated with ice blues, white feathers and crystals in giant champagne glasses complementing the glittering chandeliers. After a delicious dinner with plenty of wine and liqueurs

there was great excitement with lots of fun. Then the auction started which caused lots of gasps and applause as the bids rose and rose.

The cabaret was the amazing cast of the West End show 'Thriller'. The principal playing Michael Jackson was brilliant. Luckily our table was at the edge of the ballroom, so we could get up and dance to the music. After the raffle the dance band started to play, and we could not stop dancing, the musicians and singers were excellent keeping the upbeat tempo going. Before we knew it the time to leave had arrived, but after having had an excellent time we knew we had helped children.



DM Thomas  
FOUNDATION  
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 £18.8 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 17 November 2018** 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)

[www.dmthomasfoundation.org](http://www.dmthomasfoundation.org)

Registered Charity No. 1084220 (England & Wales) SC038995 (Scotland)



### *The Lord Mayor's Show*

*Saturday 11th November*

On a gloomy but dry morning, sixty Guild Members and their guests, including some children, gathered in the stands opposite St. Paul's Cathedral ready for the Lord Mayor's Show. The event began with the Guild's Chaplain, the Dean of St. Paul's, The Very Revd. Dr David Ison, leading the assembled company in an Act of Remembrance for the fallen including a two-minute silence, which was ended by a peal of the Cathedral bells.

This was followed by a colourful display of floats representing various City organisations and Livery Companies, from the sheep of the Woolmen to the camels of the Grocers, numerous military bands, and service regiments, together with many companies and organisations supported by the City. It culminated with the Mansion House procession, which included carriages carrying our Master, Peter Allcard in one and in others some Past Masters and Court Members in various guises. It was wonderful for Guild Members to receive a hearty wave from our Junior Warden, Sheriff Neil Redcliffe, one of the City Sheriffs this year, and from Court Assistant Alderman Tim Hailes, the Aldermanic Sheriff. We had a bird's eye view of the blessing of the new Lord Mayor, Alderman Charles Bowman.

After the procession, members and their guests enjoyed a sumptuous four course luncheon in the Members' Private Dining Room in Guildhall. The Under-Warden Elect, Ann-Marie Jefferys, gave a few words of welcome, especially to the many new members who had travelled the length and breadth of the country to attend. Having watched the Lord Mayor's carriage arrive back at Guildhall members departed having enjoyed a thoroughly good day out!



## Events of 2017-18

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### *Wine Tasting Tallow Chandlers' Hall*

*Wednesday 15th November*

It was a lively audience who gathered at Tallow Chandlers' Hall for the pre-Christmas Guild Wine Tasting. The evening was well hosted by Harry Vernau of the Red Bottle Company, grandson of Past Master Don Lunn. Harry showed us six wines from France and Spain, offering a well-chosen range of champagne, whites, reds, and dessert wine. These were a perfect Christmas Day and New Year selection. As Doreen and Don Lunn attested, many of the wines adorned their Christmas table.

We began with an aperitif wine from Basque, an Olatu 2015. Meant to be drunk young and packaged in a stylish blue bottle, Harry told us it would conjure up images of a beachside BBQ and that we would either love it or hate it. Our audience clearly lacked imagination... only a select few loved it.

On firmer ground was Champagne Bauget-Jouette Carte Blanche. A solid entry level champagne.

Very happy sippers confirmed that the Domaine William Fevre Chablis 2013 was a very fine choice. Exhibiting all the classic flavours and balance of a good Chablis.

Opinion divided over the Pouilly-Fuisse Domaine Thibert-Miranda 2015. All agreed it was an excellent wine but some (who had already lost their hearts to the Chablis) preferred the classic Chablis to this style. We then moved onto the reds and a wonderful story from Harry about the discovery of this vineyard with his father whilst driving around France in search of special little known local wineries. They persuaded the vintner to sell to them and we were all pleased they did.

The Domaine de L'Europe – Guy Cinquin Les Crosseux 2015 was next, which hails from Mercurey, the biggest wine area of the Cote Chalonnaise. It exhibits the best regional characteristics of full flavour and elegance. By contrast, the second red wine, Caralobos 2008 from Spain, thirty kilometres south of Madrid, was much darker and very full bodied with plenty of ageing potential.

We returned to France for the dessert wine, a Muscat de Beaumes de Venise 2009 from Domaine de Coyeux. This delicious honey-filled treat was a winner with the audience.



All agreed that Harry Vernau had shown us an excellent variety of wines, priced well for Christmas and New Year. What made this evening special was the knowledge and personal experiences which Harry shared with us about each of the wineries and vintages.

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### *The Master's Diary*

*Saturday 6th May*

*City of Coventry Freeman's Guild*

"I attended the Annual Dinner and election night of the City of Coventry Freeman's Guild and my first evening as a guest and speaker. I was made to feel very welcome and enjoyed great hospitality in the fascinating surroundings of St Mary's Guildhall. Past Master of our Guild and the City of Coventry Guild, Ray Holl, who sadly passed away last year, was primarily responsible for my own introduction to our Guild (yes, he is the one to blame!). It was a real pleasure to renew contact with his widow, Barbara, and to be able to refer to them in my speech. I was delighted to be asked to propose the toast to their new Master, Anthony Archer. The following day, Sunday, I joined the City of Coventry Guild at their Annual Church Service."

*Thursday 18th May*

*The Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire*

"Home to Sheffield! The Cutlers' Feast is considered by many as the most important dinner in the North. Held in the extraordinary and enormous Cutlers' Hall. Several interesting and engaging speeches followed a wonderful dinner."



### *Advent Holiday in Budapest*

*Monday 27th November to Friday 1st December*

We flew to Budapest for a five-day holiday where we were met by our guide, Tananilla Rapa, and taken to the Boscolo Hotel in Pest. The rococo-style building dates from the late 19th Century when it was built to provide offices for an American company. The ornately frescoed New York Café on the ground floor was a fashionable meeting place. That evening we crossed the Danube to Buda for dinner at the Restaurant Borkatakomba housed in a series of large wine cellars hewn out of the hills. An interesting and lively folklore programme accompanied dinner.

Tuesday was a bright sunny day and after breakfast in the New York Café we gathered to be driven to St. Stephen's Basilica. Stephen was crowned the first King of Hungary in 975 and was canonised after his death. The Basilica was built in the 19th Century and its most precious possession is a reliquary containing the right hand of the saint. The Treasury contains fine vestments and church silverware. Finally, we ascended by lift to the cupola from where we admired the magnificent views over Pest and across the Danube to Buda.

From the Basilica we drove through the wide boulevards to



Heroes' Square with the Millennium monument. We spent some time looking at the statue of the Archangel Gabriel atop a high column behind the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (Cenotaph dedicated to those who died fighting for freedom and independence). The backdrop is formed of colonnades with niches containing the first seven Hungarian kings and seven recent notables – these replace those inserted by the communists!



After a short drive around the adjacent City Park passing the Széchenyi Thermal Baths, we arrived at the Robinson Restaurant for a delicious lunch after which we retraced our steps down Andrásy Avenue towards the city centre passing many former palatial residences, the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music with the Liszt Museum and the House of Terror, a collection of fascist and communist artefacts. The free time before dinner was spent investigating the Christmas markets, or visiting museums. The day ended with a formal reception and dinner in the elaborately decorated Red Room of the hotel which was enjoyed by all!

We set off on Wednesday across the Danube to the old town of Buda. We entered through one of the gates into



## Events of 2017-18

*Advent holiday in Budapest continued...*

the Medieval town which is still under restoration. Unfortunately, the weather was dull and wet, but this did not deter us! After admiring the old houses, we arrived at the Matthias church. There has been a church on this site since 1015, but the present Gothic church dates from the 14th Century. It has a complex history as the original building was converted to a mosque during the Ottoman occupation and then damaged in 1686 when Buda was reconquered. The present building dates from the late 19th Century. In sharp contrast to the Basilica in Pest, the interior walls of this church are covered with frescoes. From the 14th Century the kings of Hungary were crowned here; in 1867, Franz Josef I was crowned King of Hungary here to the accompaniment of Liszt's Coronation Mass.

We walked to the nearby Fisherman's Bastion for views over the Danube and Pest before moving on to the Rock Nuclear Bunker Museum. A series of caves under Castle Hill were connected by passages and used as a hospital during the 1943-1945 war (Hungary came into the war after the other central European countries) and later in 1956 during the Russian invasion. It was fully equipped to treat injuries, with operating theatres and generators for electricity. One part was converted to a nuclear bunker in 1986. It was opened as a museum in 2008.

We were ready for lunch by this time and retraced our steps to the Pest-Buda Bistro housed in a 200-year-old building, once an inn, where we ate delicious and succulent suckling-pig! After lunch, we returned to Pest to continue our own explorations. Dinner at the Domus Vinorum, which is housed in a cellar in Pest included wine-tasting. We tasted several varieties of Hungarian wine, both red and white, and some were very good.

Thursday dawned very wet, but luckily, we were scheduled



to visit the Parliament building and Opera House. Parliament is in a large square which has a commanding view over the Danube. The building is late 19th Century, gothic in style and very impressive. The interior is designed for ceremonies with a very wide staircase leading from the ground floor to the first floor. At the top of these stairs, under the cupola, a small show case, guarded by soldiers, houses the crown of St. Stephen. This crown was used at the coronation of Stephen in 975 and is the most precious possession of the Hungarian nation! (Remember, Cromwell sold off, or melted down, our medieval Royal regalia!). Most of the internal walls are covered with frescoes, continuing the gothic feel of the exterior of the building. Walking along the Danube to the coach, we passed the line of shoes cast in bronze which commemorate the victims of fascism.

A short tour of the city followed, around areas that we could not access on Tuesday because EU dignitaries were in town. We saw the exterior of the synagogue, which is the largest in Europe and areas noted for their nightlife before arriving at the Hungarian State Opera House. Next to the Opera we found the Art Deco Callas Restaurant, our lunch venue.

Our tour of the Opera House started with two surprises - a glass of sparkling wine and a short recital by two young sopranos who sang arias from Mozart and Puccini operas. We were now in the mood for our tour. The building is undergoing renovation, so we were restricted to visiting some of the opulent reception areas and the beautiful auditorium. This was a fitting prelude to our final explorations.

The rain stopped in time for our last dinner cruising along the Danube. The Castle and the Matthias church in Buda and the Hungarian Parliament in Pest are just some of the beautiful floodlit buildings that we saw from the river. We enjoyed a good dinner to the accompaniment of a jazz trio. It was a lovely way to end our trip to Budapest.



### Annual Banquet at Guildhall

*Monday 11th December*

The Annual Banquet is the Guild's highlight event of the year, which we have the privilege to hold in the magnificent medieval surroundings of Guildhall watched over by Gog and Magog. The Guildhall has been the centre of City Government since the Middle Ages.



On arrival at the Guildhall, Guild Members, and their guests, were greeted by an Honour Guard from 253 Provost Company Royal Military Police Reserves. All Guild Members and their guests

were then greeted by the wonderful pageant of the Carpet Guard of The Company of Pikemen and Musketeers, Honourable Artillery Company, before being announced by the Beadle and Toastmaster John Hollingsworth to the Master, Peter Allcard, and his wife, Pearl.

On arrival at the Old Library an Honour Guard again greeted everyone. We then enjoyed a Sparkling reception. The impressive London Banqueting Ensemble provided the introductory fanfare on the arrival of the Master and his wife who accompanied The Lord Mayor Locum Tenens, Alderman Sir David Wootton (Immediate Past Master), his wife, Lady Wootton, the Sheriffs, and their Consorts.

This is always the best attended function of the year; in total there were four hundred and twenty-five Guild

Members and their guests present at this grand occasion. It is a great time to catch up with friends you sometimes only meet up with at this glamorous event. It is wonderful to see so many bejewelled people in their finest attire. As the Beadle summoned everybody to take their places, we entered the Great Hall and were greeted by resplendently decorated tables.

We then welcomed the Master, Wardens, and the Guilds' principal guests in the City's traditional manner to The March from Scipio by Handel. Grace was then said by the Honorary Chaplain, the Dean of St Paul's, The Very Revd. Dr David Ison, before we dined on a wonderful menu of Tian of Smoked Halibut and Cannon of Lamb which was accompanied by a selection of excellent wines. During the meal we were entertained to an excellent programme of music from the very talented London Banqueting Ensemble under the direction of Steven Fletcher, which ended with everyone in fine voice as the roof was raised singing Jerusalem and Land of Hope and Glory, followed by Sung Grace.

The Master then rose and said that he had sent a letter of Loyal Greetings to Her Majesty the Queen. He congratulated Her Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, on Their Platinum Wedding anniversary, which was on the 20th November 2017. He then read the gracious reply he had received from Buckingham Palace, thanking the Master, Wardens, Court of Assistants, and members of the Guild, together with Her Majesty's best wishes to everyone for a memorable and enjoyable evening.

The Master then proposed the Loyal Toast, followed by the Royal and Civic Toasts.





# Events of 2017-18

Annual Banquet at Guildhall continued...



Toastmaster John Hollingsworth then asked that everyone join The Master in the Loving Cup Ceremony and bid us all a hearty welcome. This is a very old tradition and those new

to it watch eagerly as the Loving Cup nears them, while being given advice by those who have been here many times before. The 'Post Horn Galop' then followed, which is always one of the highlights of the evening and was received with rapturous applause.

The Speeches then commenced, the first from Sir David Brewer who thanked our Clerk, Christine Cook, on this her first Banquet, which was excellent, as had been the other events she had organised this year. He also commented on how our official photographer Peter Holland has an extensive photographic record of everything that occurs at the events, better than many Livery Companies. In proposing the Toast to the Lord Mayor and the City of London, he advised us that the Lord Mayor was currently away on business in Saudi Arabia promoting the City of London.

The Lord Mayor Locum Tenens, Alderman Sir David Wootton, gave a very amusing speech in response. Sir David thanked Sir David Brewer for all he does, and has done, and mentioned that he is a fluent Mandarin speaker and does business in China. Then following on from his time as Master last year, he continued his theme about God's own Country, Yorkshire, and how he had produced 'Wootton's Law' where if you go back far enough we can all trace our ancestral line back to Yorkshire. Sir David then gave a brief overview of the Lord Mayor's itinerary for the year, before presenting two gifts – one to Christine Cook, a jam spoon, in case anyone stirred anything up. The second to the Master, a pepper grinder to remind him that the Master used to pay a peppercorn rent to the City.



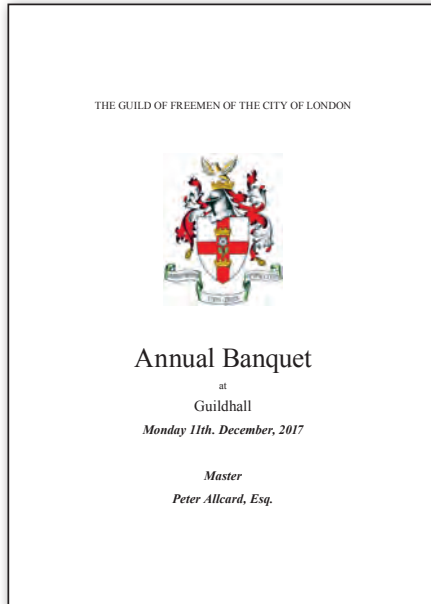
The Master then thanked the previous speakers, and followed the Yorkshire theme, before speaking about his Mother Livery Company the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths of which he was a Past Prime Warden and mentioned that among the guests there were also several other Past Prime Wardens as well as the Current Prime Warden. He then thanked Major Dan Staples Officer Commanding 253 Provost Company Royal Military Police for the Honour Guard, Major Richard Jackson Ensign of Pikemen, Company of Pikemen and Musketeers for the Carpet Guard. The Master also thanked Judith Westall, the Assistant Clerk, who had held the fort during the changeover of clerks while awaiting the appointment of our new clerk Christine Cook, who herself had done a wonderful job in organising a very successful evening, on this her first Banquet with the Guild.

The final speaker Andrew Coombe gave a very humorous response, quoting Mark Twain saying that it took three weeks to prepare an impromptu speech.

The Master then closed the evening by presenting a cheque to The Lord Mayor Locum Tenens, Alderman Sir David Wootton, to pass to the Lord Mayor for his charity, and presented the speakers Sir David Brewer and Andrew Coombe with Halcyon Days boxes as a thank you, before bidding everyone a goodnight and he hoped that they had enjoyed the evening.









## Events of 2017-18

### Carol Service at the Tower of London

*Wednesday 20th December*

The Guild's annual Carol Service was again held in the marvellous Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula - a spectacular venue; as the parish church of Her Majesty's palace and fortress, the Tower of London. As a 'Royal Peculiar', the Chapel is under the direct jurisdiction of the Sovereign.

The Revd. Cortland Fransella, assistant priest, took the service whilst the Choir of the Chapels Royal led and entertained us with several festive favourites as well as some solo pieces, accompanied by the organist, Christian Wilson, who also delivered a rousing organ postlude which gained warm applause. The music was conducted by the Master of Music, Colm Carey.

Guild Members Stephen Haylock, Janet Bridden, Timothy Milward, and The Master, Peter Allcard, read the lessons. The Revd. Fransella gave a thought-provoking sermon regarding the Christmas Message.

Afterwards, one hundred and forty Guild members and guests mingled and exchanged festive good wishes over a glass of wine and mince pies, before departing into the cold London air to make their way home to prepare for the Christmas period, with the 'Christmas Message' providing some things to consider.



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### *Furniture Makers' Hall Reception and Dinner*

*Wednesday 24th January*



few pictures of former Masters' on the walls. The excellent meal of smoked haddock and dill fishcake, roast sirloin of Aberdeen Angus and bread and butter pudding, was accompanied by some fine wines.

The Company is a relatively new one, having been formed in 1952. The Grant of Livery was conferred in 1963, when it became the 83rd City Livery Company. The Master, Dr Anthony Guy Smart MBE, gave a most interesting and informative talk, explaining that he had a passion for education and apprenticeships and safeguarding the future of the furniture industry.

The Furniture Makers' Hall is situated in Austin Friars; built in 1882 it is a tall narrow building and a bit of a rabbit warren inside. A feature of note in the lobby is the magnificent ornate spiral oak staircase running through the centre of the building. The reception was held in the entrance lobby, a small, rather intimate space, which just managed to accommodate the eighty of us. There were some beautiful silver loving cups, rose bowls and wine jugs in the cabinets on the wall and photographs of modern furniture displayed.

Dinner was taken in the adjoining David Burbidge Room, the décor being rather neutral and minimalist, with just a

The Company is involved in three main areas: welfare for past and present members; education and training, giving bursaries to MA students, grants for materials to twenty universities and prizes for design in schools; and lastly excellence, promoting high standards of furniture production, giving 'Guild marks' for pieces of furniture or companies which demonstrate excellent quality.

At the end of a very successful and enjoyable evening, our Master thanked his counterpart for welcoming us to the Furniture Makers' Hall and for his informative talk and wished us all a safe journey home.

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### *Historical and Musical Tour with the Purcell Club at Westminster Abbey*

*Saturday 27th January*

Most of us met in the Cellarium Café prior to our tour. After an interesting take on a steak and mushroom pie with an apple and almond tart that would have sunk any battleship, we met up with the rest of the group.

After a short walk through the side door from Dean's Yard into the Abbey, Guild Members entered to find the scene set, with lights dimmed where we were escorted to the front of the Nave. The Abbey was then filled with a wonderful welcome from the Purcell Choir singing behind us.

In between sections of history the amazing Purcell Choir sang, bringing the atmosphere to an all-time high. Our host informed us about the coronations and funerals dating back to King Canute and up to recent events. The floors showed where poets, composers and philanderers were buried along the side aisles, and to the centre and large side tombs where fourteen Kings and seventeen Queens are buried. Of course, during more recent years members of the Royal Family have been buried at Windsor or Frogmore.

In the centre of the High Altar, restoration work is taking

place on the medieval mosaic floor, representing the four elements telling us how long the universe will last.

Future coronations will have representatives from all faiths including Zoroastrian, Orthodox Christian, three branches of Judaism, Catholics, Methodist, Buddhist, Sikhs and both major branches of Islam. Prince Charles will become Defender of the Faiths during his coronation, which will represent all the Commonwealth.

It was wonderful stepping back in time and I feel very privileged to have been offered a place to attend.



## Events of 2017-18

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### *Dennis Severs' House Visit and Supper*

*Wednesday 31st January*

Dennis Severs' House is in the old Huguenot conservation area of Spitalfields at 18 Folgate Street, near Liverpool Street station, just outside the City boundary. The four-floored Georgian house is most extraordinary and the way in which the visit was conducted, by candlelight in complete silence, most unusual.

Dennis Severs himself was an artist who lived there in the late 20th Century, much as the original silk weaving family who occupied it would have lived in the early 18th Century. Immediately on entering the building it is as if you are stepping back in time. Staff are strategically located to point you in the right direction, but no words may be spoken as you go around, in order not to spoil the magic. Whilst it could be classed as a museum, it is in fact far more atmospheric than this, and a 'sensory experience' might be more accurate.

The only muffled sounds are from 'outside' and the creaky (creepy?) noise as visitors ascend and descend the wooden



stairs. One's sense of smell is also pleasantly affected by the occasional cooking aromas, as if the family were elsewhere in the house. The ten rooms, and tens of thousands of artefacts, cover the period from the 18th Century to the mid-20th Century but focus heavily on the former. Visually it feels like being part of a painting or tableaux, with everything gently glimmering in candle and firelight from the hearths. Overall, it is a spellbinding performance space. The only thing missing was the performers themselves (or were they perhaps still there, in spirit...?).

The visit was rounded off by a traditional pub supper at the King's Stores nearby, where contact was made with spirits of a different kind!



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### *The Master's Diary*

*Saturday 27th May*

*Christ's Hospital School, Horsham*

"A 5.00am start saw me on the train to Horsham in West Sussex, for Christ's Hospital School's annual Prize Giving Day. How wonderful to see the enthusiasm and talents of young achievers who clearly understood the meaning of respect for others, and of pride in themselves and their successes. This was my first experience of their extraordinary school whose claim to be "A school like no other" is clearly justified. The prizes were presented by the Lord Mayor, Alderman Andrew Parmley, who followed several other fascinating speeches, with his own usual brand of good humour."

*Thursday 6th July*

*The City of London Freeman's School Prizegiving*

"The Freeman's school prize giving is an important feature of The Master's year, which illustrates the importance of the support which is given by 'The City' to its seats of learning. Many prizes, having been donated by various City institutions, including several by our own Guild."

*Monday 6th November*

*St Paul's Cathedral*

"Remembrance Day at St. Paul's Cathedral commenced in the Crypt with a short introduction by the National President of The Royal British Legion. Many Livery Companies and other City organisations carried their poppies to the Garden of Remembrance. A short service was conducted by The Dean, which included a couple of rousing hymns accompanied by The Band of the Scots Guards. The service concluded with a few words by The Lord Mayor. A moving experience indeed."



### *House of Lords Reception and Dinner*

*Friday 9th February*



Sixty-Five Guild Members and guests well wrapped up against the biting wind passed through the unfortunate but necessary strict security to enter Westminster Hall, for a conducted tour of the Houses of Parliament. Well-informed guides brought the history of the historic building to life. They pointed out a portion of the original walls from the 11th Century which still support the barrel-vaulted roof replacing the many pillars supporting the original roof and opening the hall up to be the largest medieval hall north of the Alps.

The tour continued through magnificent St. Stephen's Hall, where beautiful murals depict the making of Britain, then on to the House of Lords' Chamber with the Sovereign's chair taking pride of place. We were reminded that, prior to the establishment of the Supreme Court of Justice, across Parliament Square, the Lords was the highest appeal court in the land where the dock for the appellant remains in place.

Continuing through to the House of Commons Chamber, the guides pointed out the statues of past Prime Ministers and the damage done to the door of the Commons by Black Rod's staff when summoning Members of Parliament to attend the sovereign in the Lords. Both chambers are much smaller, but no less imposing than when seen on television. Who says the camera never lies?

A further thirty members and guests then joined in a reception and dinner in the Peers' Dining Room where the excellent menu reflected The Master's northern roots. The dinner was by kind invitation of The Lord Mountevans, a former Lord Mayor of London, who gave an interesting, and amusing, after dinner speech.





## Events of 2017-18

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### *Royal Courts of Justice Visit and Lunch in Middle Temple*

*Wednesday 21st February*

The Guild visit to the Royal Courts of Justice was something that I and two guests were particularly looking forward to, and we were not disappointed. Our tour started in Court Room No.13, where we were given, by our guides for the day, Brian and Pat, an interesting and insightful explanation of the history of the building, together with examples of some high-profile cases. Their combined knowledge and personalities really made it even more interesting!



After our talk, we split into two groups and were led round the corridors and rooms, learning about the functions and histories of each. We paused in the 'painted room' to admire the décor and view of the courtyard and hear a brief history about the 'bear garden', named by Queen Victoria, who said that the bickering barristers sounded like a bear pit or garden where the hapless bears were goaded to fight dogs!

We then moved along passing Court Room No. 4, a remarkable and most impressive room. This is where the ceremonial installation of the Lord Mayor is held. We concluded at the top of the Great Hall where there were glass cabinets displaying books, gowns, and wigs, including the infamous black hat worn by those passing the death sentence!

Our tour was concluded perfectly with a delicious lunch in the Middle Temple dining room. You could have spent hours viewing the assortment of colourful paintings and coats of arms on display! Lunch was excellent, a delicious three courses with choice of wine.

A perfect way to round up a remarkable event. Many thanks to Christine and Judith for a memorable day.



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### *The Guild Team*



*Christine Cook (Clerk), Pearl Allcard (The Master's Lady), Peter Allcard (The Master) and Judith Westall (Assistant Clerk)*



*Pearl Allcard (The Master's Lady), Peter Allcard (The Master) and John Hollingsworth (The Beadle)*



### *Vintners' Hall Reception and Dinner*

*Thursday 1st March*

For the final event of his year, the Master, Peter Allcard, chose the wonderful setting of Vintners' Hall; unfortunately, he was unable to choose the weather for the occasion! In his parting words to members and guests, who had braved the ice, snow, and winds he said, "Thank you for coming and beating the 'Beast from the East' (the Arctic conditions) and the 'Pest from the West' (Storm Emma)". As ever, Guild photographer, Peter Holland, was present to capture the evening's images.

Some eighty members and guests assembled in one of the first floor's fine rooms for a superb sparkling reception. Sadly 'The West End Kids', who were due to perform during the evening were unable to attend.

The Guild had been to Vintners' Hall before, but it never loses its charm and appeal as home to one of the oldest City Livery Companies, having had its first charter in 1363.

The present Hall, built in the 1670s following the Great Fire, is said to have the oldest Court Room in the City, with some particularly fine royal portraits and exquisite pieces of furniture. A Hall has stood on the site since the 15th Century, the first Court meeting taking place in 1671. Of great interest was the entrance; within the gates sit two Coade Stone swans and a beautiful stained-glass lunette depicting the Company's coat of arms.

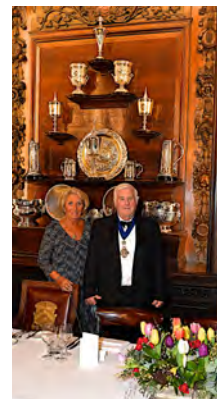
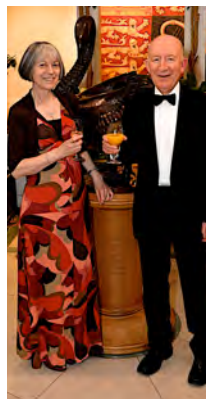
Swans feature heavily because the Vintners' Company is strongly associated with two swan sanctuaries on the Thames, which it supports, also with the annual Swan-Upping event that takes place every July.

We were particularly taken with a portrait of Mr Van Horn from 1740 who surprisingly lived to age ninety; having reputedly consumed for some twenty-four years an average of 4½ bottles of wine per day, missing just two days – when his wife was buried and when his daughter was married!

The dinner was delicious - starting with Duck Liver Parfait, followed by Confit Shoulder of Lamb and Earl Grey Bavarois, naturally accompanied by the most perfect wines, in slightly lesser quantities than Mr Van Horn.

The Loving Cup Ceremony over and the loyal toasts duly made, the Master reflected on his year in office. He warmly thanked both Christine, the Clerk, and Judith, Assistant Clerk, for their hard work over the year. He then introduced the guest speaker, former Sheriff and Court Assistant Adrian Waddingham CBE.

Adrian, related the history of the Guild, including the donation of the Guild Medal given to the then Master, Cuthbert Wilkinson in 1909, when the dinner was attended by one hundred and thirty four men, had nine courses, five



entertainers, six toasts and twelve speeches; it was 1919 before the first lady member was admitted to the Guild and only 2002 when the Guild had its first female Master, The Lady Moorea Black. He also spoke about his work as an actuary, his time as one of the two Sheriffs of the City of London and what it was like being part of the Old Bailey, somehow managing to relate a tale of one of The Master's ancestors and an unusual misdemeanour.

At the end of the evening, Adrian was presented with a gift by the Master, another memorable evening.

# The Freedom of the City of London

## Two Ancient Freedom Certificates

Jerome Farrell, Archivist of The Leathersellers' Company (and the Brewers' Company), has written a most interesting article about the two earliest known Copies of Freedom. One of the Copies of Freedom is on loan for display (for the next five years at least) in the Chamberlain's Court at Guildhall.

The Master is most grateful to Jerome for sharing his research with the Guild, which he feels will be of great interest to all Guild Members.

Guild of Freemen Members will recall how, on admission to the Freedom of the City at Guildhall, they were presented with their Copy of Freedom – a wide parchment certificate bearing the red seal of the Chamberlain's Court. Commonly called a Freedom Certificate, this distinctive, letter-box shaped document is often framed (with the small pocket into which it could be folded) to hang on a wall at home.

The short ceremony at Guildhall, with its pledge of loyalty to the Monarch and Lord Mayor, has altered little since the middle ages. As well as the Copy of Freedom, new Freemen (for the past three hundred years or so) are



Jerome with his own Copy of Freedom in 2014  
Photo by Martin Kunz

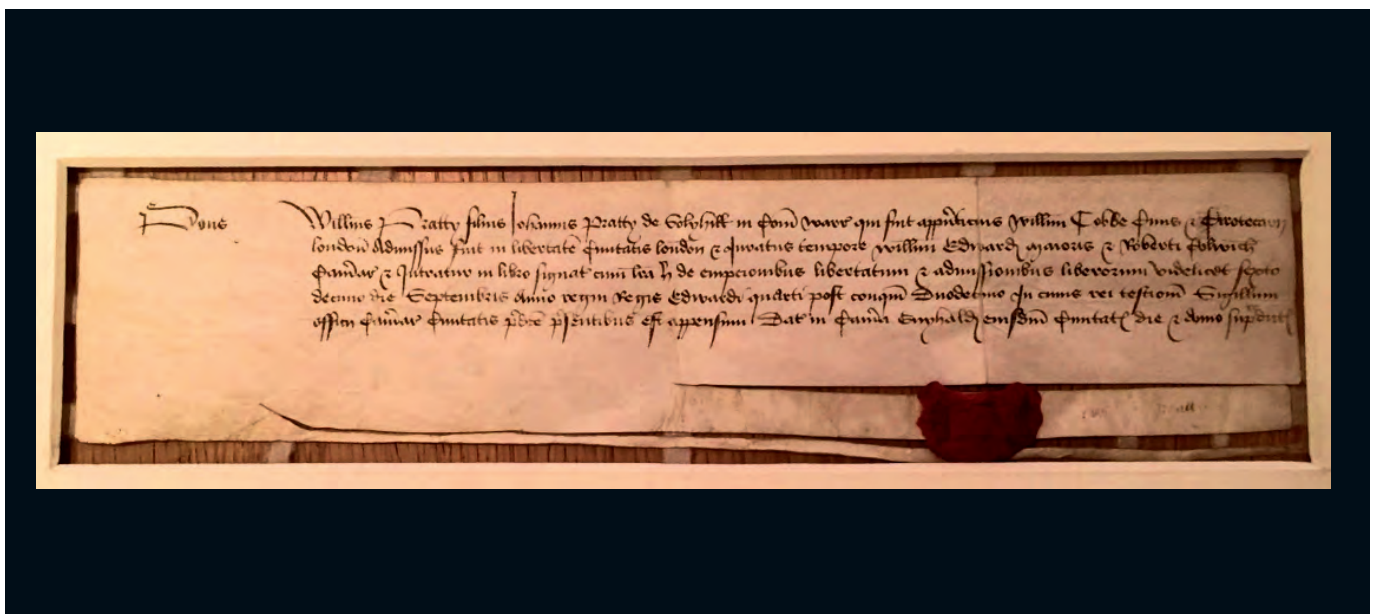
also given a slim book entitled Rules for the Conduct of Life, written by an early 18th Century Lord Mayor. This gilt-edged guide to morality is, doubtless, frequently consulted by all Freemen!

Becoming a Citizen of London has always been highly esteemed. In earlier times it also brought practical benefits - until 1856, to trade legally

within the City limits one had to be a Freeman. There were other privileges, too. While not exactly a Freedom Pass in the modern sense, a Freedom Certificate could exempt the holder from certain costs associated with travelling - notably paying tolls to cross bridges, and levies on taking animals or goods into market, not only in London but across the country. In this lies the origin of the 'right' of Freemen to drive sheep or other livestock 'freely' across London Bridge - on their way to Smithfield market. Also, in the period when able-bodied men might suddenly be press-ganged into the Navy, production of a Freedom Certificate could help escape this fate.

There is no documentary evidence, however, that a Freeman sentenced to death was ever entitled to be hanged with a silken cord, rather than a common rope!

Like a passport or driving licence today, a Copy of Freedom was an important identity document. It might need to be shown for identification purposes on demand, so was carefully carried about by its owner, folded inside a small leather pouch which could slip into a pocket, or rolled up inside a thin wooden cylinder.



Freedom for William Pratty 1472. A Glover of Bridge Ward, he became a Leatherseller in 1502. This is the oldest Certificate for a Citizen of London. Latin was replaced by English for official documents in 1733



# The Freedom of the City of London

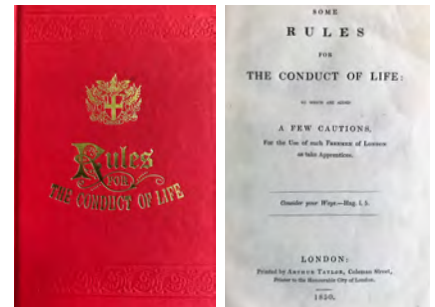


Many Freedom Certificates survive from the 1600s on, but ones older than this are surprisingly rare. The Bodleian Library in Oxford has one from 1587 relating to a Goldsmith, and the Derbyshire Record

Office has another from 1557 for a Haberdasher who moved to London. The only two mediaeval ones known, from 1472 and 1488, survive in the archives of the Leathersellers' Company. These ancient parchment documents, in Latin, are both for Glovers. Notes made on the back in the early 1500s explain why they are in the Leathersellers' archives.

The Glovers' amalgamated, first with the Pursers in 1498, then with the Leathersellers in 1502, and these

certificates provided proof that these two men, admitted to the Freedom as Glovers, later became Leathersellers. Glovers' remained subsumed within the Leathersellers for 136 years, but in 1638 broke away to form a separate Company again.



*The Rules for the Conduct of Life, issued to all new Freemen since the 18th Century.*

The 1472 Copy of Freedom is now on display in the Reception Room of the new Leathersellers' Hall. Fermer's one from 1488 has been framed and loaned to the Chamberlain's Court at Guildhall, so that newly-admitted Freemen can compare their own document with one issued, in the same place, over five hundred years earlier.

**William Pratty from Solihull.** The earliest of these ancient certificates translates as:

William Pratty, son of John Pratty of Solihull in the county of Warwick, apprenticed to William Cobbe, Citizen & Glover of London, was admitted into the Freedom of the City of London and took the oath, in the Mayoralty of William Edward, Mayor, and Robert Colwich, Chamberlain, and is entered in the book signed with the letter 'L' relating to the Purchasing of Freedoms and the Admissions of Freemen, to wit the 16th day of September in the 12th Year of the reign of King Edward the Fourth [1472]. In witness whereof, the Seal of the Office of Chamberlain of the said City is hereunto affixed. Dated in the Chamber of the Guildhall of the same City, the Day and Year abovesaid.

*If you compare the wording, shape, and format of this 1472 Copy of Freedom with your own one, you will see that despite the half millennium which separates them, they are remarkably similar.*

William Pratty was probably about 21 when made Free, and so born circa 1451. This is almost a century before baptism registers began to be kept, so there is no way of verifying his birth. When admitted to the Freedom, he resided in Bridge Ward in the City - 'Pons', Latin for Bridge, is written in the margin. Fascinatingly, part of the Chamberlain's original red wax seal is still attached, with a finger or thumb imprint underneath it, where the Chamberlain (or a minion) supported the warm wax as the metal seal matrix pressed into it.

**John Fermer of Cheap Ward.** The other ancient certificate, for John Fermer of Cheap Ward, glover, is dated the 20th of April in the third year of Henry VII's reign [1488]. We know more about Fermer because, wonderfully, his Will survives in the National Archives. He must have been gravely ill when making his Will in 1505, perhaps on his deathbed, as it was proved just three weeks later. He asked to be buried in the church of St Magnus, by London Bridge, and left £20 each to his five children, Robert, Thomas, Humfrey, John and Agnes. His wife Margaret was pregnant when he died - he leaves a further £10 to the 'child in my wife's belly, if it live'. Other bequests of silver goblets and money indicate that Fermer ran a prosperous business in the heart of the City, in or near Cheapside.

Two of Fermer's bequests are particularly interesting. 20 shillings (£1) was for 'Edmond that was my apprentice' and he directs his wife to make Edmond a Freeman of London at her own costs. This suggests that Edmond's apprenticeship had recently been completed, but he had not yet had his Freedom ceremony at Guildhall, which required payment of several shillings. Fermer, close to death, clearly wanted Edmond (whose surname he forgets to mention) to become a Freeman of the City and not miss this opportunity through lack of money. The other bequest, another 20 shillings, went to his current apprentice, Helen Wroo - proof that in 15th Century London, apprentices might be girls, as well as boys.

## Golfing Society

The members and guests enjoyed the three meetings held again 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 participants as was the companionship and friendship during the day and at the dinners. With the low numbers no Captain was appointed this year. We welcomed Peter Tennant as a new member at West Byfleet.

We would welcome many more new members. To all the golfers in the Guild please support the Society and come and enjoy the courses we play and to the non-golfers please come and join us for dinner. We were delighted that Past Master

Anne Donovan again joined us for dinner at Broke Hill Golf Club with husband Bob to present the prizes.

In October for the 2nd consecutive year, the Guild team won



the match at the North Hants Golf Club against the City Livery Golf Society for the Square Mile Golfing Goblet.

### RESULTS 2017

Broke Hill Golf Club: 1st George Elwood; 2nd Steve Hyland (guest); 3rd Tony Middleditch (guest). West Byfleet Golf Club: 1st Richard Hawton (guest); 2nd Tony Latham; 3rd Brian Humphrys (guest); Ladies prize Gail Sharp. Army Golf Course; 1st Steve Godwin (guest); 2nd Tony Latham; 3rd Barry Shepherd (guest); Ladies Prize Barbara Roake (guest).

### GUILD TROPHIES

The Secretary's Cup for the best of three matches was not awarded this year; The Kenneth Honey Trophy for the best of two matches to Len Tutt; The Ronald Ward Silver Salver to Tony Latham as member winner at the Army Golf Club; and the Septuagenarian Salver to Richard Gambold for the best front nine at the Army Golf Club.

### FIXTURES 2018

Thursday 19th April	- Gerrards Cross Golf Club
Tuesday 26th June	- West Byfleet Golf Club
Tuesday 11th September	- High Elms G.C.
Wednesday 17th October	- City Livery Golf Society at North Hants Golf Club.

The tee-off times are 13.30, followed by a two-course dinner, except the City Livery match which tees-off at 09.30, followed by lunch.

**Tony Latham, Honorary Secretary**  
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### *Silent Ceremony and The Presentation of Addresses*

*Friday 10th November 2017*

The Master, Peter Allcard, and his Lady, Pearl Allcard, in company with the Senior Warden, John Barber DL, and the Clerk, Christine Cook, attended the Silent Ceremony in Guildhall to welcome in the new Lord Mayor, Alderman Charles Bowman, as he assumed office.

Shortly afterwards the Immediate Past Master, Alderman Sir David Wootton, and the Beadle, John Hollingsworth, joined the Guild's delegation in the Guildhall Art Gallery for the Presentation of Addresses.

During this delightful ceremony the Master and the Guild's delegation presented engraved silver photograph frames to Court Assistant Alderman and Sheriff Timothy Hailes and the Junior Warden Sheriff Neil Redcliffe. The Guild was privileged to make two presentations.



### *The Red Cross Christmas Market*

*Monday 27th & Tuesday 28th November 2017*



The end of November meant two years had passed since the last Red Cross Christmas Market in Guildhall. The Red Cross team together with the Livery Committee led by Alderman Michael Mainelli and his wife Elisabeth worked to incorporate Livery and Guild Stalls, Commercial Stalls, a 'Foodiefest' and a mini-style German Christmas Market (in Guildhall Yard) and produced another successful market.

All stallholders set up on the Sunday and Renter Warden, Elizabeth Thornborough, prepared the Guild second-hand bookstall ready for the opening the next day.

Monday evening arrived and the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Alderman Charles Bowman, accompanied by The Lady Mayoress, invited the Deputy President of the British Red Cross, Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra, to cut the ribbon which declared the market open. They then toured the Livery stalls in the Old Library and Ambulatory followed by the Commercial stalls in the Great Hall pausing to browse the Bookstall on their way round.

This year the Guild stall held two book signings and all copies were sold out by the close of the Market on the Tuesday evening. Jerome Farrell, the Archivist of the Worshipful Company of Leathersellers had a steady flow of customers purchasing signed copies of his book 'This Ghastly Affair'. The book is a compilation of Great War letters written by members of the Leathersellers' Company, who served at that time. Jerome had found these in the archives. The other book called 'Marriages are Made in Bond Street' by Penrose Halson (the first lady to become Master of the Worshipful Company of Turners), was also a true story and a delightful read. Both Jerome and Penrose were very pleased with their successful signings at the Market.

In addition to selling our donated books in the Old Library we were asked to man the Cookery Book stall in the 'Foodiefest' which gave our volunteer helpers working in that area a chance to watch the Cookery Demonstrations and listen to the talks.

The Guild had a successful day and a half on the stall and contributed just under £3,000 (more than twice the previous Market) towards the overall funds raised at this event for the British Red Cross. From Elizabeth, thanks are due to Jerome and Penrose and Guild Members who volunteered to help, namely:- Past Masters Terry Nemko and Anthony Woodhead, the latter assisted by his wife Katy, Past Master Poppy, Lady Cooksey vice the Master who was on the Guild holiday in Budapest, Judith Westall our Assistant Clerk who came to help in her own time and assisted in dismantling the stall at the end and Guild Member Frances Golland, a regular at the Red Cross Christmas Market.

### *A visit to 253 Provost Company RMP at Southwick, Cosham*

*Saturday 7th April 2018*

A small delegation from the Court assembled in the Officers' Mess (or Wardroom) at what was formerly HMS Dryad, now home to the Defence School of Policing and Guarding where we were met by Major Dan Staples, the Commanding Officer of 253 Provost Company, 4 Regiment Royal Military Police, the volunteer regiment of the military provost guarding service. Members may be familiar with these uniformed personnel who provide the carpet guard for us at our Annual Banquet.

Our mission was to learn more about the service and those who provide it and the plan for the day was to visit the various groups who were undergoing some weekend training in preparation for duties at the Army/Navy Rugby match due to take place at Twickenham in May.

Major Staples' enthusiasm for the service and the young men and women under his command was infectious. He outlined the history of the military provost role, which dates to 1511 (and later we saw a painting of the first ever Provost, resplendent in Tudor robes), before describing the facilities available for training at Southwick and the many tasks undertaken by his Company over the years both in the UK and overseas.



In addition to the physical guarding of military establishments, the group is involved in provision of bodyguards for close protection of high-ranking officials as well as assisting in the investigation of serious fraud and financial irregularities. On deployment, they also have a role, on behalf of the coroner, in investigating the deaths of UK soldiers killed. They accompany the deceased personnel back to the UK. Whenever the Army deploys, the Royal Military Police deploy.

We learned about the variety of people who volunteer for the service from all occupations, from civilian police, to nursing to financial adviser to the gaming industry. During our visit, we observed the exercises in the gymnasium, where skills were being refreshed on the safe and effective methods of restraint of threatening individuals. From there we went to the classroom where a seminar on the legalities of arrest and detention was being discussed and the civilian versus military rules were compared.

Before leaving the campus, we had time to view the modern chapel, only completed in 2005, in which the original stained-glass windows, war memorials and historical artefacts have been sympathetically incorporated. Following some moments of reflection, we progressed to the mess hall.

After these fascinating insights, it was good to have the chance to spend time meeting some of the young people over lunch. We discussed their motivation for joining the reserves and heard of the extraordinary camaraderie that they enjoy with like-minded volunteers. Many of their stories are truly inspirational.

Our last visit at Southwick Park was to the World War II D Day Map room, where we discovered the significance of the site in 1941 when the D Day landings were being planned. The original map has been restored and remains in situ, exactly as it was in 1941. It was extraordinary to learn that this map had been made in sections by toy makers, who, when they delivered the parts to the site, were then required to remain at the house (effectively taken hostage) for many days until the invasion was underway! There is also a museum on site, but that was closed at the weekend – for another day?

Major Staples had advised us to visit the village of Southwick before departing and some of us took that opportunity. As the village is owned by a Squire, the front doors of the houses are all painted red, except for one, which is painted white: that is the house which was occupied by General Eisenhower, when he was stationed at Southwick. The Golden Lion pub has many photographs of Churchill and Eisenhower together, plotting over drinks and cigars and is worth a visit to quench one's thirst whilst absorbing the memorabilia!



### Congratulations

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

**Court Assistant Alderman Tim Hailes and Junior Warden Neil Redcliffe** on their election as Sheriffs at Common Hall on 26th June 2017.



**Under Warden Alderman John Garbutt JP** on his nomination to be High Sheriff of Greater London in April 2020. He would be the first City Alderman to occupy both roles simultaneously for 125 years, should he be appointed.

**Under Warden Alderman John Garbutt JP** on becoming Upper Bailiff of the Worshipful Company of Weavers.

**Guild Member Prem Goyal OBE JP** on his election as Alderman for Portsoken ward of the City of London Corporation.

**Guild Member June Rosalind Spencer OBE** on being awarded the CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for her services to drama and charity.

**Guild Members Dorothy Newlands of Lauriston and Keith Bottomley CC** on their election as Court Assistants.

**Guild Member Dr Peter Ellis and Court Assistant Stephen Osborne** on their election to The Master Court of the Incorporation of Wrights in Glasgow.

**Guild Member Dr Shirin Parsno** on becoming Collector of the Incorporation of Wrights in Glasgow.

**Guild Member David Marcus Brady** on his marriage to Claire.



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### The Clerk is granted the Freedom of The City of London

*Wednesday 1st November 2017*

Having been appointed Clerk of the Guild of Freemen, Christine Cook was delighted to be nominated for admission as a Freeman of the City of London. Being nominated was the easy part – scanning her birth certificate onto A4 paper was rather more problematic and resulted in much scanning of parts and taping together – thankfully the Chamberlain's office seemed used to such things and did not bat an eyelid.

After her interview at the Chamberlain's Court she was thrilled to get the news that the Court of Common Council had approved her application. Christine called Murray Craig, the Clerk to the Chamberlain's Court, to arrange her admission ceremony and fixed the date and time – 3pm being the last appointment of the day so there would be no need to rush.

The day dawned, and at the appointed time twenty-four members of the Guild's Court and Christine's family and friends assembled. There was surprise at the number of guests, and the Beadle thought it might have been a record. Imagine Christine's surprise when two of the guests appeared in Common Councilmen robes, and then our own Junior Warden Sheriff Neil Redcliffe arrived in his regalia. Her family and friends had never seen such a sight and were very impressed! Murray Craig conducted

the ceremony with his usual style, firstly with the solemnity that such a ceremony requires but followed by a humorous and energetic address with tales of Christine's native North East, as well as the history of the City of London and notable Freemen.

Afterwards those present gathered in the Alderman's Dining Room for a glass or two of refreshment and a lovely afternoon tea.



### **HONORARY MEMBER OF THE GUILD OF FREEMEN OF THE CITY OF LONDON**

#### ***King Michael I of Romania (1921 – 2017)***

His Majesty King Michael I of Romania died aged ninety-six at his home in Switzerland on the morning of 5th December 2017 a year after being diagnosed with cancer, and just sixteen months since the death of his beloved wife Queen Anne. He was the last surviving head of state from World War II.

King Michael was born in Foişor Castle at Sinaia in the Carpathian Mountains on 25th October 1921, as Prince of Romania and the only child of Crown Prince Carol and Princess Helen of Romania. His grandparents were King Ferdinand I and Queen Maria of Romania, King Constantine I and Queen Sofia of Greece. From his ancestors and later his wife he was associated with the Imperial and Royal Families of the United Kingdom, Russia, Germany, Denmark, Greece and Portugal, the Great Ducal family of Baden, and the Hohenzollern family. Through these lines he was both a cousin of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

The young Prince's early years were spent with his parents at their home in Bucharest but his father, who was a known womaniser, left and went to Paris to pick up Magda Lupescu and then travelled to Milan, where, in December 1925, he renounced all his rights to the throne. As a result, King Michael's Grandfather, King Ferdinand I, had an Act of Succession passed making Michael his heir. On the death of his grandfather on 20th July 1927 Prince Michael became King aged 5 years and 9 months. He was the only sovereign in the world who lived for ninety years after his crowning. At that time help and advice came from his mother and a Regency was appointed which included his uncle Prince Nicholas. In 1930 Prince Carol returned to Romania, having plotted his return following his father's death and took back the throne from his son who reverted to be the Crown Prince for the next ten years. Sadly, for the young

Michael, his mother was banished and settled in Villa Sparta in Florence, Italy and he had the indignity of having to share his life with Madame Lupescu.



Crown Prince Michael was educated at a small school in the Palace in Bucharest. He represented his father at the Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth and accompanied him on a state visit to Britain in 1938. They also visited France and Germany where they met Adolf Hitler. During such visits Crown Prince Michael's composure was always one of quiet dignity. On 8th September 1940, King Carol, under pressure from the military government was ejected from Romania and King Michael, who was not quite nineteen years old, reigned once again. With his father gone his mother returned to Romania to help him. Although he was Head of State there was a strong Nazi influence amongst the Government, particularly from the all too powerful leader Marshal Ion Antonescu who forced King Michael and Queen Helen to pay courtesy visits to Hitler and Mussolini. King Michael warned against invading the USSR and was appalled at the conditions of the frontline Romanian troops. Like his father, King Michael was pro-British and his desire to overthrow Antonescu was strong. In August 1944 the young King set up a coup against Antonescu asking him to agree to side Romania with the allies which would give King Michael the ability to carry

the Romanian army with him against the Germans and give a boost to the allies on the Eastern Front. Antonescu refused and was arrested. German troops were then offered a peaceful exit from the country but instead bombed Bucharest. The Romanians having sided with the allies then fought the Germans which hastened the advance of the Russians into Romania following an agreement between Churchill and Stalin. Unfortunately, as we now know the Russians reneged on that agreement and captured 100,000 officers and men. By 1945 Romania was in the hands of Moscow but it has often been said that the courage of King Michael in removing Antonescu and ousting the Germans meant that World War II ended six months earlier than it would have otherwise.

King Michael reigned for a further two years, although uneasy with the new government, and worked hard behind the scenes to obtain Romania's freedom. It was not to be, and he and his mother Queen Helen were under virtual house arrest, though they were given permission to travel to London for the wedding in November 1947 of the then Princess Elizabeth to Philip Mountbatten. It was here that he met for the first time, his future wife Princess Anne of Bourbon-Parma although he had kept magazine photographs of her since seeing them in 1943 when she was serving as a nurse on the front. The communist authorities thought he would stay in the United Kingdom, but he returned to Romania and Peleş Castle for the New Year. From there he was summoned back to Bucharest on 30th December 1947, by the communist leader only to find that Elisabeta Palace was surrounded by communist troops. With a 'gun held to his head' and the real threat of the execution of 1,000 Romanian students he was forced to sign his abdication, abolishing the monarchy, and replacing it with a People's Republic.

At the beginning of January 1948, he and his mother were forced to leave the country and it was more than forty years



before he could return to his homeland. Exile was yet another disappointment in a lifetime of instability and responsibility, but his behaviour was one of quiet dignity for which he was renowned and respected.

One light of his exile was his marriage in the Orthodox Church in Greece in June 1948 to Princess Anne of Bourbon-Parma, the daughter of Prince René of Bourbon-Parma and his wife, Princess Margrethe of Denmark, a niece of Queen Alexandra. The other came from his five daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren that followed giving him a family life he had not really known before. In the early part of his exile King Michael moved to England and lived first in Bramshill in Berkshire and then rented a house at Ayot St Lawrence in Hertfordshire. He did not feel settled because he missed his country and in 1956 he moved the family to Versoix in Switzerland. The King supported his family in various employments, including using those secretly learned skills of his youth to work as a commercial pilot for Lear Jet. His hobbies included collecting cars, particularly jeeps and he owned one that had been used by General Patton. These are now kept in the Royal Motor Museum at Săvârșin Castle in Romania. All the while he worked tirelessly for Romania, chairing committees in exile, and doing all he could to alert the world to the atrocities in his homeland.

During his long years of exile, the Romanian people looked to him as they suffered under Ceausescu's regime and when it fell in December 1989 the King hoped that he would be able to return to Romania and be monarch again. After some failed attempts he was allowed, in 1992, to return at Easter where he was greeted by huge crowds and in the speech, he gave, from his hotel window, to at least one million people who had gathered outside, he said 'I love you, don't forget that!'. Sadly, the Government of the day felt threatened and to His Majesty's great sorrow would not allow any further visits. It was only with a change of Government in 1997 that his citizenship was restored, and he could visit Romania again. Several properties previously owned by the Romanian



Royal Family were returned to him and are now used by his family. In 2011 to mark his 90th birthday, King Michael delivered a speech in the Romanian Parliament to great acclaim and never lost the respect of the Romanian people. On 28th April 2011 His Majesty, together with his son-in-law His Royal Highness Prince Radu, attended a ceremony in Guildhall organised by Past Master, the late Sir Gavyn Arthur, where His Majesty read the declaration for the Freedom and signed the Register. At the beginning of May 2011 some fifty plus members of the Guild led by the Master at the time, Don Lunn, holidayed in Romania and met with King Michael at Elisabeta Palace, where, in a short ceremony, he was presented with his Freedom Certificate of the City of London, by the Clerk to the Chamberlain's Court and by the Master his Warrant of The Guild of Freemen of the City of London as an Honorary Member. Subsequently a dinner was held in the Palace for the visitors from London to celebrate the occasion. At our Banquet in December 2011 we were honoured with the presence of Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Margareta together with her husband HRH Prince Radu, Her Royal Highness Princess Elena and her

husband His Excellency Mr Alexander Nixon and again at the Banquet in 2014 by HRH Crown Princess Margareta and HRH Prince Radu. King Michael was also clothed as a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers. To mark the King's 75 years as the longest living holder of the Royal Victorian Order in the rank of Knight Grand Cross (GCVO), a dinner was organised in his honour by the late Sir Gavyn Arthur. This was held in Stationers' Hall on 8th November 2012, at which some Guild members were present.

King Michael withdrew from public life in 2016 following his diagnosis of cancer and made his eldest daughter, HRH Crown Princess Margareta, Custodian of the Crown. She has succeeded him.

When this most dignified man died, despite being a Republic the President of Romania said of the King, in a solemn session of Parliament, "he was one of the greatest personalities of Romania, and he wrote Romania's history with capital letters. It is a great loss for Romania and Romanians". He then declared three days of National mourning and a full State funeral took place, watched on the ground by huge crowds of Romanians and many more on television worldwide, this showed how highly King Michael was regarded by his countrymen old and young alike. The most touching moment was when the aircraft carrying his body landed at Bucharest Airport and his coffin appeared – he was finally back home for good.



May this very special King, with his quiet dignity, all seeing eyes and gentle smile, who is once again beside his beloved wife and his forebears at the New Cathedral of Curtea de Arges, now and forever Rest in peace, Odihnească-se în pace.

## *Benevolent & Charitable Activities*

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

*Review from Trustee Ann-Marie Jefferys*



The Trustees are pleased to report that the Guild's Charity continues to do well, even in this difficult climate of global economic uncertainty and low returns.

It is pleasing that charitable giving remains at the heart of the Guild's activities, with the Trustees continuing to support a range of charitable

organisations within, or associated with, Greater London and several schools linked to the City of London.

The Trustees receive many applications for support which are carefully examined and discussed before decisions are made. The Trustees make visits where possible to give further insight into where our money would be most effective. We aim to gain the most advantage from our limited resources.

The Trustees maintained the Charity's educational support of two presentees at Christ's Hospital School, and they

also awarded bursaries to students at the City of London Freeman's School, the City of London School, The City of London School for Girls, King Edward's School Witley and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

In the year to 31 July 2017 the Charity awarded thirty-seven grants totalling £42,825 to give educational, welfare and social support to the needy. We try to keep our management fees to a minimum to maximise our giving, and our gratitude must go to the Guild's office for their support with all the paperwork associated with the Charity. Our Clerks, Christine Cook and Judith Westall, ensure that all financial giving is correctly administered, as well as their ongoing commitments to the Guild.

During the year to 31 July 2017 the Charity raised £23,560 through the generosity of Guild members and the income generated by the Charity's investment portfolio meant that the overall value of the Charity increased by a little this year. We were fortunate to be the beneficiary of a generous bequest which has aided our giving potential. The Charity's Trustees' Annual Report to 31 July 2017 is available to Guild members in a separate document from the Guild's office.

If you look at the Guild webpage, you will notice a 'Donate' button has been added. This is advantageous to all who generously give to the Charity as with one click of the button, you are directed to the donation page where you can quickly donate. This goes directly to the Charity.

None of the work done by the Charity would be possible without the generous support of the members of the Guild, who continue to give. A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed this year. Your gift continues to grow and be of benefit to the many recipients.

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### *The Guild's New Website goes live!*

At last! Our lovely new Guild of Freeman website is up and running; have a look and see what you think at [www.guild-freemen-london.co.uk](http://www.guild-freemen-london.co.uk).

In addition to bringing a fresh new look to the website, it is easier to use on tablets and mobile devices and is much easier to navigate. You can now apply for events online (you will need to be logged in to see the prices), place an order for Guild merchandise, see all the news and photos of events as well as read about the traditions and history of the Guild.

Applications for membership can also be submitted online, making it easier for prospective members to apply without the need for sponsorship. You can still apply for events by post if you prefer; all applications

are treated equally regardless of how they are received in the Guild Office.

If the Guild office already holds your email address you will have received an email inviting you to log onto the new website. If you did not receive an email, then please contact the Clerk at [clerk@guild-freemen-london.co.uk](mailto:clerk@guild-freemen-london.co.uk) and we will create your log in details for you. We want to increase our digital presence so if you have a Facebook account we invite you to 'like' and 'share' the Guild's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/GuildofFreemen>

We hope that you enjoy using the new website; if you have any feedback about it please use the contact form to get in touch with the Guild office.



# *The Lord Mayor's 800th Anniversary Awards Trust*

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## *Richard Martin the Advisor to the Trust*



The Lord Mayor's 800th Anniversary Awards Trust was founded in 1989 with the object of helping young people to undertake projects designed to broaden their experience, develop their self-confidence, and improve their career chances.

An additional aim is to give beneficiaries an insight and interest in the work of the Lord Mayor and Corporation of the City of London. Grants are made twice a year to young people aged between 17 and 24. Priority for granting awards is given to those applicants with a close connection to the City of London. Projects should include challenge, initiative and creativity, and benefit to others. They may incorporate arts and music as well as physical challenge.

**Enterprises which have qualified for Awards include:** Teaching and community work in many different countries; Conservation and wild life work abroad; attendance at summer schools and work experience abroad.

**Participation in:** Scout and Guide expeditions and Jamborees; Raleigh International expeditions; International Citizen; Service overseas placements; British Exploring Society expeditions; Tall Ships voyages and sail training; Youth Choir tours abroad; Kayaking and diving expeditions; Teaching programmes such as those organized through Project Trust; Building and developing schools in third world countries; Expeditions organized by schools which include an element of community work; Mountaineering/trekking at home or abroad; Making TV documentaries overseas; Adventurous travel; Support for special courses run for disadvantaged youth; Medical, dental and nursing electives; Work in orphanages and children's homes and with the destitute abroad.

**Further information and Application forms may be obtained from the Adviser at the following address:**

The Lord Mayor's 800th Anniversary Awards Trust  
St Margaret's Church, Lothbury  
London EC2R 7HH

✉ [lm800aat@hotmail.com](mailto:lm800aat@hotmail.com) ☎ 07979 227914

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

*Maya Schamroth Rossade*

At the end of August 2017, I returned to a busy, diverse, and fast-developing London after having spent eight months teaching in a boarding school for girls in rural Zambia, living in a community with no running water, erratic electricity supply and many goats.

Eastern Girls' Technical Secondary school is difficult to find in Zambia. A rough dirt track winds for 13 kilometres from the nearest tarmac road, taking you to an incomplete, partially furnished school that, due to its inconvenient location and lack of basic facilities, struggles to recruit teachers. Teachers have become overloaded with classes and therefore struggle to fully attend to each class and plan effective, well thought out lessons. To help reduce the workload of the current teaching staff, I volunteered to teach maths, chemistry, biology, and computer studies to girls aged 12-18 years.

When I was first given the grand tour of the school, I was shocked to find the 'library' was an empty room without books, and the dining hall an empty room without tables or chairs (the pupils stand or sit on the floor for every meal). There is no running water, so the girls (and teachers) must have bucket showers and use pit latrines. During frequent power cuts the girls are forced to study in the



evening, huddled around small solar lamps. The girls are completely self-sufficient, cleaning their own classrooms and facilities, serving their own food, dividing up chores within the school, organising their own entertainment and doing all their own washing and cleaning.

It is fair to say that my first exposure to this place certainly challenged my perceptions of what education and a school

## *The Lord Mayor's 800th Anniversary Awards Trust*

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is all about. I have seen and experienced at first-hand the struggles that teachers face in schools like these, that they are so underdeveloped, which creates so many challenges when trying to give the pupils the same experiences and opportunities they would get at any other school. I admired the fact that even in a school where pupils lack the facilities and support available to United Kingdom pupils, their education continues, and the school has become one of the top schools academically in the region.



It was a daunting task, to walk into a classroom with forty 17-year olds waiting for you, a recent school leaver with little experience of teaching, to tackle maths. Many due to a belief that it is too difficult and is traditionally a male dominated field. I tried to move away from the typical Zambian way of teaching which involved simply lecturing at the front of the class and tried to vary the way I taught my grade 11 class.

They played games, gave presentations, and did lots of group work. Hopefully I broke down some of the anxiety surrounding the subject; the pupils told me that I had made the subject fun and had given them more confidence in their abilities. I could see this reflected in their results. After working at this project, I have become so much more assured in myself and my capabilities to take on new challenges.

I decided to take a gap year and volunteer overseas with the charity Project Trust, because I wanted to take the opportunity of a break from formal education to go and have a unique, immersive experience, somewhere culturally completely different, to develop a wider outlook on the world. Prior to my placement, my knowledge of Zambia and southern Africa stretched little beyond the image of dry dusty land and mud huts shown by the media. I was ignorant of the rich traditions, ways of life and protective,



supportive nature of communities that I discovered in this country of incredible natural beauty and (during the rainy season) lush and dense greenery. Differences that I may have felt strongly at the beginning of my journey became insignificant in the way that I formed relationships with staff and students.

Hopefully they also saw that despite living halfway across the world and having a completely different upbringing, I was not so different and can live the way that they did and of adapting to their culture and customs. Having seen and completely changed my perceptions of one culture has made me realise that especially today, in a world where ignorance, hate and intolerance, still exist, being open minded, accepting, and aware is more important than ever in working towards a united and trusting global community.





## 253 Provost Company RMP (Reserves)

### *Major Daniel Staples, Officer Commanding 253 Provost Company, 4 Regiment Royal Military Police, reports on the activities of the Company during the past year.*

The last twelve months has been a period of change for 253 Provost Company. We have a new Officer Commanding, Company Sergeant Major and the arrival of new recruits.



*The Master is introduced to the equipment carried by the Royal Military Police*

As part of 4 Regiment Royal Military Police, 253 Provost Company has continued to support 1 Military Police Brigade and the Field Army throughout a busy operational period. Members of the Company have been active completing promotional and specialist courses alongside our Regular Army colleagues as well as representing the British Army at National and international events.

4 Regiment Royal Military Police is a 'hybrid' Regiment and as such consists of two Regular (full time) Companies based in Aldershot and Colchester and one Reserve (volunteer) Company (253 Provost Company) based in Brixton, London. This hybrid nature allows us to support and be supported by the Regular Companies and provides some excellent opportunities for the Company and its members.

In June 2017, we were honoured to be invited to the unveiling of the African and Caribbean Memorial at Windrush Square, Brixton. The Company

provided a marching contingent to honour the African and Caribbean Service Men and Women who fought in the First and Second World Wars.

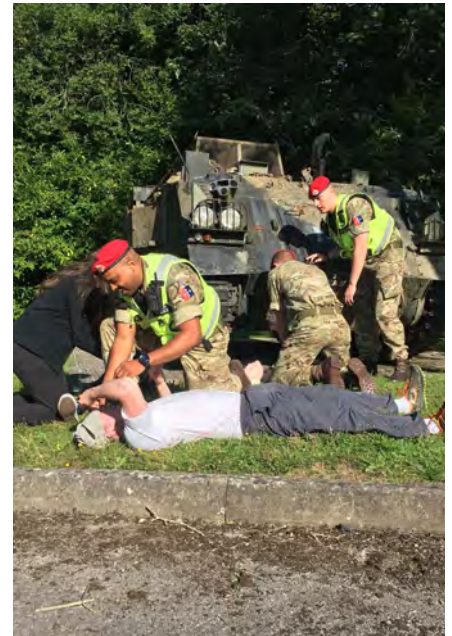
In October 2017, the Company was honoured with its annual visit from the Master of the Guild of Freeman during which the 'Soldier of The Year' was announced and awarded his certificate, a Guild of Freeman shield and the honour of supporting the Guild at forthcoming events. The Company also took the opportunity to introduce the Master to the various roles of the Royal Military Police and provide live capability demonstrations including a weapon stand.

The 253 Provost Company 'Soldier of The Year, for 2017 is Lance Corporal Sven Harris who has thrown himself into the role supporting the Guild at every opportunity and actively seeking new opportunities to build on the already solid foundations between the Company and the Guild.



*Members of 253 Provost Company next to Stockwell War Memorial on Remembrance Day 2017*

The Lord Mayor's Show is a key event on our calendar and is always an excellent event. 253 Provost Company supports the event in three ways; supporting the City of London Police, delivering a float for the pageant and the 'Soldier of The Year' escorts the Master and his carriage. This year's Lord Mayor's Show was an excellent event and all who took part enjoyed themselves greatly.



*Members of 253 Provost Company deal with simulated casualties during a training exercise*

Continuing our ceremonial role, the Company led two Remembrance Parades on Sunday 12th November 2017 in the Borough of Lambeth; one at Stockwell War Memorial and a second at Windrush Square, Brixton. Both parades were well supported by the local community including invited dignitaries, the London Fire Brigade and Army Cadet Force.



*253 Provost Company 'Soldier of the Year' escorts the Master at The Lord Mayor's Show*

We now look forward to seeing the Master and other members of the Guild during our training exercises and events throughout 2018.

# *The New Master's Message 2018-19*

## *The Master*

*John Barber DL, MRICS*

Dear Members

I am delighted at the privilege of being elected Master of the Guild in our 110th year and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the various events I have put into the programme for 2018-19.

My predecessor, Peter Allcard, and I have known each other since 1978 when I became a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths and we both joined the Court and became Prime Warden; Peter first and myself in 2006/07. I know Peter and Pearl have worked hard to give the Guild a good year and I hope to do the same in my year.

This year's programme will bring new and different events, the first being at the famous Forman's Smoked Salmon Factory followed by a tour of the Olympic Park. Then we are going to the RAF Club for dinner with traditional music hall acts.

In April Sheldon Shapiro of Grays Antique Market, also the Company's valuer, is giving a talk after supper on the Guild's Treasures, many of which are very rare.

In April David Wheeler, who is a conservator of the Royal Collection at Marlborough House, is giving a talk at The Master's Lunch in the RAC Club, Pall Mall.

After our Annual Service at St Lawrence Jewry on 3rd May we are going to the Armourers' Hall for supper and to hear a talk by Sarah Fabergé on the world of Fabergé.

In early June a visit is planned to the newly refurbished motor museum at RAC Woodcote Park, Surrey, with lunch to follow.

I have great admiration for RNLi City Branch and have arranged a



visit to the Little Ship Club with a RNLi demonstration and supper. If you haven't seen it, you must.

In late June we have the Rt. Hon Eleanor Laing MP, PC, Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, as our speaker at the Grocers' Hall dinner.

In July we attend the Guildhall School of Music and Drama to see a production of 'Fiddler on the Roof' with an early light supper. We have also arranged two city walks, which are always popular.

September brings lunch and a show at Brick Lane Music Hall where I will receive members and their guests in my role as Representative Deputy Lieutenant of Newham and Greater London. Later in the month I have arranged a reception and supper at a Hawksmoor Masterpiece, Christ Church Spitalfields, in an area famous for the Huguenots. It has an original organ and I am delighted that Alderman Sir Andrew Parmley, Lord Mayor of London 2016-17 has kindly agreed to play for us.

Two years ago, the Guild visited the House Mill, Bromley-by-Bow which was a great success with lunch, a tour of the building and a gin tasting so I have arranged a repeat visit for October.

On 21st October we spend a week in Southern Ireland starting with two days in Dublin and then onto County Wexford to see, amongst other sights and excursions, the House of Waterford Crystal and attend the Wexford Festival of Opera.

After the Lord Mayor's show on the 10th November we will have lunch in the Members' Private Dining Room at Guildhall. On 14th November we have supper at Skinners' Hall with our guest speaker, Lt Colonel Jane Davis OBE, DL, who has many tales to tell of being a nurse in war zones.

Many of you who watch television will have seen Cyrus Todiwala OBE, DL appear on Saturday Kitchen. Cyrus is much in demand and HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, loves the food cooked by him. He was the chef for Her Majesty the Queen's visit to the North East for her Diamond Jubilee. Come and see Cyrus cook for us at his restaurant Spice Namaste and enjoy a menu reflecting Cyrus' rich Parsee heritage.

The Annual Banquet on the 10th December will be our 110th. It is always an event not to be missed and we hope this year's will be an extra special one. More on that soon.

We are ringing the changes for the Carol Service this year; St. Vedast-alias-Foster is the venue for the first time and we will go across the road afterwards for wine and canapés at Dion, Paternoster House.

2019 starts with a reception and supper at Vintners' Hall, where our speaker is Sir Neil Thorne OBE, TD, DL.



Our regular February dinner at the House of Lords is being hosted this time by Lord Lingfield in the Peers' Dining Room. We also have two visits to the College of Arms in February and anyone who has not been is missing a treat.

My last event is on 27th February at Fishmongers' Hall. The guest

speaker will be former Lord Lieutenant of Greater London and Lord Mayor of London 2005-06, Sir David Brewer KG, CMG, CVO, JP.

During my year John Nolan, who I married in May 2017, will attend many events but as a much in demand nurse he may not be able to attend some events and my friends

Mrs Ann Champion, The Rt. Hon Eleanor Laing MP, PC, Mrs Barbara Newman CBE, CC and Mrs Wendy Mead OBE, CC will be my consorts.

I hope you find something you like and will enjoy.

*John Barber*. DL

*John was born in Ilford, Essex. After 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 the sale, he financed restaurants, owned an art gallery, and pursued other business interests in the City, East London, and Essex.*

*In 1991 he became a trustee, and now Chief Executive, 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 and a trustee of the Art Scholars' Trust Fund. He is a 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 plus many other organisations. In his spare time John enjoys travel, antiques and 20th Century modern art.*

## The Guild Welcomes New Members 2017

### January

Simon John Probert BA(Hons)  
FGMS  
James Jonathan Baker BCS(Hons)  
Kim Daniel Bromley-Derry CBE  
CSS MBA  
Anthony Michael Christini  
Anthony Charles Greene FCMA  
Mark Neale Harris BA(Hons)  
Economics  
Calum MacCalman BSc(Hons)  
BArch ARB  
Harvey Ralph Sillis FIPG

### April

Lyn Litchfield MA  
Beverley Sue Davies MBBS LRCP  
MRCS  
Julia Vivienne Galgano  
Victoria Kathryn Stone

### June

Riaz Ahmed Agha MBBS MRCS  
FRSPH  
Christopher Thomas Edge MA  
LLM FRSA  
Ross Jobber  
Paul Antony Blows  
Clive William Romney Harley  
GSM  
Daniel Mark Heath  
Lynne Russell  
Simon Richard Turner

### September

Andrew David Blease ACIB  
Neil Charles Bonnyman  
John Charles Francis Devereux  
O'Moore MB BCH FRCGP  
Angela Mary Parker MB BS  
MRCGP  
Daniel Quack  
Richard John Abraham

Paul Andrew Conlin  
Ian Crossley MBA MYSL  
Gillian Ruth Griffiths  
Jasdev Singh Rehncy FCA CTA  
CMgt  
Edward John Saville  
Debra Tyrrell  
Kevin Rhydderch Williams MB BS

### November

Nicholas Simon Harding  
John Merlin Hinton Hutchings  
BA(Econ)  
Steven Berryman PhD MMus  
BMus  
Suryakant Natverlal Khatri  
BSc(Hons) MSc(Lond)  
Alastair John Naisbitt King  
Afshin Mosahebi FRCS PhD MBA  
Mark Stephen Neale  
Michael John Steggles FPFS  
Patrick Joseph Swint MS PA-C  
MBA

# New Member Offer

## Dear Guild Members

It is a privilege to be Master of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London and to meet so many of you at our social events.

My purpose in writing this letter to you all is to encourage you to invite your friends, family, and colleagues to join you in the Guild.

As you know the Guild was formed more than a century ago, to give all Freemen of the City of London an organisation to which they could be proud to belong. It has since grown to be the largest of its kind in the City, with a reputation for friendliness and benevolence.

All Freemen are welcome to join, whether, or not, they belong to a Livery Company. Our members are men and women from all backgrounds, with a wide variety of interests. Our social programme is the City's most extensive, and includes events with privileged access for Guild Members, as well as opportunities to dine in some of London's finest Livery Halls and at Guildhall for our Annual Banquet. Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal is an Honorary Member of the Guild and, while our Centenary Master in 2008, attended the Banquet as well as many other events during her year.

It is vital to our continuing success that new members

are introduced. May I ask you all to think of friends or relatives who would like to join us, including those who are not yet Freemen of the City. Guild applications can now be made online at our new website at [www.guild-freemen-london.co.uk](http://www.guild-freemen-london.co.uk) or contact our Clerk, Christine Cook, at ✉ [clerk@guild-freemen-london.co.uk](mailto:clerk@guild-freemen-london.co.uk) or by telephone on ☎ 0207 239 9016.

To thank you for your support, we are offering a special opportunity for you to invite a guest to a Guild Dinner. Not only will we offer a warm welcome, we will refund half the cost of their ticket when they join the Guild. There are twenty of these special tickets available on a first-come first-served basis and can be applied to Grocers' Hall on 27th June 2018 or Christ Church, Spitalfields on 26th September 2018. Please contact the Clerk to apply for these special tickets so that she can look out for your guest's application.

I very much look forward to seeing and hearing from you in my year as Master.

*John Barber*. DL

The Master 2018-19

## The Presentation of Warrants Ceremony





### **The Senior 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 forty-four 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 (Committee Member of the latter), 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 in Glasgow. Her other interests include travel, history, walking and writing for her own pleasure, as well as an interest in several charities.

### **The Renter Warden *Sheriff 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 was elected as a Sheriff in the June 2017 Shrieval Elections. In his spare time Neil enjoys history, collecting art, skiing, swimming, yoga and playing tennis.

### **The Junior 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 a 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 Justice of the Peace, Immediate Past President of the City Livery Club, President of Walbrook Ward Club, Lay Chairman, and a Churchwarden of St Stephen Walbrook church and Vice-Chairman Elect of the Royal Society of St George (City of London Branch). He is also Upper Bailiff (Master) of the Weavers Livery company and is an Honorary Court Member of the Joiners and Ceilers Livery and a Liveryman of the International Bankers company. He is Chairman of the International Students' Trust, an Honorary Visiting Professor at two Universities and a Fellow of both the Royal Society of Arts and the Royal Geographical Society. He has been nominated as High Sheriff of Greater London in 2020. John's other interests include travel, collecting ethnic art and champagne.

### **The Under-Warden *Ann-Marie Jefferys MEd, BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH***



Ann-Marie grew up in Buckinghamshire attending local schools, and currently lives in Kent. She began working in the travel business in the West End of London before retiring to become a full-time mother. Whilst at home, she studied History through the Open University and went into teaching working in some difficult state inner-city London schools before becoming a Headteacher in the independent sector. She currently has a portfolio of work, teaching part-time in a local Prep School, running a small Holiday Let and Property Development business.

Ann-Marie has always been interested in the City and has links through family and friends. She became a Freeman and Guild member in 2002 and was invited to join the Court in 2012. She is a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Glovers and a member of the Aldgate Ward Club. She has many charity interests, is a Governor of a local church school, and a very active church member serving on her local Deanery Synod and on Rochester Diocesan Synod. She is a Trustee of Rochester Diocesan Academy Trust and a member of the Rochester Schools Executive Committee.

Ann-Marie is married to David. They have two children, Sophie who is a doctor, and Peter who works in the City. Her interests include travel, history, especially the First World War, museum and art gallery visits, the theatre, walking and music.

# Events Programme for 2018-19

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## **Forman's and Tour of the Olympic Park, Stratford**

**Tuesday 20 March 12.00 – 17.00**

**Dress: Blazer/Jacket & Tie**

The Master is delighted to offer this fascinating visit as his first event. The day will start at Forman's, famous as London's oldest salmon smoker and creators of the London Cure, where we will be treated to a unique half hour tour of the iconic smokehouse, including a salmon carving demonstration with Darren Matson the Guinness World Record Salmon slicer (he beat Gordon Ramsay in the challenge). This will be followed by a brief talk on the history of smoked salmon from 4th generation business owner Lance Forman. Lance will then conduct a master-class in salmon tasting where he will guide us through the different types and cuts of salmon. Afterwards we will enjoy a two-course lunch with a glass of wine in Forman's award-winning restaurant. After lunch we will board the coach to take us on our private tour of the Olympic Park where we will go behind the scenes and, subject to sporting commitments, have a tour of West Ham Football Club, the Aquatic Centre, and the Velodrome - let's see who we can spot!

## **Traditional Music Hall, with the Players' Theatre Club and Supper at the RAF Club, Piccadilly**

**Thursday 22 March 19.00 – 22.00**

**Dress: Suit/Jacket & Tie**

BBC 4 has recently shown repeats of 'The Good Old Days' - the very successful TV programme that ran for thirty years, from 1953 to 1983. The Players' provided the final scene, while the vocally gifted 'Chairman', Leonard Sachs, had shared in staging the very first traditional music hall show for the Players' in 1937. The Club survives, and today continues to put on regular shows at the Museum of Comedy in Bloomsbury, and events tailored to the wishes of a wide range of organisations and groups; Livery Companies, Village Halls, Birthday celebrants. More especially, the Club invests the proceedings of its bespoke events into its 'New Faces' project to audition, train, and provide performance opportunities for up-and-coming artistes to ensure the future of the genre. For this very special evening the Master has asked the Club to provide a traditional music hall show for the Guild, headed by a top-hatted, waistcoated, gavel-wielding Chairman, assisted by the now traditional orchestra consisting of eleven absentees and a single musician. The artistes, drawn from the four corners of London's Labour Exchanges, will invite us to enjoy the stirring and emotion-twanging singing of the vocalists, admire the prestidigital skills of the magician, the incredible dexterity of the ukulele man, and above all, to exercise our lungs and vowels in familiar choruses. This fantastical event will be held in the Ballroom of the RAF Club where we will enjoy a hearty two-course supper with wine as the show is put on around us.

## **Reception, Supper and Presentation of the Guild's Treasures - Tallow Chandlers' Hall**

**Wednesday 11 April 19.00 – 22.30**

**Dress: Suit/Jacket & Tie**

For his first Livery Hall Dinner, the Master has chosen Tallow Chandlers' Hall, one of the best-preserved halls in London. Whilst we enjoy a sparkling reception in the Parlour, which dates from the 17th Century, a selection of the Guild's Treasures will be on display in the Livery Hall, where we will enjoy a three-course dinner with wine. Guild Member Sheldon Shapiro will take us on a journey through history as he tells us about the Treasures that have been collected and donated to the Guild over the past 110 years. As a former owner of an art gallery in Kensington, and being

involved in the antiques world, the Master is keen to give members the opportunity to enjoy some of the most interesting items in the collection. Sheldon's expertise is in Jewellery, Silver, Arts & Crafts, Russian works of art, Objects of Vertu and Objets d'art – we look forward to this rare opportunity to discover more about the Guild's heritage.

This event follows our welcome ceremony for new members, who may wish to continue their celebrations and learn more about the Guild's history.

## **Master's Lunch and The Royal Collection – RAC Club, Pall Mall**

**Tuesday 24 April 12.15 – 15.00**

**Dress: Suit/Jacket & Tie**

The Royal Automobile Club is one of the world's foremost private members' clubs, and the Master, having a passion for all things motoring, has chosen the RAC Pall Mall Clubhouse in the heart of St James's for The Master's Lunch. The Guild's privileged access will begin with a sparkling reception, after which we will enjoy a three-course lunch with wine in the Mountbatten Room. Overlooking Pall Mall, the room's mirrored panels, marble fireplaces, chandeliers and sumptuous soft furnishings lend an air of prestige and elegance to the event. The Master, with his love of antiques, is delighted to welcome David Wheeler, Senior Conservator of Furniture and Decorative Arts at The Royal Collection Trust, who will give a glimpse into the work that goes into conserving the exquisite decorative arts belonging to one of the world's most important art collections.

## **Annual Church Service – St Lawrence Jewry next Guildhall**

**Thursday 03 May 18.00 – 19.00**

**Dress: Suit**

The Annual Service will be held in the Church of St Lawrence Jewry next Guildhall. The Guild's Honorary Chaplain, The Very Revd. Dr David Ison, Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, will conduct the service. The choir from King Edward's School Witley will once again support us. All Guild Members and guests are most welcome. There will be a collection during the service.

## **Supper and World of Fabergé – Armourers' Hall**

**Thursday 03 May 19.30 – 22.00**

**Dress: Suit**

Continuing with The Master's love of art and antiques, he has invited Sarah Fabergé to join us for the Guild's Annual Church Service Supper at Armourers' Hall. Sarah is a great-granddaughter of Peter Carl Fabergé, the Russian jeweller best known for his famous Fabergé eggs. Sarah is an ambassador for Fabergé and we look forward to her talk, over a glass of wine, where we will hear about the World of Fabergé, its history and how it has reinvented itself. During the evening we will enjoy a two-course supper with wine and we will be joined by the choir from King Edward's School, Witley for drinks before supper.

## **Visit to RAC Motor Museum Woodcote Park & Lunch**

**Tuesday 05 June 11.00 – 14.30**

**Dress: Casual**

The Master's motoring theme continues with this fascinating day out. The 350-acre Woodcote Park estate is in the beautiful setting of the Epsom Downs, a designated landscape character area on



## Events Programme for 2018-19

the fringe of the Surrey Hills, an area of outstanding natural beauty. The clubhouse itself is an elegant Georgian style building, its front an exact replica of a building constructed in 1753 but burned down in a fire in 1934. The parts of the clubhouse which survived the fire are Grade II\* listed. The Motor Museum is contained in a barn dating back to 1770; the Club's Heritage Fleet gives an authentic glimpse into Britain's motoring history including the RAC's patrol vehicles which allow a unique insight into the roots of the Club going back some 80 years. We will see a wide range of veteran and vintage cars as well as some special vehicles, but it is a working collection, so the guide will ensure that we see the best in the collection on the day. After the tour, we will make our way to the Clubhouse for a two-course lunch before departing for home. Transport can be arranged from and to Epsom station for those wishing to travel by train.

### Reception and RNLI Demonstration – Little Ship Club

**Wednesday 13 June 19.30 - 21.30**

**Dress: Suit/Jacket & Tie**

The Guild has a long association with the RNLI and this year the Master is delighted that the RNLI Tower Lifeboat Station has agreed to give members an exciting demonstration which, subject to operational requirements, will include a simulated rescue and a test of the boat's manoeuvrability. The Tower Lifeboat Station is the busiest RNLI station in the country, covering sixteen miles of the Thames from Barking to Battersea. In 2017 the brave crew were called out 520 times and saved fourteen lives. The Commodore of the Little Ship Club is supporting the event, and we will enjoy a two-course supper with refreshments, which we will be able to take onto the terrace to view the demonstration.

Members and their guests are invited to make a charitable donation for presentation to the Tower Lifeboat Station.

### Supper and Show – GSMD Gala Evening

**Monday 09 July 17.30 – 22.00**

**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. A wonderful evening is assured as this year's show is the powerful 'Fiddler on the Roof', which has been running somewhere in the world since 1964!

The evening will commence with a drinks reception at 17.30 in the Barbican's conservatory followed by a two-course supper with wine in the Garden Room. A copy of the programme for the show and interval drinks are included in the ticket price, which the Guild is offering at the same price that individuals would pay at the box office. This year GSMD have asked for a donation, hence the increase in the ticket price.

### City Walk and Light Supper

**Tuesday 17 July & Wednesday 18 July 18.00 – 21.00**

**Dress: Casual**

Once again, our City Walks will be led by Peter Tompkins, who is the Deputy Master of the Wax Chandlers' Company, and for his theme he has chosen Modern Buildings in the Square Mile. A fascinating tour will be followed by a simple supper at Williamson's Tavern, said to hold the oldest excise licence in the City, and originally a residence for the Lord Mayors of London. As before, Peter will be hosting the event at no charge, but has asked for a donation (suggested as no less than £12.50 per person) for onward transmission to the Lord Mayor's Charity appeal.

These two events will be identical. Please insert I2A/I2B in the 'Event No' box on the Application Form if you would be happy to attend either one.

### Lunch & Show – Brick Lane Music Hall

**Tuesday 11 September**

**12.30 – 17.00**

**Dress: Blazer/Jacket & Tie**

Following the success of the 25th Anniversary show in 2017, and with many members unable to secure a place, the Master has arranged for Brick Lane Music Hall to open a day early after its summer break, especially for the Guild. In his role as a Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London the Master will welcome you to a Cockney Sing-Song – a right-royal knees up! Cast your 'mince pies' over this fantastic tribute to everything that is Cockney, and ensure you sing along to many all-time greats. To get you in the mood there will be a hearty three-course lunch with wine. As if a sing-a-long wasn't enough you will be royally entertained by the talented singers, dancers, comedians and of course the wonderful MC, Vincent Hayes MBE. The wonderfully decorated listed former church sets the old-time music hall atmosphere and you are guaranteed to leave with a smile on your face and your feet tapping.

### Lunch at Forman's - Stratford

**Tuesday 18th September**

**10.30 – 15.30**

**Dress: Blazer/Jacket & Tie**

The Master is delighted to offer a repeat of this fascinating visit. The day will start at Stratford where we will board a coach to take us the short distance to Forman's, famous as London's oldest salmon smoker and creators of the London Cure. We will be treated to a unique tour of the iconic smokehouse, including a salmon carving demonstration with Darren Matson the Guinness World Record Salmon slicer (he beat Gordon Ramsay in the challenge). There will also be a talk on the history of smoked salmon from 4th generation business owner Lance Forman. Lance will conduct a master class in salmon tasting. He will guide us through the different types and cuts of salmon as we taste them as our starter in Forman's award-winning restaurant. Afterwards, we will enjoy a delicious main course and pudding with a glass of wine. After lunch, and the opportunity to buy items from Forman's extensive range of products, we will board the coach to take us back to Stratford. If possible, we will add a private tour of the Olympic Park where we will go behind the scenes and, subject to sporting commitments, have a tour, for example, of the Aquatic Centre and the Velodrome - this is subject to securing a guide and access to the venues.

### Reception & Supper – Christ Church Spitalfields

**Wednesday 26 September**

**19.30 – 22.30**

**Dress: Black Tie**

We are lucky that for The Master's second Black Tie Dinner, he has secured Hawksmoor's masterpiece, Christ Church Spitalfields. Completed in 1729, it had become almost derelict by 1957. In 2004, Christ Church was restored to its appearance c1750, based on the surviving archaeological and documentary evidence. The restoration of 1976–2004 revealed one of the most complex and sumptuous of Hawksmoor's interiors in London. In this wonderfully atmospheric setting of the magnificent Nave, exuding grandeur with clerestory windows, mezzanine galleries and a central hall accented with Tuscan columns, the Master invites you to join him at a sparkling reception followed by a three-course dinner with wine.

To fully appreciate the splendour of these awe-inspiring surroundings the Master has asked Alderman Sir Andrew Parmley, Lord Mayor of London 2016-17, to play the Richard Bridge organ,

# Events Programme for 2018-19

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the best-preserved example of Bridge's work as well as being the largest and most significant of his instruments. It is unequivocally an instrument of European importance, and now restored is seen as one of the most significant survivals in this country from the years before 1840.

This event follows our welcome ceremony for new members, who may wish to continue their celebrations by attending this wonderful event.

## **Visit to House Mill, Bromley-by-Bow and Lunch** **Thursday 04 October 11.00 – 14.30** **Dress: Suit/Jacket & Tie**

The Master continues to highlight East London and as the Non-Executive Chair of the House Mill Trust he would love as many people as possible to visit the Grade I listed 18th Century House Mill, the largest surviving tidal mill in the world and regarded as East London's 'hidden gem'. In addition to milling flour, the mill made and supplied the adjacent gin distillery on the man-made 'Three Mills Island', supplying gin to London's 19th Century gin palaces.

At the now fully restored mill and with historic machinery on view, we will hear about the history of House Mill and its role in the development of the industries once found in the lower Lea Valley.

After enjoying refreshments on arrival, members and guests will be taken on a guided tour of House Mill by experts, stopping on the way for a gin tasting, hosted by a local gin distillery. The event will conclude with a buffet lunch in a memorable part of the old House Mill.

## **Holiday in Wexford, Southern Ireland** **Sunday 21 October – Saturday 27 October** **Dress: as shown in the event instructions**

The Guild has been to Northern Ireland on several occasions over the years, but Ireland is a big country and it is time we saw more of what it has to offer. So, the Master has planned to go at a very special time of the year and things will be busy! The visit will commence in Dublin City a few minutes from Gresham Street and O'Connell Street (The Bond Street area of Dublin) staying in the family owned Academy Plaza hotel, within walking distance of the centre and various landmarks. The Master is a trustee of the Irish Georgian Society and is arranging visits to various locations in Dublin plus a visit to the theatre on one of the evenings.

On Tuesday, we travel to Enniscorthy, County Wexford staying at the 4-star Riverside Park hotel, which has comfortable and spacious bedrooms, a spa, and a large swimming pool. The hotel is within a few minutes walking distance of the town which has a unique Pugin Church and period charm. From the hotel, by coach, we can visit Hook Head Lighthouse, The House of Waterford Crystal, Rosslare, and Wexford Town. Various local beaches, which go back to the 1950's in style, are close by with miles of open sand, and sea. We will visit a unique farm which is also a period antique shop with original garden furniture and ornaments and unusual things of interest not normally found in an antique centre down a farm track! The highlight of the trip will be a performance at the world-renowned Wexford Festival Opera (visited by the Kennedy family and Prime Ministers).

We will dine at the Riverside Hotel while in Wexford and the Master will also host a drinks reception during our stay. The Master has a Georgian house in Ballycoursey, which is close to Enniscorthy, and

will welcome us into his home for afternoon tea. Several surprises are proposed but more of that as the plan unfolds!

As there are so many flights to Dublin the Master will leave it to members to make travel arrangements to suit themselves, but transfers can be arranged.

## **The Lord Mayor's Show** **Saturday 10 November 10.30 – 12.30** **Dress: Jacket & Tie**

A chance to watch this lively show from the comfort of seats on the stands erected on the south side of St Paul's 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 10 November 12.30 – 14.30** **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, in the Members' Private Dining Room at Guildhall.

## **Reception and Dinner – Skinners' Hall** **Wednesday 14 November 19.15 – 22.15** **Dress: Black Tie**

The Master will host his third Black Tie dinner at the historic Skinners' Hall. Dating back to 1670, the Hall is oak panelled and includes the Minstrels' Gallery beneath which the Company's banners are hung during festive occasions. Amongst the remarkable features of the Great Hall is an exquisite silver display case, coats of arms and large panels painted by Sir Frank William Brangwyn. In these lovely surroundings the Master is delighted to welcome Colonel Jane Davis OBE DL as his guest speaker. Col Davies is a fellow Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London and has been a nurse for over forty years. She served in the Army Reserve for thirty-six years, retiring in 2015 as the Deputy Commander at 2nd Medical Brigade, having served in Afghanistan in 2011.

After a sparkling reception we will be served a fine dining three-course meal with wine; we can also enjoy music from the students of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama as they play in the Minstrel's Gallery.

This event follows our welcome ceremony for new members, who may wish to continue their celebrations by attending this lovely dinner.

## **Dinner and Culinary Master Class** **with Cyrus Todiwala OBE** **Thursday 22 November 18.30 – 22.30** **Dress: Suit/Jacket & Tie**

The Master is delighted that Cyrus Todiwala OBE DL, founding Member of the Guild of Entrepreneurs, will be hosting a Master Class at the landmark Indian restaurant, Cafe Spice Namaste, exclusively for the Guild and our guests. We will enjoy drinks and canapes while Cyrus demonstrates his state of the art kitchen and why he remains one of UK's most respected and innovative chefs. He is a favourite guest chef on BBC's Saturday Kitchen, among other programmes. We'll round off the evening with dinner at the restaurant, discovering for ourselves why it is the longest running



# Events Programme for 2018-19

Michelin Bib Gourmand restaurant in the world. Join the Master and Cyrus and Pervin Todiwala on this special evening!

## **Annual Banquet – Guildhall**

**Monday 10 December**

**18.15 – 22.30**

**Dress: White Tie**

For the highlight of the Guild's year, the Annual banquet will again be held in the magnificent medieval surroundings of Guildhall, watched over by Gog and Magog. The Master will welcome Guild Members and their guests before enjoying a sparkling 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, including the rousing 'Post Horn Galop', and finally high-profile guest-speakers, all combining to show off the City, Guildhall, and the Guild at their very best.

## **Carol Service at Saint Vedast-alias-Foster and Reception at Dion, Paternoster House, St Paul's**

**Tuesday 18 December**

**18.30 – 20.30**

**Dress: Suit**

This year, the Master has chosen Saint Vedast-alias Foster for the Guild's carol service. The Parish of St Vedast is known from the 12th Century, and the church is traditionally claimed to have been established by 1170. It has been altered, enlarged, and restored many times and probably rebuilt at least twice, the last time by Christopher Wren, after the Great Fire of London in 1666. Having been completely burned out during the Blitz of World War II, the church is now beautifully restored.

The choir of St Vedast, under the musical direction of Jo Ramadan, will be accompanied by the organist who will play the marvellous Harris and Byfield organ, dating from 1731. Jo Ramadan began his music studies as a chorister at The Chapel Royal St James's Palace, and studied at Durham and the Royal College of Music. He promises a wonderful service!

After the service we will cross the road to Dion at Paternoster House, where we will enjoy a glass of wine and canapés before heading off full of the Christmas spirit.

## **Reception & Dinner – Vintners' Hall**

**Wednesday 23 January**

**19.30 – 22.30**

**Dress: Black Tie**

The Master has chosen Vintners' Hall for his first dinner of the new year. The Livery Hall was the original meeting place for members of the Company and was built in 1671; it still retains the original 17th Century carvings and it is in these historic surroundings that we will enjoy a sparkling reception and a traditional three-course dinner with wine, port, toasts, and the Loving Cup Ceremony.

The Master's guest speaker is Colonel Sir Neil Thorne OBE TD DL, former Member of Parliament for Ilford South, and Life President of the charity 'Children in Distress'.

This event follows our welcome ceremony for new members, who may wish to continue their celebrations by attending this lovely dinner.

## **Reception and Dinner – House of Lords**

**Friday 15 February**

**18.30 – 22.00**

**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 tour of the Palace of Westminster, starting at 18.30. Thereafter, those not going on the tour will meet up with the others in the Peers' Guest Room for a pre-dinner sparkling reception, starting at 19.30. A three-course dinner with wine will be held in the Peers' Dining Room where our host will be The Rt. Hon. The Lord Lingfield Kt DLitt DL. Lord Lingfield is an educationalist, noted as an advocate and pioneer for school autonomy, and is President of the League of Mercy. The gift shop will be open for those who wish to buy a special souvenir of the evening.

## **Visit and Buffet Supper – College of Arms**

**Tuesday 19 February**

**18.30 – 21.30**

**Wednesday 20 February**

**Dress: Suit/Jacket & Tie**

This ever-popular 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 College of Arms is the official heraldic authority for England, Wales, Northern Ireland and much of the Commonwealth including Australia and New Zealand. As well as being responsible for the granting of new coats of arms, the College maintains registers of arms, pedigrees, genealogies, Royal Licences, changes of name, and flags. We will hear about the Heralds' ceremonial duties and their unique place in our history. The tour will conclude with a light buffet supper with wine. This event is particularly popular amongst new members.

## **Reception and Dinner – Fishmongers' Hall**

**Wednesday 27 February**

**19.00 – 22.30**

**Dress: Black Tie**

The Fishmongers' Company, one of the 'Great Twelve', has an unbroken existence of over 700 years. Situated on the banks of the Thames, the Hall has evolved over the years as fire and war took their toll. It has now been restored to its former glory. It is in these sumptuous surroundings that the Master has invited Guild Members and their guests to join him at his final dinner. The evening will start with a sparkling reception after which we will be served a fabulous three-course dinner with wine, followed by port, toasts, and the Loving Cup Ceremony. Students of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama will entertain us during the evening and The Master's final speaker, Sir David Brewer KG, CMG, CVO, JP, Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London from 2008 until 2015, and Lord Mayor of London between 2005 and 2006, will close this wonderful year.

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.

## COURT MEETINGS 2018-19

Tallow Chandlers' Hall  
(unless otherwise notified)

4.30pm for 5.00pm for Court Members

5.30pm for 5.45pm (approximately) for joining Members

Ends by 6.30pm

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 11th April 2018**

**Wednesday 27th June 2018**

**Wednesday 26th September 2018**

**Wednesday 14th November 2018**

**Wednesday 23rd January 2019**

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 2019

Tallow Chandlers' Hall  
At 5.00pm

**Wednesday 13th March 2019**

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 Chandlers' Hall, 4 Dowgate Hill, in the City of London, on Wednesday 13th day of March 2019 at 5.00pm.

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 2018, together with the Guild Accounts for the year to 31st July 2018. 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 2018 with the formal agenda will be sent in February 2019 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 to the Guild

The Guild of Freemen

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

## Acknowledgements

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**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:

Elane Clack, David Tyrwhitt-Drake (pages 23 & 24). 253 Provost Company RMP (Reserves) (pages 38 & 45). The Guild acknowledges the Corporation of London as the source for the background information and images of The Patron and The Lord Mayor's Appeal (page 4).

### 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. 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 Sheriff Neil Redcliffe and his team of event reporters. This year they were Suzette Abbott, Doreen Ashhurst, David & Claire Brady, Sue Marchant and Alan Budge, Richenda Carey, Elaine Clack, Christine Cook, Poppy Cooksey, Anne Day, John Garbutt, Anne Holden, Ann-Marie Jefferys, Alistair and Ursula Mitchelhill, Colvin Rae, Lisa Rutter, John Smail, Dorothy Saul-Pooley, Elizabeth Thornborough, Simon Turner, Adrian Waddingham and Chris Walton.

Once again, thank you to Elizabeth Thornborough, Christine Cook and Judith Westall for all their guidance and advice in producing this edition of 'The Freeman'. Finally, a special thank you to Elizabeth Thornborough and Dorothy Saul-Pooley 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	1965	Sir Harold Webbe, CBE DL
Brodie Self, Esq.	1910		Frederick Utting, Esq., CC (from June)
Sir Thomas Brooke-Hitchins, CC	1911	1966	Roy Stuart, Esq.
Emile Chatrian, Esq.	1912	1967	Douglas Dunstan, Esq.
Alderman George Briggs	1913	1968	Albert Chandler, Esq.
Elliot Sparks, Esq., CC	1914	1969	C H F Fairweather, Esq., JP CC
H S A Foy, Esq., CC	1915	1970	Sir Stanley Morton
J R Brough, Esq., Deputy	1916	1971	Colin Dyer, Esq., Deputy
Alfred Lockett, Esq.	1917	1972	The Rt. Hon Lord Crook, JP
W I Trice, Esq.	1918	1973	Stanley Willcox, Esq.
Henry Harrill, Esq.	1919	1974	Arthur Hodgkinson, Esq., JP
Sir Edward Wilshaw, KCMG DL JP	1920	1975	Charles Coward, Esq., JP, Deputy
Francis Sully, Esq.	1921	1976	Douglas Dunstan, Esq.
T W Hewitt, Esq., CC	1922	1977	Harold Gould, Esq., OBE JP
Sir Lulham Pound, Bt JP	1923	1978	Kenneth Honey, Esq.
Sir Gervais Rentoul, KC MP	1924	1979	Anthony Grant, Esq., MP
Major R Rigg, OBE TD JP	1925	1980	Dr P L Hogg
Colonel Vickers Dunfee, CBE JP Deputy	1926	1981	John Harvey, Esq.
Oscar Berry, Esq., CC	1927	1982	Henry Duckworth, Esq., JP, Deputy
Charles Suffield, Esq.	1928	1983	David Eldridge, Esq.
Sir Richard Sennett, CC	1929	1984	Alderman Sir Peter Gadsden, GBE AC, JP
C G Wittich, Esq.	1930		(Lord Mayor 1979-80)
The Rt. Hon Sir Herbert Nield, KC JP MP	1931	1985	Bernard Morgan, Esq., CBE JP, Deputy
Lt Col Sir Hugh Turnbull, KCVO KBE JP	1932	1986	Wimburn Horlock, Esq., Deputy
Holton Sturges, Esq., CC	1933	1987	General Sir Peter Whiteley, GCB OBE DL
H I Eldridge, Esq.	1934	1988	Donald du Parc Braham, Esq.
Capt M Campbell-Johnston, MP	1935	1989	Clifford Newbold, Esq.
Major Francis Millman, OBE	1936	1990	Dr John Breen
Ernest Watts, Esq., CC	1937	1991	Rex Johnson, Esq.
John Joy, Esq., JP CC	1938	1992	Derek Kemp, Esq., CC
Capt Francis Read	1939	1993	Sir Clifford Chetwood
T I McManis, Esq., JP CC	1940	1994	Sir Colin Cole, KCB KCVO TD CC
James Gibauld, Esq.	1941	1995	Alderman Clive Martin, OBE TD DL
Arthur Howard, Esq.	1942		(Lord Mayor 1999-2000)
Walter Rose, Esq., MBE CC	1943	1996	Vice Admiral Sir Peter Buchanan, KBE
Frederick Youldon, Esq., Deputy	1944	1997	Sir Anthony Grant
Arthur Harris, Esq.	1945	1998	Norman Munday, Esq.
(February to July) George Frizell, Esq.	1946	1999	Terry Nemko, Esq., JP
(July to end of year) Arthur Harris, Esq.		2000	Joseph Byllam-Barnes, Esq., CC
The Rt. Hon Sir William Jordan, KCMG PC	1947	2001	David Irving, Esq.
Henry Bound, Esq., CC	1948	2002	The Lady Moorea Black, MBE JP
Alderman Sir Frank Alexander, Bt	1949	2003	Raymond Holl, Esq., MBE
(Lord Mayor 1944-45)		2004	Alderman Richard Agutter, JP
John Crighton, Esq.	1950	2005	Leslie Lewis, Esq.
Alderman Sir Frederick Tidbury-Beer	1951	2006	Mrs Barbara Newman, CBE CC
Major B W Shilson, OBE	1952	2007	Gordon Gentry, Esq.
Captain Julien Bennett, DL	1953	2008	Pauline Halliday, OBE, Deputy
Lt Col C C Surtees-Shill, CC	1954	2009	Sir Gavyn Arthur
H J E Stinson, Esq., MC, Deputy	1955		(Lord Mayor 2002-03)
Major Stanley Wells, MBE	1956	2010	Anthony Woodhead, Esq., CBE
Sir Denis Truscott, GBE TD	1957	2011	Don Lunn, Esq.
(Lord Mayor 1957-58)		2012	Mrs Anne Holden
Percy Lovely, Esq., Deputy	1958	2013	Anthony B Fleming, Esq.
Sir David Floyd Ewin, OBE MVO, Deputy	1959	2014	Dr John Smail JP
Sir Sidney Fox, CC	1960	2015	Lady Cooksey, OBE DL
Charles De Ryck, Esq.	1961	2016	Alderman Sir David Wootton
Stanley Phillips, Esq.	1962		(Lord Mayor 2011-12)
Ronald Ward	1963	2017	Peter Allcard, Esq.
Frederick Utting, Esq., CC	1964		

## 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 19th 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, ☎ 020 7239 9016 or by ✉ [clerk@guild-freemen-london.co.uk](mailto:clerk@guild-freemen-london.co.uk).