

THE FREEMAN



OFFICIAL JOURNAL AND PROGRAMME

of the
GUILD OF FREEMEN OF THE CITY OF LONDON

The Master 2025
ADRIAN WADDINGHAM CBE

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 Alastair King DL

★

The Court of Assistants 2025

Master

Adrian Waddingham CBE

Wardens

Senior Warden Stephen Osborne Esq

Renter Warden Alistair Mitchelhill Esq

Junior Warden Lady Lauriston

Immediate Past Master

Lisa Rutter

Past Masters

Terry Nemko JP Don Lunn Esq Anne Holden Dr John Smail JP
Sir David Wootton Peter Allcard Esq John Barber DL Neil Redcliffe JP
Ann-Marie Jefferys John Garbutt JP Chris Walton Esq

Court Assistants

Deputy Christopher Hayward Deputy Keith Bottomley Janet Bridden
Lars Andersen Esq Alan James Esq

Guild Assistants

Professor Joe Herzberg

★

Past Masters Emeritus

Harold Gould OBE JP DL Sir Clive Martin OBE TD DL Richard Agutter JP
Pauline Halliday OBE Lady Cooksey OBE DL Barbara Newman CBE Anthony Woodhead CBE

★

Honorary Officers

Honorary Chaplain The Very Reverend Andrew Tremlett, Dean of St Paul's Cathedral

Honorary Treasurer Neil Redcliffe JP **Honorary Editor** Steven Morson Esq

★

Clerk Kate Pink **Assistant Clerk** Abbie Jones **Beadle & Toastmaster** Alan O'Connor Esq

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

The Guild of Freemen 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 Freemen came to be formed. It became a focal point where the influx of new Freemen joined with the Freemen of the Livery Companies to develop and uphold the City's historic traditions and maintain its good works.

Today the Guild of Freemen of the City of London is an association of about 1,600 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 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.

The Freeman

The Journal of the Guild of Freemen
of the City of London

Honorary Editor: Steven Morson
Correspondence should be addressed to:

The Clerk

The Guild of Freemen of the City of London
Rooms 78/79, 65 London Wall, LONDON EC2M 5TU

☎ 020 7239 9016

✉ clerk@guild-freemen-london.co.uk

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Court	02
The Guild of Freemen and Table of Contents	03
The Patron and The Lord Mayor's Appeal	04
The Master's Address	05
 Events of 2024	
<i>Installation of the New Master</i>	06
<i>Burns Night at the Caledonian Club</i>	07
<i>New Members' Ceremony in February</i>	08
<i>Whisky Tasting and Buffet Supper at Tallow Chandlers' Hall</i>	08
<i>Virtual Talk on the Grand Tour</i>	09
<i>United Guilds Service at St Paul's Cathedral</i>	09
<i>Guided Tour of Saint Sophia and Lunch</i>	10
<i>Dinner at Butchers' Hall</i>	11
<i>The Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch</i>	12
<i>Visit to the College of Arms</i>	12
<i>City Walk</i>	13
<i>Greek Cypriot Evening at The Cypriot High Commission</i>	14
<i>Visit to Allington Castle</i>	15
<i>Lord's Cricket Ground</i>	16
<i>New Members' Ceremony in June</i>	17
<i>Dinner at Girdlers' Hall</i>	17
<i>Visit to Nutbourne Vineyard and Lunch</i>	18
<i>Swan Upping at Henley on Thames</i>	19
<i>Master's Holiday in Cyprus</i>	20
<i>Sheep Drive, Southwark Bridge</i>	23
<i>New Members' Ceremony in October</i>	24
<i>Champagne Tasting Evening</i>	24
<i>The Lord Mayor's Show</i>	24
<i>Annual Banquet at Guildhall</i>	25
<i>Carol Service at St Mary-Le-Bow</i>	27
253 (London) Provost Company	28
The Immediate Past Master's Address	29
In Memoriam	30
Guild Members' News	31
Full List of New Members Admitted During 2024	31
50 Years of Membership	31
Obituary for Peter Lewis-Crown OBE	32
Guild Members' News	32
Benevolent and Charitable Activities	33
The Master and Wardens 2025	34
Events Programme for 2025	
<i>Events Programme</i>	35
<i>Events Programme</i>	36
<i>Events Programme</i>	37
Court Meeting Dates	38
Annual General Meeting Announcement	38
From the Honorary Editor	38



The Patron

The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Alderman Alastair King DL

Alderman King is the 696th Lord Mayor of the City of London. He is a Deputy Lieutenant for Greater London and served his term as Aldermanic Sheriff for 2022-2023. He is also a Member of the Most Venerable Order of St John of Jerusalem. He has over 24 years' uninterrupted service; first elected as Common Councilman in 1999; was appointed Deputy for the Ward in 2006; elected Alderman in 2016 with over 96% of the vote; he was re-elected unopposed in 2022. He serves on a wide range of City of London Corporation Committees, including the Finance and Culture, Heritage and Libraries committees.

Early in his career, Alastair was a lawyer and practised as a solicitor at leading international law firm Baker & McKenzie in the City and in Asia. He later held senior positions at SPARK Ventures, a pioneering technology venture capital company in London, and was Managing Director at Galahad Capital Plc. Alderman King is the founder and Chairman of Naisbitt King Asset Management Limited. He is Chair of Financial Services, a business leader and Head of International CEO Networks. A former Sheriff and serving Alderman of the City of London, he is passionate about democratising finance and seeing SMEs thrive.

Alderman King's Mayoral Theme is Growth Unleashed. As part of this, he will be championing the launch of a series of City Belonging Networks. The networks will bring Employee Resource Groups and individuals together across the Square Mile to create events, improve communication and consultation and foster community.



The Lord Mayor has stated that his pitch is a simple one: to be bolder, think smarter, and take off the handbrake, reigniting the City's appetite for positive risk, seizing our national edge in innovation, and supporting the many communities that make London unique.



LORD
MAYOR'S
APPEAL
CHARITY



A Better
City for All



homewards

The Lord Mayor's Appeal's strategic aim is to create A Better City for All that is inclusive, healthy, skilled and fair. This is done via four thought leadership initiatives - Power of Inclusion, This is Me, We Can Be and City Giving Day - which offer learning, development and engagement opportunities for employees across the Square Mile and beyond. Delivering an impact in the City that transforms lives, the appeal also raises funds for its partner charities, Homewards and MQ Mental Health Research, via a series of annual events and corporate and livery donations.

Prince William and The Royal Foundation of The Prince and Princess of Wales launched Homewards in 2023: a transformative five-year, locally led programme aiming to demonstrate that together it's possible to end homelessness. Since then, it has provided six flagship locations across the UK with access to an extensive network of best-in-class expertise, potential partners and funders to unlock new ideas and further investment; up to £500,000 of flexible funding, a local lead to drive forward action and a research partner to evaluate success. The Lord Mayor's Appeal supports this work through funds, collaboration and connections.



Mental
health
research



MQ Mental Health Research is the UK's leading mental health research charity. Their vision is to create a world where mental illnesses are understood, effectively treated, and eventually prevented.

Funds from The Lord Mayor's Appeal has helped MQ to launch its first Scholarship Programme supporting some of the brightest researchers at early career stage and to create GALENOS, the Global Alliance for Living Evidence on aNxiety, depressiOn and pSychosis. This programme aims to try to understand the underlying mechanisms of mental health conditions through the creation of an open-access platform that catalogues and evaluates the full spectrum of relevant scientific research.

For further information: www.thelordmayorsappeal.org
or email: info@thelordmayorsappeal.org

The Guild acknowledges the City of London Corporation as the source for the background information and images on The Patron and The Lord Mayor's Appeal.

Adrian Waddingham CBE



The Master and his wife Angela at the Installation Ceremony

I am excited - well, as much as an Actuary can be - at becoming the Master of the Guild of Freeman of the City of London for 2025.

The first suggestion of an association open to all Freeman of the world's proudest city came back in 1907, and the first meeting was held the following year at the City Arms pub in St Mary Axe (interrupted when fire broke out in the adjoining building with those attending leaping to assistance).

A member of Common Council, Cuthbert Wilkinson, agreed to serve as our first Master and I follow as Master Number 116. I thank my fellow members of Court for electing me. The first rules of the Guild in 1908 were commendably brief, simply requiring the Court to arrange social events. Master Number 115 Lisa Rutter has done just that, leading us through her cracking 2024.

The year started strongly with a rousing Burns Night followed shortly afterwards by a guided whisky tasting. We dined our way through the year with feasts at Pewterers' Hall, Butchers' Hall, Girdlers' Hall, Tallow Chandlers' Hall and finishing with a splendid Banquet in Guildhall.

Lisa took us to unfamiliar parts of the City as well as travelling to Henley, Kent, West Sussex and reaching a climax with a five-day holiday in hot Cyprus. Well done and thank you Lisa and Mark. I shall strive as best I can to do as well in 2025.

There will be two Guild holidays, both on home territory and so no need for either visas or airports. We visit Norfolk from Sunday 6th April to Tuesday 8th April 2025, staying at the comfortable Pheasant Hotel at Kelling near Sheringham. We will ogle more than 200 military vehicles at former Lord Mayor of London, Sir Michael Savory's Muckleburgh Tank Museum. A private tour of Sandringham House will follow with dinner on the estate to complete the day. On the second day we will tour 18th century Holkham Hall, the home of the Earl of Leicester and one of the finest Palladian houses in England, taking lunch in Holkham's Lady Elizabeth Wing.

Further afield we visit my own home ground in the South Lake District from Sunday 28th September to Thursday 2nd October 2025 staying four nights at the beautiful Lakeside Hotel, adjacent to the steamer jetty at the south end of Lake Windermere.

The itinerary includes England's best topiary gardens at Levens Hall; English Heritage's first ever site, a working bobbin Mill; sail by steamer to the impressive new Jetty Museum and its collection of historic boats and then to Blackwell, one of England's most stunning Arts & Craft houses; visit the Wordsworth Museum at Grasmere, the picturesque centre of the Lake District and call in at his Dove Cottage home.

Events closer to home will include visits to St Bride's and the Print Room; the Crick Museum at King's Cross; the Woolf collection of Chinese Jade; a guided tour of the Clock collection at the Science Museum; the new Lambeth Palace Library; the Society of Antiquaries; and the College of Arms. I will lead a visit to my alma mater, the impressive Victorian Royal Holloway College near Egham with its renowned Picture Gallery.

City events that we will join include the Company of Carmen's not-to-be-missed cart-marking ceremony; the United Guilds Service in St Pauls; The Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch; and of course, the Lord Mayor's Show. We will continue our good habit of dining at London's prestigious Halls, this year visiting Barber-Surgeons' Hall, Haberdashers' Hall, and Trinity House, plus a lunch-time feast at Mercers' Hall. There will also be lunches at Forman & Son's smoked salmon factory at Stratford, and at the Westminster Catering College in Vincent Square. Towards the end of the year there will be a quiz night with fish and chips at the Guildhall Club. The year's climax will be our annual December Banquet in Guildhall. A special treat will be a hard hat visit to the ongoing restoration work at St Bartholomew's Great Hall.

The Guild's charity continues to do good work and I hope that we can help them do more. At one of our dinners there will be an auction to raise funds for its good causes.

My wife Angela will, as ever, be at my side, leading us in fact on a couple of her wonderful guided walks around Kings Cross, Westminster and Battersea. I will also be relying on the strong support of our hard-working Clerk, Kate Pink and the Assistant Clerk Abbie Jones. As 2024 closed John Hollingsworth retired after serving as our Beadle for an amazing 36 years. Thank you, John, for all that you have done and we welcome our new Beadle, Alan O'Connor. Our Chaplain, the Dean of St Paul's, the Very Reverend Andrew Tremlett, guides our spiritual needs.

I look forward to meeting as many of our 1,600 members as possible at events during the year, and hopefully welcoming a hundred new members to our happy Guild. Please study the programme and sign up early, inviting friends too. The more the merrier.



Events of 2024

Installation of the New Master

Wednesday 24th January

I looked up the location of Tallow Chandlers' Hall online, as it was new to me. The entrance is a wrought iron gateway with the Coat of Arms above and a small wall plaque for identification.

Walking through the passageway, I was immediately impressed as I entered the small courtyard. Facing me was a building well adorned with several stained-glass windows. The Hall dates from 1675 and is on the site of an earlier hall that was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666. As I entered the wood panelled entrance hall, I viewed the lists of Masters of the Tallow Chandlers' Company dating back many centuries. I climbed the staircase to the Parlour where, amongst many items on display, were the original Letters Patent and the Grant of Arms to the Company of Tallow Chandlers.

I went into the Banqueting Hall, along with everyone attending, to be seated facing the top table. This had three short sprigs, where the Court and all the senior officers were seated. I had time to fully appreciate the magnificence of this room, in which the Installation Ceremony was to be carried out. The stunning ceiling is decorated with gilded plaster mouldings and the walls are covered in dark wooden wainscoting.

To my left were the beautiful stained-glass windows I had seen from outside, and to my right were four magnificent paintings. I sat close to the painting that depicted the marriage of King Henry VII to Elizabeth of York. Within the stained glass windows the Coronation of King Edward VII is recorded. I also noted that a banner of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London was hung at a niche behind and above the Master's chair.



I was able to enjoy the formal ceremony and learned that the Court elected the new Master, Lisa Rutter, with the Beadle declaring her new status. There followed a traditional procedure, wherein the gown and collar of office are removed from the outgoing Master and bestowed upon the new Master. Next, the Wardens for the year were installed with due ceremony.

I noticed the presence of lit candles in elegant candlesticks on the tables, which created a wonderful atmosphere. The Chaplain gave Grace, and it was declared that this occasion was the 115th anniversary of the gift of the Master's Jewel.

The new Master, having been installed, gave a short speech, from which I learned that she had joined the Guild in 2011 and is of Greek Cypriot heritage. Next, Senior Warden Adrian Waddingham CBE, Renter Warden Stephen Osborne, Junior Warden Alistair Mitchelhill and Under Warden Lady Lauriston were installed with due ceremony.



The Master makes her acknowledgement speech to everyone

The new Master presented a scroll to the immediate Past Master, commemorating his year in office. As matters progressed, impressive new cuff links were handed to the Master's consort, which I was lucky enough to see later on.

After the ceremony, we all withdrew to the Parlour for refreshing drinks. I met and talked with the new Master, members of the Court and several other members of the Guild, who were interesting and convivial. I felt privileged to have attended.

Guild Member, Brian De Bell



Mark Rutter receives a pair of ruby and diamond cufflinks generously donated by Past Master Ann-Marie Jefferys for male consorts (above)

The outgoing Master, Chris Walton, addresses the Court and Members who attended the ceremony (left)

The New Master, Consort, Court Members, Court Assistants, Clerk, Assistant Clerk and Honorary Chaplain (below)



Burns Night at the Caledonian Club

Monday 5th February

A Burns Night Supper, to celebrate the life and work of the 18th century Scottish poet is a popular festivity which takes place annually all over the world. It is always a favourite Guild event. This year was no exception as Guild members and their guests gathered on a chilly February evening at the Caledonian Club in London. After a sparkling wine reception, we were 'piped' into the aptly named 'Johnnie Walker' room by the Piper, Roddy Livingstone.

After the conventional Selkirk Grace was said, Past Master Neil Redcliffe gave a spirited and rousing 'Address to the Haggis.' We then settled down to a traditional and delicious 'Burns Night Supper' of Haggis, Blade of beef, followed by the classic Scottish dessert of Cranachan, all accompanied by excellent wine.



Past Master Neil Redcliffe addresses the haggis (above)

Following dinner, we listened to the customary Burns Night speeches. Past Master Don Lunn, in his humorous 'Immortal Memory Speech' heralded the life and legacy of Robbie Burns. Alistair Mitchelhill amused us in his 'Toast to the Lassies' speech, telling us that "The woman always makes the rules. No man knows the rules and that women have the last word in any argument!"

A lively response ensued from the Master, Lisa Rutter, who joked that what lies beneath a Scotsman's kilt is better left shrouded in tartan. But raising a glass in tribute to the gentlemen, she honoured "the companions who walk beside us in the grand dance of life."

The band, 'Licence to Ceilidh' entertained us with some energetic Scottish tunes, with the 'Caller' encouraging many of the assembled guests to join in some vigorous and highly enjoyable Scottish country dancing. We all went back out into the chilly night, as a most successful evening was rounded off by a heartfelt communal singing of 'Auld Lang Syne.'

Court Assistant, Janet Bridden



Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening (above) and the Ceilidh was well supported too (below)



Guild Merchandise

Order Guild merchandise by completing the online order process or by downloading and submitting an order form at:

www.guild-freemen-london.co.uk/shop



Blazer Badge £15.00

These high-quality badges are woven in gilt wire on a black background and show the armorial bearings of the Guild.



Wall Plaque £30.00

The coat of arms is individually hand-painted on an embossed shield and mounted on a solid wood base. Size is approx. 6 inches wide by 7 inches (15cm by 18cm).

Formal and Country Silk Ties £20.00

The formal (wine) red or dark blue coloured tie has the woven coat of arms central with multiple representations of these arms blended throughout.

The silk Country Tie has red, gold and white diagonal stripes, with the coat of arms woven at the bottom.



Events of 2024

New Members' Ceremony

Tuesday 13th February

The New Members' Ceremony was held at Tallow Chandlers'. A full list of new members is given on page 31.



The new members receive their welcoming address from the Master (left) and Michael Cassidy-Hogg receives his warrant from the Master (above)

Whisky Tasting at Tallow Chandlers'

Tuesday 13th February

Members of the Guild were treated to a whisky tasting and tutorial by Guild member Greg Dillon of the award winning GreatDrams.com. We learned about the distilling processes and the effects of the barrel ageing. We sampled single malts, blended and vintage varieties, plus a 20-year-old single cask whisky, noting their differing colours and flavours from smoky or peaty to those with a cleaner, hotter taste. The tasting was accompanied by Master Lisa's favourite comfort food, shepherd's pie, followed by a refreshing mango sorbet. The evening concluded with an auction for some extra special bottles of whisky, including one donated by the Master's husband Mark, to raise funds for the Guild Charity.

Guild Clerk, Kate Pink



Lunch at The Gherkin

Monday 26th February

You may not have heard of 30 St Mary Axe but you will know the building that occupies the address - The Gherkin. The most recognised silhouette in 21st century architecture and the first of this century's 'nicknamed towers'. A true landmark that Londoners and visitors alike use to orient themselves. Designed by Pritzker Prize winner Norman Foster it is a true landmark of architecture.

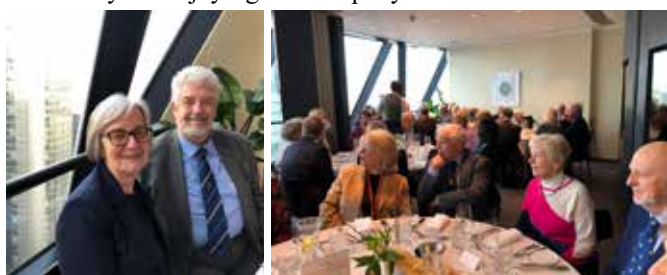
Members arrived at the iconic building before being whizzed up in a super-fast lift to the 38th floor to enjoy a delicious three-course lunch delivered faultlessly by Searcys at The Gherkin. We sat at intimate round tables and it was hard to decide which course was the finest. We had a spinach and feta starter, Dorset sole meuniere main course and an apple and blackberry crumble dessert. The atmosphere was convivial and friendly, as always with the Guild, and the mood informal with everyone enjoying the company of fellow members.

However, the real star of the lunch was the view. From our exclusive private dining room 'Nimbus' we enjoyed stunning views over the city taking full advantage of the glass walls running from floor to ceiling. There was an opportunity to walk around the floor level and take in the fabulous 360 views of London from such a height.

The time flew by and suddenly it was time for the Master to speak and to thank everyone for attending and to wish everyone a safe homeward journey – as ever, Mark was on hand to support her.

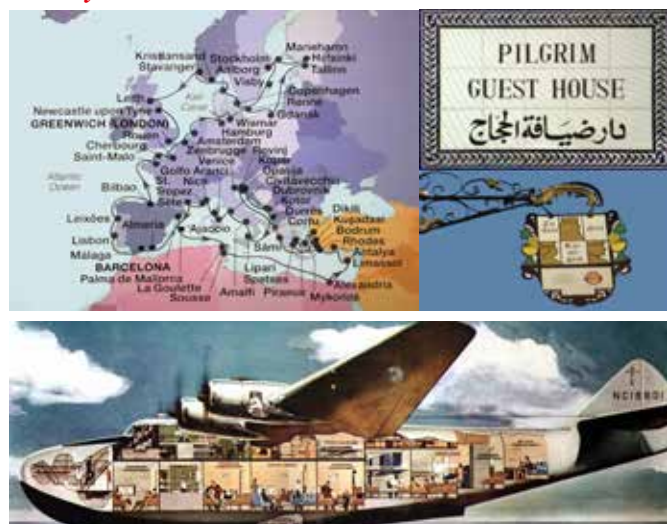
The Gherkin's website claims that if the Foster and Partners' tower was any more revolutionary, it would rotate. It is fair to say that our heads were spinning from the giddy and fabulous views (and maybe from the fine wines too) as we all enjoyed a truly memorable occasion.

Guild Member, Brendan Barns



Virtual Talk on the Grand Tour

Monday 4th March



The Grand Tour was taken by wealthy young men as the final part of their education in the 17th and 18th centuries. They travelled through France, Germany and Italy. They had a tutor and friends and travelled by coach and horses. One coach for them, another for the servants and a third coach solely for the luggage.

Travel had always been popular, with pilgrims on foot visiting shrines and holy places and as with all tours, the local hostleries afforded accommodation. The Grand Tours came to an end during the Napoleonic wars.

Before the mail coaches there was no regular stage coach services for ordinary people. With the coming of the railways and ocean liners mass travel was possible. Thomas Cooke was the first man to organise tours and so started the Travel Industry we have today.

The talk, given by Guild Member Andrew Johnson, really was a tour de force, with fascinating facts and anecdotes too many to mention here. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all participants.

Guild Member, Pam Lorraine

United Guilds Service at St. Paul's Cathedral

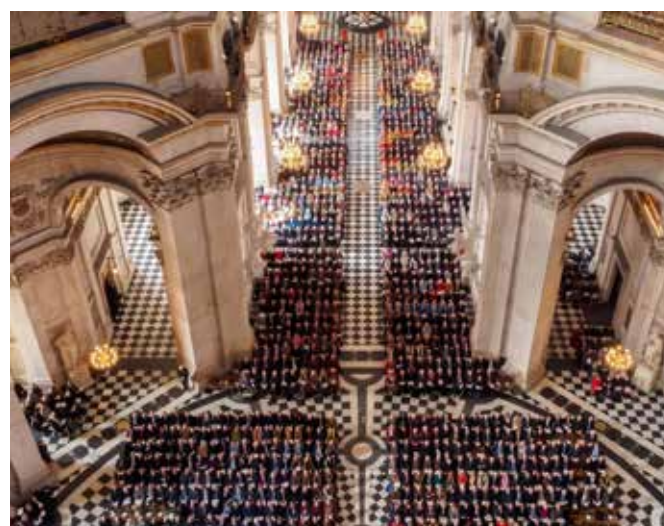
Friday 15th March



The 80th United Guilds Service was held at St Paul's Cathedral. The sermon was given by the Very Reverend Andrew Tremlett, who went on to ask two questions: "what does your life rest on and what are the foundations of your life?" He stated that one of the features of life in the City of London is that, in the nicest way possible, you are constantly put in your place. Being constantly surrounded by the achievements of others, and simply building on the foundations laid by others.

Human experience is often that, rather than any single foundation, our lives are held together by a host of people, places and experiences from which our identity is drawn, and our personal history shaped. It is not in the days of sunshine and cool breezes that our fundamental values are revealed, but rather it is in the times of adversity and hardship and challenge when our foundations, the bedrock of our lives, are laid bare.

Following the wonderful service, the Master and several members enjoyed a splendid lunch in Pewterers' Hall with wines from the Pewterers' own cellar. After the lunch, the Master was presented with a Pewterers' spoon by Her Honour Judge Wendy Joseph KC, who was Master of the Pewterers' at the time. (shown in the picture to the right)



Events of 2024

Guided Tour of Saint Sophia and Lunch at the Aphrodite Tavern

Tuesday 19th March

We were welcomed by the Archbishop of Thyateira and Great Britain. Archbishop Nikitas was born in Tampa, Florida and was elected to his present position as Archbishop in June 2019. He told us some of the history of the Christian Orthodox Church and how it gradually changed into the various denominations that exist today throughout the world.

Archimandrite Father Theonas Bakalis told us about the history of the cathedral and pointed out the many wonderful features. The walls are clad in different coloured marbles, rather than the frescos which usually adorn church walls in hotter countries. The marbles were considered more durable for our damp climate. There were many beautiful icons depicting the life of Jesus, set within a wonderfully carved wooden iconostasis. The antique carved wooden pews were brought from the previous church, which was situated in Winchester Street at London Wall, and vacated when the new cathedral opened in 1879. The dome decorating the Sanctuary is a mosaic designed by George A Walters.

Unfortunately, the crypt and small museum were not accessible, as the large metal door had become jammed. A beautiful church and well worth a visit. Father Theonas would be very happy to welcome anyone who would like to join a Sunday service.



Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain with the Master (above) and Archimandrite Father Theonas Bakalis explaining about the history of the cathedral (below)



After our visit we adjourned to the Aphrodite Taverna in Hereford Road for a typical Greek Cypriot meal. The restaurant was a short walk away from the cathedral, except for a few of us who took the long way round. We were greeted by the owner Pantelis and dined on typical Greek fare, with a very interesting lemon chicken soup called Avgolemono. A main course of sheftalia and souvlaki, followed by a dessert of baclava.

We thanked the Master for organising a very pleasant and interesting day, and a great appetiser for the trip to Cyprus in September.

Guild Member, Gillian Griffiths



The Master with Pantelis, the manager of the Aphrodite Taverna (above) and everyone enjoying the meal (below)



Dinner at Butchers' Hall

Wednesday 17th April

The Butchers' Livery Company can trace their roots back to 975AD, in the Ward of Farringdon Without. In this area there were many slaughterhouses, as well as Smithfield and the original Butchers' Hall. The Arms of The Company includes a winged bull that alludes to Saint Luke, the patron saint of the Butchers. The Livery continues its role in the meat industry and offers apprenticeship schemes throughout the country. In contrast to its history, the Butchers' Hall is a recently refurbished modern establishment that was re-opened in September 2019.

The evening commenced with the Master welcoming everyone to a sparkling reception, and very special close-up magic by the after-dinner entertainer. This was followed by a splendid three-course dinner with wine.

In her speech, the Master explained the history of the Butchers' Company and praised the magnificence of the Hall. Our Master introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Martin Russell MBE DL, who she has known for 16 years, including her year as the Mayor of Barnet. Martin is a former Master of the Worshipful Company of Farriers and Deputy Lieutenant for the London Borough of Barnet. The Master said that she always admired Martin's unwavering sense of duty and commitment to the community and was delighted that he could attend several of the Dementia Club UK events, dressed in his Deputy Lieutenant's uniform. The Master also introduced Mr. Andrew Kenny, who joined the London Guild on this day, and will become the Master of the Guild of Freemen of the City of York in June 2025.



The Master and Mark Rutter with the speaker for the evening Mr. Martin Russell MBE DL and his wife Brigid (above)



Martin Russell started his speech by commending our Master as an exemplary citizen, for her work for dementia and her numerous duties in Barnet, a Borough that has around 450,000 people. He also praised her husband, Mark, for his loyal and diligent support. Martin went on to explain the many similarities that he and the Master share, including degrees from Middlesex University, except that Martin's degree is honorary. Martin went on to share his wide knowledge of guilds, which he said started in Syria, over 2000 years BC. Such guilds were common in Roman times, including the Collegium that acted as a legal entity. He went on to describe the framework of guilds, including apprenticeships and even the first universities, and identifying guilds as controlling the towns and cities. He concluded with a history of the power struggle between guilds, religion and monarchy before toasting our Guild and the Master, Mrs. Lisa Rutter.

The evening concluded with some fascinating magical entertainment performed by Mr. Michael Carr, who is a Gold Star Member of the Inner Magic Circle.

Honorary Editor, Steven Morson

Michael Carr, performing his amazing magic (below)



Events of 2024

The Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch

Thursday 18th April

What a perfect way to recover from our excellent Dinner in the Butchers' Hall on the night before: - a glass of Pol Roger Champagne at 12pm followed by a splendid curry lunch in the Guildhall.

This was the seventeenth Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch. It is held each year to support serving and retired members of the Armed Forces through various military charities. The particular focus in 2024 was supporting veterans into employment in the civilian world, mainly through the Pain Management Programme at the King Edward VII Hospital and through programmes offered by Lifeworks.

A maximum capacity total of 1,650 guests attended, with 250 volunteers from the Royal Navy, the Army and RAF regular and reservists. Some serving on HMS Queen Elizabeth as well as the Pikemen & Musketeers and the HAC Light Cavalry.

The Master and several members of our Guild gathered in the crypt of the Guildhall where we had an allocated area alongside other livery companies.

It was only on the day that we were made aware that HRH Princess Royal, our Centenary Master, was attending. Fittingly, she ate with some serving and veteran personnel and typically arrived and departed with 'no fuss'.

What fun the event was. When we ascended to the magnificent Guildhall we were greeted by six stations serving a delicious curry lunch, with guests sitting at long tables at random.

The music of the Band of the Scots Guards was almost drowned by the chatter and laughter. There was no time for port or speeches as we were quickly harboured out to make way for other sittings. It was extraordinary logistical success.

The silent auction with many appealing prizes was in full swing; plenty of opportunity also to contribute to the grand prize draw. It was an extraordinary harmonious event with lots of opportunity to learn more about the Armed Forces Charities and about other Livery Companies, a number of whom displayed their wares for sale.

The Lord Mayor will be announcing the total funds raised this year at a Reception he will be holding for the volunteers at the Mansion House on 14 May.

Guild Member, John McPhail

Visit to the College of Arms

Tuesday 23rd April and Tuesday 8th October

23rd April - and what a splendid choice of date for a visit to the College of Arms. Walking up Queen Victoria Street towards the College, my husband and I were greeted with the sound of a glorious peal of bells from St Paul's Cathedral in honour of St. George's Day. We arrived at the entrance to the College and were reminded that in past centuries visitors would have arrived by boat, with the Thames lapping up to the steps, prior to the building of the Embankment and Queen Victoria Street.

The Master Lisa Rutter, together with her husband Mark, members and their guests were greeted by former Windsor Herald of Arms in Ordinary Mr William Hunt and Mark Scott, newly appointed Somerset Herald of Arms in Ordinary, our hosts for the evening.

We stood in the High Court of Chivalry to hear William talking about the structure of the College. There are 13 officers known as Heralds in Ordinary comprising three Kings of Arms. In order of seniority: Garter King of Arms, Clarenceux King of Arms and Norroy and Ulster King of Arms. Clarenceux has responsibility for all matters south of the River Trent which is deemed to divide the country into two halves, and Norroy and Ulster for all matters north of the Trent. The title 'Norroy' is a corruption of 'nord roi' ie: North King. After the Kings of Arms come the Six Heralds (Richmond, York, Windsor, Lancaster, Somerset, and Chester) and four Pursuivants (Portcullis, Rouge Croix, Rouge Dragon and Bluemantle). The High Court is where any disputes over the right to use, hold or display arms would be judged.

Moving into the Waiting Room, we were offered a glass of wine or soft drink and a chance to sit down. William then explained the component parts of a grant of arms. A Coat of Arms consists of a shield above which is a helmet, indicative of rank, to which a crest is attached and the join is concealed by a wreath, or torse, of twisted silk. Peers may depict their coronet of rank above the shield. Peers, senior knights and some corporations are entitled to supporters, these are figures placed on either side of the shield. There is usually a motto scroll beneath the arms or above the crest.

All this complex structure of a grant of arms became much clearer once we were then taken to the Record room, not usually open to the public. At this point Mark took over and he had brought out several volumes for us to see, amongst which were the arms of the Middleton family granted when their daughter Catherine was married to HRH Prince William. The Middletons chose for their shield three acorns each within a pair of oak leaves, to represent themselves and their three children.

We were then shown HRH Prince William's original arms with those of his brother HRH Prince Harry. The brothers chose to incorporate the three shells of their mother's family arms into their own individual arms. We then saw HRH Prince William's arms since becoming Prince of Wales, showing how changes are made in the content to reflect his changed status.

It was explained that all the artwork and calligraphy undertaken by the artists and scribes is usually done on the premises. Using vellum, or calfskin, the artist paints in gouache incorporating where applicable gold leaf, and the scrivener writes in Japanese ink the description of the arms being granted. We were shown the arms of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London and also those of the City of London, the former dating from 1910 and the latter from 1381 both adopting the cross of St George.

It being St George's Day it was exciting to ask if we might know a little about the grant of arms requested by William Shakespeare on behalf of his father John. William is thought to have been born on 23rd April 1564 and is known to have died on 23rd April 1616, and was a keen observer of rank and heraldry as recorded in many of his plays. To our delight, although the original document is very fragile and lies in the vaults, the College's own record of the granting of arms was produced so that we could see the striking gold shield with a black diagonal (a bend) on which lay a golden spear. The crest comprises a silver falcon with wings displayed and the motto 'Non sanz droict' (Old French) "Not without Right". These arms were granted in 1596.

This brought our tour to a splendid close and everyone repaired for a buffet supper and we were all full of thanks for a wonderfully entertaining and informative evening.

Guild Member, Christine Legge

City Walk

Thursday 2nd May and Thursday 25th July

The group met with our guide, Peter Tompkins, by Temple Bar, ready to discover several of the livery halls within the Square Mile.

Before setting off, Peter provided some history of the 111 livery companies in the City of London, the Nurses being the 111th company. He also explained that many Companies had changed their halls' locations due to damage, which included the Great Fire and WWII Blitz.



Our first stop was to be the hall of the Saddlers' Company, however, Peter decided it would be more pleasant to walk along Cheapside to listen to the peal of the bells of St Mary-le-Bow and look at Mercers' Hall. This is their third home on this site since the 14th century and is the only City livery hall with its own chapel.

We continued to Saddlers' Hall, which is their 4th hall, with the Company having strong links with the Royal family. Next stop was Wax Chandlers' Hall in Gresham Street, their 5th since 1501. Adjacent was Goldsmiths' Hall. The Goldsmiths' Company are the 4th in the order of precedence and responsible for hallmarking gold items in London. The term "Hallmark" came about because the items had to be marked inside the hall of the Goldsmiths' Company.



We then made our way to Pewterers' Hall, built in the 1960s as a new home, then to Plaisterers' Hall, almost on London Wall. This was started on the new site in the 1950s as their 4th hall and extended in the 1970s. With very decorative plaster work on the ceilings, is the largest of the City livery halls, seating up to 400.

Venturing on to London Wall, we looked from afar at Barber-Surgeons' Hall, home of the Barbers' Company. It was built in the 1960s in an area flattened during WWII.

Next was Brewers' Hall on Aldermanbury Square. Built in 1960, it has subsequently been refurbished to include extra floors.

Forward then to Basinghall Avenue and Girdlers' Hall, which was also built post Blitz, although they have used this site since 1431. It has the best wine cellar, so somewhere to visit.

Almost opposite Girdlers' Hall is the hall of the Armourers and Brasiers Company, known as Armourers' Hall. The two companies merged in 17th century.

Passing Guildhall, we made our way to Cutlers' Hall in Warwick Lane, which has been in use since 1888 and is their 5th hall. On the outside wall is a 19th century frieze, showing cutlers working at their craft. Also, sitting on an adjacent ledge is a dummy owl, purpose unknown, but whose head moves with the wind.

Continuing along Warwick Lane we turned off to visit Stationers' Hall, on this site since 1606. It was rebuilt in 1673 after the Great Fire, with several amendments since, including a recent renovation.

Time called a halt to our travels, so we ventured on to a private room at the Rising Sun in Carter Lane, where a convivial and delicious meal was enjoyed. Peter Tompkins was toasted and thanked for another highly informative and enjoyable walk.

Guild Member, Bob Flew.



Guild Merchandise

Gemset Polished Metal Stick Pin
£75

Two-tone polished gilt metal, cut out to a special shape and pierced through overall size approximately 32mm x 35mm. The pin is individually hand-set with imitation diamonds and rubies, with a stick pin fitting. Supplied in a presentation case with the Company name and Royal Warrant on the inside lid.



Gemset Polished Metal Brooch
£95

Two-tone polished gilt metal, cut out to a special shape and pierced through ~ overall size approximately 32mm x 35mm, individually hand-set with imitation diamonds and rubies, with a 3 part jewellers brooch pin on the reverse with a D ring with safety chain. Supplied in a presentation case with the Company name and Royal Warrant on the inside lid.



Events of 2024

Greek Cypriot Evening at the Cypriot High Commission

Thursday 16th May

It may have been a rather grey overcast evening in St James Square, but the bright and cheerful welcome by the staff of the High Commission of Cyprus heralded an interesting and delightful evening.

Some ninety Guild Members were guests of the Cypriot Consulate General, which provides assistance and support to Cypriot citizens in the UK.

Following a brief welcome, the Master introduced Mr. Odysseas Odysseos, Honorary Consul General, who spoke of the enduring bonds of friendship and co-operation that unite our two countries. He described the High Commission as a vital bridge between us, promoting collaboration across many areas including trade, culture, education and diplomacy.

While enjoying a glass of wine, we were able to view and appreciate the many remarkable artworks on the walls of Cyprus House. These paintings, curated by a new generation of Cypriots living and working in the UK, presented fascinating depictions of places and people providing a valuable insight into our shared experiences and cultural heritage.



Six students from Manor Hill School (*above and right*) treated us to an excellent and enthusiastic display of traditional Cypriot dancing. The concentration on their faces while executing the intricate steps was intense. Their time with us was especially appreciated, as they were all in the middle of their GCSE examinations.



Everyone embraced the opportunity to mingle and chat with Consulate staff and fellow Guild members, which is not easy in more formal dinner settings.

That said, no one went hungry as there was a generous supply of Cypriot delicacies by the smiling and helpful catering staff. The atmosphere, wine and food brought back memories of warm sunny evenings in Cyprus for many. The superb hospitality was thoroughly enjoyed by all present, with many expressing their support for similar opportunities to chat informally with fellow Guild members.

The evening certainly went a long way to fostering cultural relations and understanding between all present, and the Cypriot Commission's role. The Master concluded by thanking all the staff at the High Commission, and ended with a brief promotion of the imminent Guild holiday to Cyprus.

Guild Member, J Colvin Rae

Standing behind the dance group (below) are Mr. Odysseas Odysseos (to the right of the Master in the picture) and Mr. Michael Ellinas, Headmaster of Manor Hill School



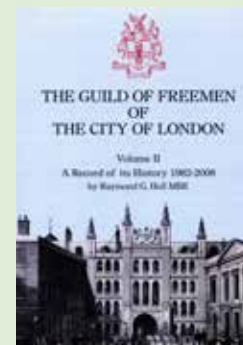
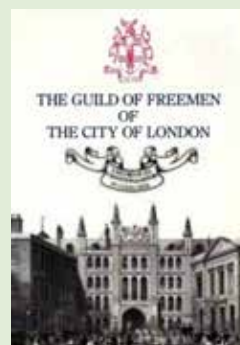
Guild Merchandise

History of the Guild Volumes I and II

Published on the 75th Anniversary of the foundation of the Guild, in September 1983. Volume I was written by Past Master the late Colin Dyer, it traces the fascinating story of the formation of the Guild through to modern times. Printed in hardback, with a total of 194 pages. **£18.00**

Volume II covers the years from the 75th Anniversary in 1983 to the completion of the Centenary Year 2008/2009. Written by Past Master Raymond Holl, this issue focuses on the people and those organizations that have been and remain an integral part of the Guild's activities. **£22.00**

Special Offer of both volumes for only £30



Visit to Allington Castle

Tuesday 4th June

The weather was kind as we approached this privately owned castle with high hopes of a lovely day and we were not disappointed.



The original moated castle was built in the 12th century on the banks of the River Medway. Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn dined with Sir Thomas Wyatt in the great hall circa 1530. Sadly, very little remains of the original castle which was converted into a mansion house by the Wyatt family. As a result of fire damage in the 16th century the castle was abandoned until 1905 when it was purchased and restored by Sir Martin Conway.

On passing through the elegant entrance arch we drove past a field of haughty looking alpacas and then the bijou castle came into view. On either side of the road were lakes graced with white water lilies. The castle grounds are home to various forms of wildlife including families of geese and coots. The moated castle was approached through portcullis protected heavy gates and we found ourselves in a grassed courtyard where we were welcomed with glasses of Pimms. In the centre of the lawn was a heavy stone into which an iron ring had been set. We later learned that this had been installed for the Wyatt family to tether a pet lion.



We were served an elegant 3 course lunch in the great hall (*above*) before being taken on a tour of the house and garden by gardeners Adrian and Jacqui who regaled their respective groups with amusing tales of the Wyatt family's antics. As the house had previously been home to a Carmelite convent, we were not surprised to discover a priest hole, complete with secret passage to the moat. During excavations for the lakes a huge key was found and is now on display.

The extensive gardens were pretty with scented roses elegantly climbing the grey Kentish Ragstone castle walls, cottage garden plants and herbs for stewing as well as cooking. There were box edged parterres, lavender borders, yew hedges, a small garden for Lady Margaret and of course a temple, perfect for weddings! We could see that Adrian and Jacqui had plenty to keep them occupied.

Following our tours we returned to the great hall for tea and scones before reluctantly making our way home. What a treat.

Judy Haylock, wife of Guild Member Stephen Haylock

The guides were excellent (left and below)



Events of 2024

Lord's Cricket Ground

Tuesday 18th June

On Tuesday 18th June Guild members and guests were bowled over by a visit to Lord's Cricket Ground in St John's Wood, London. The home of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), was founded in 1787 at a cricket ground created by Thomas Lord on Dorset Fields in Marylebone. In 1814 the MCC moved to its current location - a new 'rural' ground - in St Johns Wood.



We began our visit with the privilege of entering the Writing Room which provided a panoramic view over the beautifully maintained field of play, basking in the afternoon sun looking more like baize than grass. On the opposite wall to the entrance was the famous painting 'Imaginary Cricket Match, England v Australia, 1886' by Sir Robert Ponsonby Staples, accompanied by two L S Lowry paintings to our left.

Given we were surrounded by such panorama and portraiture we were gathered together for our very own portrait - aka group photograph - a souvenir of this first part of our Lord's experience. (see below)



Next was a short walk to the museum which began as a collection in 1864 when Members were invited to donate items of interest. It is now a treasure trove of artefacts displaying the history, evolution and historical progression of cricket. Bats, hats, pads, gloves and other assorted apparel from all over the world filled the display cases, many signed by prominent players of the time. Photographs and excerpts from a wide variety of publications and countries complemented a shining collection of trophies.



Nevertheless, the 21st century had been allowed to make its presence felt in the form of a large information touch screen placed directly in front of a bust of the great W G Grace. I'm not sure what he would have said about being partly obscured behind a monitor. Perhaps he would have reminded us that our museum visit wouldn't be complete without seeing the Ashes urn, a small, delicate trophy shaped container just a few inches high, safely protected within a tough looking transparent cube.



So much to take in, but afternoon tea was calling so we made our way upstairs to the President's Suite that provided an even more impressive view across the ground and stands. (above) Consisting of a large indoor dining/meeting room, we were able to walk outside to the seating area and once more admire the green vibrancy of the grounds. The lure of champagne, tea, thick cut sandwiches, scones and colourful delicacies brought us back to our seats at round tables.

The conversation flowed in true Guild fashion as our guest singer Caro Bo entertained us with songs spanning jazz, film and Broadway classics. It was tempting to join in with some of the 'standards', but respect for hearing and glasses made this member exercise restraint.



Caro Bo (left above) and Ann Bessey on the England team balcony overlooking the ground (above right)

It was a memorable and privileged afternoon, reminding us of the history of Lord's and its pivotal role within the world of cricket. Our grateful thanks go to our Master for arranging this visit in conjunction with Guild and MCC members Peter and Deborah.

Guild Member, Geoffrey Scott-Baker



New Members' Ceremony

Thursday 27th June



The New Members' Ceremony was held at Girdlers' Hall and included the Loving Cup Ceremony. A full list of new members is given on page 31.



Dinner at Girdlers' Hall

Thursday 27th June

It was a privilege for the Guild to be able to hold this dinner at Girdlers', who do not usually make their Hall available to other Companies.

The Girdlers', makers of Girdles, or belts, have had a Hall on the same ground since 1431. On the 6th August 1449, the Girdlers became an incorporated body by the grant of a Royal Charter to "The Master and Guardians of the Mystery of Girdlers in the City of London" in the reign of Henry VI.

Over the centuries, various bequests of land were made by Girdlers to the Company including strawberry fields, which brought in £5 10s a year in rent at the time, and now accounts for much of the Company's income. The original Hall like many other buildings was destroyed by the Great Fire of 1666 and its replacement suffered a similar fate due to enemy action in 1940. The current Hall was completed in 1961 and is modelled on the style of a country house.



The weather was perfect for us all to join the Master for a sparkling reception in the courtyard garden. This was followed by an excellent three-course dinner with wines. Rather than a speaker, the Master invited the internationally known Italian tenor, Yuri Sabatini, to entertain us after the dinner. He was a magnificent singer, who received a rapturous applause following several songs and arias. His performance concluded this very enjoyable dinner.



Events of 2024

Visit to Nutbourne Vineyard and Lunch

Tuesday 9th July

Deep in the heart of the beautiful Sussex countryside, on a very soggy day, 38 intrepid Guild members found their way to Nutbourne Vineyard. The Vineyard is situated on a gentle south facing slope looking towards the South Downs, which we were unable to admire due to the rain. This also prevented us from walking the fields to examine the vines close up, as it was too wet underfoot.

Our charming host, and owner, Peter, pointed out that a positive side effect of global warming was the remarkable growth of wine making and growing (viniculture), in England. This is now the fastest growth area of agriculture in the UK, with some 22 million bottles produced last year. So successful that foreign companies, particularly the French, are now moving in, buying existing vineyards and creating new ones, which is all helping to improve the quality of our wine. Nutbourne describes itself as a Boutique wine maker, not organic, but striving towards self-sufficiency. Using their own sheep for weeding, hand pruning the vines and hand picking the grapes.

The entire process of wine production, from pressing, fermentation, aging and bottling, takes place on site, with their 26 acres of vines producing on average 50,000 to 60,000 bottles of wine each year, covering the full range of White, Rose, Red and Sparkling wine. They also work hard at branding, including their own unique artwork on bottle labels.

They strive to produce wine with a unique Nutbourne flavour and scent, including Sussex Reserve, a very good white vintage sparkling wine. Also the Nutbourne Red and my favourite, the Nutbourne Blush Rose. On a personal note, I believe wine tasting and drinking is all about personal preference and taste. I will also confess that I visited this vineyard some six years ago, and the quality of the wine has improved immensely since then. We were also treated to a delicious lunch, with the menu and wines chosen by the Master.

As well as explaining the history of the vineyard, the wine making process, Peter expertly fielded many knowledgeable and searching questions from Guild members. Despite the weather, and the odd accident, it was an enjoyable visit. A big thank you to the staff at Nutbourne.

Guild Member, Peter Junker



Swan Upping at Henley on Thames

Wednesday 17th July

On an idyllically hot summer's day we gathered on the banks of the river Thames in Henley to enjoy the annual Swan Upping Festival. There was no better way to observe the event than from the upper deck of our luxury boat. Styled after the classic Mississippi paddle-steamer, complete with tall twin smoke stacks and paddle wheel, the New Orleans is the largest and most luxurious passenger boat on the upper Thames. On board the vessel we had a captain, crew, and staff, all dedicated to ensuring that the event was an unforgettable experience.

The mute swan has been a much-prized bird for many years. It appears to have been given Royal status in the 12th century and, thereafter, if a privately owned swan escaped it became the property of the crown. By 1378 the office of Keeper of the King's Swans was in existence, and in a document entitled 'The Lawes, Orders and Customs for Swans' dated 1482/3, the first law states that all swans owned by those who pay less than 5 marks a year Freehold were forfeit to the King. To own swans was, therefore, a status symbol, and provided a tasty ceremonial dish.

The purpose of swan upping is to mark all new cygnets with the same mark as their parents. In older times, the cygnets were marked by making nicks with a sharp knife. The Worshipful Company of Dyers would mark their swans with a nick on one side of the beak, and the Worshipful Company of Vintners marked theirs with a nick on each side. The latter is the origin of the inn sign 'A Swan with Two Necks', (i.e. two nicks). Royal swans were left unmarked. Nowadays, the swans are ringed instead of having their beaks marked.

The Royal Swan Uppers, wear scarlet rowing shirts and are headed by The King's Swan Marker, who wears a hat with a white swan's feather. They travel in traditional rowing skiffs, together with Swan Uppers from the Vintners' and Dyers' Livery Companies. As the skiffs row their way steadily up the Thames, they cry "All up" as a family of swans and cygnets is spotted. The Swan Uppers carefully position their boats around the swans, lift them from the water and check their health.

Meeting with friends old and new, we enjoyed a Pimms reception on the upper deck of our boat as it followed the flotilla of skiffs up and down the river. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed such a thrilling and picturesque sight, and it was so lovely to see the school children getting involved too. This was followed by an extensive buffet luncheon, drinks and great company. After four hours our lovely trip came to an end, as we reluctantly disembarked for home.

Guild Member, Lynne Reah



Events of 2024

Master's Holiday in Cyprus

Thursday 5th to Tuesday 10th September



Friday 6th September

After a sleepy breakfast at 5am UK time, (7am in Cyprus), the intrepid 41 members met at 8.30am in the hotel's lobby to board the bus to Nicosia. Antonia, our guide, made every effort to explain the historical, archaeological and cultural significance of the sights we were privileged to witness.

The first visit was to the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of St John, (*right*) whose impressive emblem - the eagle - presided over the superbly preserved frescos and icons. The 17th century building was itself something of a miracle, built despite the rule of the Ottoman Empire.



The second visit was to the Cyprus Museum in Lefkosia, Nicosia. An extraordinary array of archaeological treasures were displayed, including everything from statuettes to life size funerary statues of lions, sphinxes and heroes from Greek and Egyptian history, and mythology. The period covered by the museum dates from the Stone Age to the late Bronze Age, with all manner of pottery, metalwork and jewellery of breath-taking sophistication and complexity. The wide range of influences on Cypriot art reflect the intermittent changing of hands in rule over the island throughout its history. So, Assyrian, Byzantine, Ottoman and Greek impacts were all in evidence. This produces a fascinating blend of cultures. The more recent history of Cyprus is evident immediately outside

the museum - the fence that divides the island so visibly.



The feeling of an unhappy history and a divided island immediately gave way to a positive and refreshing visit to see President Christodoulides at the Presidential Palace. (*see left*) The President was presented with a gift from the Guild, which he gratefully accepted. He said he looked forward to meeting our new Prime Minister. A group photograph was taken with the President, as we were looked down upon by the impressive statue of President Archbishop Makarios.

Lunch was at the Kalodon restaurant on four full length outside tables, with a constant flow of delicious food and copious amounts of first-rate wine and beer. A short shopping trip followed, and with lighter pockets we boarded our coach back to Limassol with full stomachs and the prospect of a swim before dinner at 7pm.



Dinner in the Celeste restaurant was plentiful, washed down with more suitable beverages, which led us to be refreshed for the Cypriot dancing display with a local traditional band. Exciting dance steps by the professionals were followed by a local man who balanced twelve glasses on his head, as well as two medium sized amphorae, a half full bottle of red wine and a half full glass of red wine, all on top of the other.

The evening concluded with the ladies placing more glasses on his head, and this led to our group taking part in traditional Greek dancing. One or two of us were 18 again on the dance floor. What a magnificent day to kick off our stay in Cyprus.

Guild Member, Shane Sullivan

Saturday 7th September

After another tasty breakfast in our hotel, we were ready for an adventurous day. Today we were going to explore the town of Morphou, which since 1974 is within the Turkish Occupied area of Cyprus. Armed with our passports, we boarded our coach and headed towards the western central plain of Cyprus, north of the Pentadaktulos Mountains. On the journey, Antonia, our guide enlightened us with her extensive knowledge of Cyprus keeping us abreast of the places we passed though on our scenic journey to Morphou.

Arriving at Astromeritis, we had our passports collected and checked at this Border Checkpoint. Antonia explained to us that whilst we were in Morphou a mandatory Turkish Courier would be aboard our coach. Driving through the checkpoint into beautiful Morphou, we passed through its very scenic surroundings, including lots of citrus trees, as we headed towards the 16th century Cathedral Church. This Church is dedicated to Agios Mamas, being the Patron Saint of Morphou and who was a legendary early Christian martyr of the 3rd century. According to local legend Mamas was a poor hermit who lived in a cave near the town of Morphou and when the authorities tried to tax him, he evaded them. Soldiers were then sent out and they captured him but, on the way back to town Mamas saw a lion attacking a lamb. He escaped the soldiers, saved the lamb, then jumped on the lion's back and rode it into the town. His bravery earned him exemption from taxation. He is depicted riding on a lion. Inside the church we saw the ancient marble tomb of Saint Mamas and the lavish blue-backed frescoes covering the interior of the church. The services in this Church can also be attended by Greek Cypriots.



The Mayor of Morphou, Victor Hadjiavraam, accompanied us at this church and throughout our visit to Morphou, and was kind enough to pick up the two members of our party who had forgotten to bring their passports, saving the coach a detour.

Back on the coach we then headed to the ancient city of Soli to see its well-preserved mosaics where a 5th century Basilica once stood that had been destroyed in the 16th century, and an amphitheatre dating back to the 2nd century BC. The visit to the amphitheatre entailed walking up many steep steps in blazing hot sunshine so only the braver souls of our party went up, whilst others, including myself, chose to return to our air-conditioned coach.

Next on our itinerary was a visit to the Church of Panagia Tis AsinouI, a UNESCO world heritage site in a mountainous area not far from the village of Nikitari. This church, built in 1099, originally was part of a monastery. It consists of two parts, the vaulted single-aisled nave and the narthex. Within the church we saw the fabulous well preserved Byzantine wall paintings which date from the 12th to the 17th century painted in the Constantinople style - they are amongst the finest in the world.

Our final stop was for lunch at the Stavros Tis Asinou Restaurant where we enjoyed a fabulous meze style feast of local dishes and wines in a traditional taverna setting. It was very enjoyable to sit, eat and relax in such good company before heading back to our hotel in Limassol.

Guild Member, Marie-Louise Webb

Sunday 8th September

On the bus, with Antonia on microphone and Nicos at the wheel we glided up and out of Limassol on the well-kept winding roads into the Troodos mountains. Through the layers of landscape, we heard about water supply problems maybe feeling guilty about luxury showers in our hotel. Very low levels in the reservoirs were going to be affecting drinking and irrigation. Pleated valleys gained more tree cover as we climbed through villages producing specialities appropriate to each microclimate- roses for rosewater, honey, nuts, candied bergamot, many things to look out for. Mining for fireproof asbestos used in cladding and insulation had once been a thriving industry around here until the deadly toll caused by its use was recognised; villages and mines are now abandoned.

Nicos did an elegant turn into the car park at Kakopetria, avoiding the big stones. One party hurtled uphill to be shown the picturesque old village with views - photographs looked reminiscent of Austrian alpine houses. (*see below*) A select group explored the nearest café patisserie. While sampling freshly pressed apple juice and local pastries they took the opportunity to smile and observe the villagers enjoying a coffee, a smoke or just buying sweet and savoury snacks as after-church treats for the family.



A short journey with fine coach reversing led us to the mountain side meadow to visit the treasure-box eleventh century UNESCO listed Church of Ayios Nikolaos Tis Stegis, so named because an earlier roof can be seen under a newer tiled covering. Grape clusters in the very tops of the pine trees reflected sunshine and the noise of an unseen river in the ravine enhanced the peaceful setting.

In the church frescos dating from between the 11th and 17th centuries covered the walls and ceilings. Antonia explained the history of various invasions and the iconography with styles, colours, shapes and placements adding layers of meaning to the art. Highlights were the Virgin Mary breastfeeding the Infant Jesus and the donkey carrying Christ into Jerusalem, sniffing suspiciously at the cloak laid on the pathway while a boy, rope between his big toes, shinned up a palm tree, axe on his belt to chop more fronds.

Next stop was the Winery with small nibbles of bread and oil, cheese and olives getting our palates in the mood. My favourite was a red wine. According to the enthusiastic and inspiring owner of Ktima Gerolemo this was a part of the Cypriot Philosophy of Life and would be just as good with a 'Full English' breakfast as with a meaty mountain stew. The White, the Rose, and a luscious sweet 2018 Commandaria were very well received and the last to be tasted was a golden coloured Zivania. The only thing missing was the option to get a case or two shipped to the UK. A good reason to return to Cyprus or perhaps arrange a case via a London agent.

Mike Bridden gave a short resume of the geology of Cyprus explaining how the changing colours and layers of rocks we had seen were the result of ancient seabeds being nudged up against the shoulders of the African and Eurasian continents. The geology of Cyprus was mapped between 1958 and 1966 by Sir Michael Bear's father forming an especially close Guild connection.

The bus rolled us gently onto Omodos for lunch. Vigilant and enthusiastic shepherding by The Master, Mark, Antonia and Kate was required to get us through the throngs of Sunday shoppers in the square and surrounding streets. Historic sights vied with lovely stalls and shopfronts. It was tempting to break off and enrich the local economy en-route to the village centre restaurant.

The meze meal was particularly delicious, the service cheerful and on the way back many did manage to slip away and pick up a bargain or two to stow away in the bus. A slalom ride down to the coast got us back in time for a lovely dip in the calm warm silky sea. Silhouetted against the golden sunset, a 'Liberty' of Freeman could be seen treading water and putting the world to rights before their supper at the Celeste Restaurant.

Guild Member, Dr. Angela Parker



Events of 2024

Monday 9th September

Increasing numbers of early morning guests swam in the beautiful silky turquoise waters in the bay at the hotel. Breakfast appealed to every possible taste or need and was tended by the attentive staff of the Mediterranean Hotel.

For our first stop, we took the coastal route to Kourion, outside the ancient capital of Paphos. Cyprus is a remarkable ancient island, reflecting many significant periods of world change. The Greeks had the earliest and most profound influence on Cyprus, as shown by the 500 BC structures at this site, continuing up to the 5th century AD. It culminates in mosaics fashioned from marble and sea glass in the house of Eustolios.

A very able shaker and mover of the times, he had a mosaic 'welcome mat' at the entrance to his not insignificant abode. This is where we had a wonderful life lesson from Katie about the woman in the mosaic holding the 'Roman Foot', a measuring device, reminding all who rest their eyes upon her that everything is in moderation (or 'Metron Ariston' as written in Greek).



The amphitheatre has perfect acoustics and a stunning backdrop which, today, continues to host many modern concerts and ceremonies, with performances by famous names such as Nana Mouskouri and Pavarotti. Mikeal, our guide, gave us a very learned synopsis of the geology of the island which underpins the topography. Cyprus has benefited greatly from being in the EU and most of the ancient sites we visited have benefited from sponsorship by the EU or UN and the Cypriots are truly proud of their heritage.

Even in the early morning hours the temperature was rising and our second stop, at the birth place of Aphrodite, was a welcome relief from the hot sun. There are many myths and legends about this extraordinarily beautiful beach and hinterland, one of which states that if you swim around the second island three times you will have eternal beauty. We added our own legend to that list. When asked by Adrian, if she was going to 'do the swim', Rita replied without pausing that "I don't like to meet my rivals". On the bus Peter gave an excellent reminiscence of the time he spent in service during the emergency, 50 years ago. Many people used this visit as an opportunity to tie a memento to a carob tree, similar to the way locks are placed on bridges in London to remember someone or something special.



We left Aphrodite's birthplace and travelled further west to Kato Paphos, where we visited the House of Dionysus and the partially excavated House of Aion. Many treasures in this vast 4th-century Roman housing complex remain undiscovered. The site showcased impressive features like underfloor heating, a cool room and banquet facilities large enough to host 200 friends and family. The site is dotted with Christian imagery, reflecting the early days of the Catholic Roman Empire. This has contributed to Cyprus' distinctive Orthodox faith. After the leisurely lunch, we moved east to a small family-owned Loukoumi factory in Yeroskipou. We met three generations of the family, all involved in the business started by the grandfather with a secret family recipe. We returned 'home' in time for a swim or a relaxing little drink on the bedroom balcony, watching the world slide into dusk.

The final banquet was extraordinary. It was held in the Artina Bistro, next to the medieval castle in an old converted carob mill in Limassol. We were greeted by Andreas Kakouris, former Cypriot high commissioner to the UK and former ambassador to Ireland. The Mayor of Morphou, Victor Hadjiavraam, now good friends with Andrew and Lynda (and known locally as their chauffeur). The Master was the quintessential ambassador of the Guild and presented gifts to our distinguished guests and their wives. Sir Michael was on hand to deliver, with aplomb, an after-dinner repartee with some great jokes.

Right on time, the ever-punctual Nikolas picked us up to take us home. We were all touched by the genuine warm welcome from our new Cypriot friends (Salami travel guides Mikael and Katie included). Over the course of our trip, we gained valuable insight into the history and ongoing struggle of the Cypriots to reclaim their entire island and live peacefully alongside their neighbours, as they had done for millennia.

Guild Member, Tom Browne

Sheep Drive and Lunch

Sunday 29th September



The Master with actor Damian Lewis, who opened the Fair and Sheep Drive

The interesting fact about life in the City of London is that no-one takes notice of the way you are dressed, all is just a normal objective view of life here and its many formal occasions. So it was when I emerged from London Bridge station bedecked in a long Victorian summer dress with a lace shawl across the shoulders, a dainty Victorian bonnet with a lace cap, white boots and a devilish looking hooked stick. Not an eye turned, but on crossing Southwark Bridge suddenly all was revealed. There at the far end was an exciting gabble of people whose outfits were a wonderful array of the most creative costume all very much at home on farmland and rural fields in times past but not another Bo Peep yet. Undoubtedly this bubble of excitement agitated requests for photographs, TV merging with mobile phones, seeking out actor Damian Lewis munching his way through the most enormous doughnut all freshly baked at the nearby stall hosted by the Bakers' Livery.



Rosemary Dymond DL with Mr. Azad Ayub, who is the principal sponsor of the Sheep Drive (above left)

The whole atmosphere was one of excitement amidst turmoil just as one would have imagined happening in the medieval period when the first livery companies were created. The stalls, set out along the end of the bridge were a mass of industrious workers making and selling their wares, the Feltmakers creating beautiful pictures and colourful garments, the Basketmakers moulding unusual shaped baskets for an assortment of uses, the Turners working at speed making amazing shapes from their deeply grained wood. The air was full of the scents of their products from the Leathersellers and their work creating bags and decorations to the Bakers' and their all too tempting fresh bread loaves and doughnuts. Just some of the smells we would imagine rising from a medieval market in full swing.

Indeed, while wandering down this mass of stalls, one was transported back to a picture of London Bridge in medieval times, even the stall holders were in traditional costume.

Having been intoxicated thus, it was now time to concentrate on the major skills of the day – herding sheep across the bridge. Numbers and times had been distributed and now to join the myriad of Masters and dignitaries for a lesson on skills. The Lord Mayor of the City of London, Michael Mainelli, was seen enjoying his special doughnut as the crowd gathered around the sheep pen, the large rotund occupants of which were obviously excited if somewhat agitated by the race to come. Beside them a shepherd was skilfully shearing sheep using old fashioned hand clippers while a runner nearby took the wool to the Woolmen's stall to begin the process of wool making.



The Guild Assistant Clerk, Abbie Jones (right of picture) with the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs

The sun came out ever stronger as the time approached for the Sheep Drive. Bo-Peep, complete in bonnet, white boots (not sensible when following energetic sheep) but the shepherd's crook and Victorian work day dress added authenticity to the crowd of "would-be shepherds". The Master of the Guild of Freeman, Lisa Rutter, in full regalia, took the lead and the team were off. Fortunately, the five youngsters from the community farm were ahead of the sheep and carefully guided their flock at a sensible pace to allow the "shepherds" to walk safely, following the wriggling white bottoms in front. The ten-minute drive was over too quickly and the crowds on the road beside gathered for more photos.

What an extraordinary and exciting experience the day was and one to be enjoyed year after year. Having been the only Bo-Peep in the early morning it wasn't long that by lunchtime another two had joined and on shaking hands together the final photo was taken beside what else, but a large model sheep clothed in the Union Jack. Well done the Woolmen's Livery company for organising a truly amazing day.

Guild Member, Rosemary Dymond DL

Enjoyable lunch at the Boot and Flogger afterwards



Events of 2024

New Members' Ceremony

Wednesday 26th October

The ceremony in October was held in Tallow Chandlers' Hall. A full list of new members is given on page 31.



Champagne Tasting Evening

Wednesday 26th October

The Guild of Freemen gathered for an elegant sparkling wine tasting at Tallow Chandlers' Hall, hosted by Mr. Chris Scott of ThirtyFifty.

Surrounded by rich wood panelling, portraits, and candlelight, attendees explored seven sparkling wines from around the world, each offering a great example of the breadth of wine making. Highlights included a fruity Chanoine Frères Brut Rosé Champagne NV, a bold Australian sparkling red from Paulettes Trillians, and the intriguing Cantina Orsogna Malvasia Orange Pet Nat.



Discussions ranged from Prosecco versus Rosé preferences to the nuances of DOCG classification and traditional sparkling wine-making methods, with Ridgeview Merret Bloomsbury Brut showcasing the rise of English fizz. The adventurous sparkling red sparked debate, adding variety and depth to the experience.

Mr. David Longstaff the former Mayor of Barnet was the guest of honour who vividly recounted his experience of recently running the London marathon, which was full of humorous anecdotes and visceral descriptors. Overall, the venue's timeless atmosphere enhanced the evening, blending heritage, debate and fine wine shared over good food leaving attendees with new oenophilic insights and fond memories.

Guild Member, Fraser Peck

Lord Mayor's Show

Saturday 9th November

The Lord Mayor's Show dates back more than 800 years and is one of the oldest processions in the world. 7,000 participants take part, as well as 200 horses and over 140 floats. The centrepiece is the state coach in which the Lord Mayor travels in on the day.

This year the Master shared a Landau with the City Livery Club, the Royal Society of St George, and the United Wards Club. All coaches and landaus had personal escorts, the Guild's being from our affiliated military unit, 253 Company Royal Military Police.

Guild members watched the Show from the streets close to Guildhall with a group of members enjoying a four-course lunch in the members dining room afterwards.



The Master with Alderman Professor Emma Edhem, President of the City Livery Club

Annual Banquet at Guildhall

Friday 6th December

Where does one even begin to describe the fantastic experience of my first banquet with the Guild of Freeman? Braving a cold and dark evening as Storm Darragh set in, we arrived at the magnificent Guildhall and were warmed by the sight of our community, dressed beautifully and all clearly ready for a Christmas banquet.

Walking into the Guildhall was an experience in itself. The walls were covered with artworks, and one could have easily spent an evening just enjoying them, however we were ushered into the champagne reception. Walking through a tunnel of spear holders and heralds, we entered the reception hall, another striking example of gothic architecture made all the more impressive by the pomp and ceremony of the guards standing by. Friends old and new were busy catching up or getting acquainted, all looking forward to the highlight of the year. A magician entertained us as he wandered around the room.

As the bell rang for dinner, we were led through to the ancient banqueting hall. There was so much to take in. The long tables were beautifully dressed, shimmering silver tablecloths and flower displays all under the watchful gaze of various historical figures' statues. We were then treated to the grand entrance of Master Lisa Rutter and the guests of honour, marking the true start of the banquet.

We were entertained by a band playing festive favourites, and a highlight of the evening was when the fanfare trumpeters played a game of cat and mouse while trumpeting, with amazing breath control to hold a note for the longest time. Each course was delicious, served on beautiful china, and with the accompaniment of fine wines and port. The after-dinner speakers expressed the gratitude I'm sure we all felt for being there that evening. The magician entertained us from the stage and a tenor sang beautiful arias and songs to conclude this wonderful evening.

For all the details that must have taken days, if not weeks, of planning, the main thing that shone through was the community spirit of the Freeman. Intellectual conversations, warmth, belonging, and a strong sense of civic pride were present throughout the evening. I felt honoured to have been there for my first Freeman's Banquet and look forward to many more. What a way to round off Lisa Rutter's year as Master.

Guild Member, Helena Barr



Guests were delighted to have their picture taken (above)



The Master and Consort greet Alderman Sir Andrew and Lady Wendy Parmley and are pictured with honoured guests



Events of 2024



The Master and Mark Rutter with Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Gt.Britain plus Revd. Dr. George Tsourous



The Master, Lord Mayor's Representative and Honoured Guests are greeted into the Great Hall (above and below)



Mr. Hugh Wolley, Master Tallow Chandler, with Alderman Sir Andrew Parmley, the Lord Mayor's Representative (above)



The Master's greeting (above) The welcome address by the Senior Warden, Mr. Adrian Waddingham CBE (below left) and response by Alderman Sir Andrew Parmley (below right)





Mr. Nigel Wray proposed the toast to the Guild of Freemen of the City of London and its Master (above) and Alderman Sir Andrew Parmley, the Lord Mayor's Representative, receives a cheque for the Lord Mayor's Appeal and a personal gift from the Master (below)



The Master presents Guild Beadle John Hollingsworth with life membership to the Guild, a cheque from contributions made by the Court and Guild members plus a pair of cufflinks for over 36 years of service (above) and the evening ended with more magic by Paul Dawson plus songs and arias by operatic tenor Yuri Sabatini (below)



Carol Service at St Mary-Le-Bow

Monday 9th December

As in past years, we were expecting to revisit St Stephen Walbrook once again for our Annual Carol Service, but with it still under renovation, the Guild were permitted by the Reverend of St Mary-Le-Bow to use the equally beautiful church. This is another of Christopher Wren's City Churches, the first to be rebuilt after the Great Fire of London and known as 'The Bow Bells'.



The choir, St Stephen Voices, were wonderful, supporting the congregation in the traditional carols of the season and singing some beautiful choral pieces, including a particularly stunning arrangement of Silent Night.

The traditional readings were given by the Master Lisa Rutter, Court Assistant Lars Andersen and Guild Members Christine Hawthorne and Helena Barr. The Very Revd Stephen Baxter gave a jubilant yet poignant sermon about truth and expectation. Advent was duly wrought in as we shared a lovely buffet of food and wine, closing out the Guild calendar for 2024 with true Christmas spirit.

Assistant Clerk, Abbie Jones



The Guild is Back on Facebook

Guild Member Paul Williams has created a new Facebook page called 'The Guild of Freemen of the City of London'

When posting photographs on Facebook of Guild events that you have attended, please tag the Guild by using: @The Guild of Freemen of the City of London.

253 (London) Provost Company

Annual Report

Maintaining readiness and momentum has been the priority for 253 (London) Provost Company, following the successful deployment on Exercise Steadfast Defender (Operation Linotyper) during the first half of 2024. While there were learning opportunities identified, the overall success of the deployment cannot be overstated. The dynamic reinterpretation of Annual Continuous Training, by staggering consecutive 16-day deployments over a 10-week period and outside of formal mobilisation, allowed section strength to be maintained across multiple locations in Germany and Poland. This also meant that the RMP Reserve could support the RMP, 101 Operational Sustainment Brigade, and the wider Army with effective real-life policing and mobility support, allowing RMP Reservists to practise a core function.

Providing opportunities for individuals to continue adding value over the remainder of the year is key to maintaining a high Certificate of Efficiency and overall success. 253 (London) Provost Company continues to uphold the volunteer spirit by backfilling our Regular RMP colleagues where required, with personnel deploying to Kenya on BATUK, within the UK on Operation Interflex, and to Holland for the Nijmegen Marches 2024.

Cpl Ho deployed to Kenya on BATUK, replacing LCpl Brandrick, who rotated out following a successful deployment, whilst Cpl Martin continues to support the wider Army on Operation Interflex, highlighting the opportunities available to RMP Reservists.



Having only recently returned from a rotation on Operation Linotyper, where he conducted joint police patrols with his US Army Military Police counterparts, Cpl Ho seamlessly integrated with his Regular colleagues at Nyati Barracks as the sole RMP Reservist, having mobilised from the Metropolitan Police Service, where he serves as a Police Constable. Whilst deployed on BATUK, Cpl Ho has conducted police patrols and provided night-time economy support in the Nanyuki area, whilst also building community relationships with local shops, restaurants, and drinking establishments. Additionally, he participated in an outreach event where BATUK donated cots for female Kenyan Prison inmates and recreational items, such as cards and board games, for male prison inmates. (right)



The Recruit Retention Mentoring Team, led by Sgt Rai (Regimental Mentoring Support Officer), continues to deliver results. 253 (London) Provost Company has surpassed the 100-person ceiling, stabilising at 86% of liability with a healthy inflow vs outflow. This success has been achieved by leveraging the offer to ex-Regular personnel as they leave Regular Service, supporting their transition to civilian employment by employing them via Reserve Service Days at their former provost companies, albeit through the devolved 253 (London) Provost Company Reserve Sections (Aldershot, Bulford, and Colchester).

This approach allows the RMP to retain talent, the RMP Reserve to recruit experience, and the individual to continue their service while supplementing their income and topping up their respective pensions.

Direct recruitment also continues to be successful, with 253 (London) Provost Company consistently representing half of the RMP Reserve Initial Trade Training Course (RMPIC(R)) at the Defence School of Policing and Security (DSPS), Southwick Park, with A/LCpl French also achieving the Top Student Award. We were very pleased to see the following personnel achieve their red berets following a much improved RMP Reserve course, which focused on Public and Personal Safety Training and policing-focused environmental training, with some individuals already volunteering for policing duties at Regular provost companies:

2Lt D Hadfield
A/LCpl U Choudhury
A/LCpl I Choudhury
A/LCpl B Hall

A/LCpl A French
A/LCpl F Kyere A/
LCpl O Sanyaolu A/
LCpl R Lagnado

Whilst on Operation Linotyper, Sgt Lowes led a team of RMP Reservists in responding to a serious road traffic collision involving civilian and military vehicles. On arrival, he found the road blocked by one damaged civilian vehicle and two UK military HGVs. The second HGV had collided with the first, leaving the driver with life-changing injuries and the cab severely crushed. RMP Reservists (coordinated by WO2 Thompson), worked alongside German police and other emergency services, managing traffic control and taking witness statements. Sgt Lowes subsequently consulted with paramedics, who determined that the injured UK soldier needed to be airlifted to a hospital near Berlin, where Sgt Lowes provided continuity and liaison with German authorities throughout the soldier's care and subsequent repatriation back to the UK.

Following a successful rotation on Operation Linotyper, Sgt Lowes led a team of RMP Reservists (coordinated by SSgt McCoy) consisting of Cpl Husain, Cpl Edwards, Cpl Dimova and Cpl Cassis to Holland to conduct real-life policing duties in support of British Service Personnel taking part with the Nijmegen Marches 2024. (right)



Having just returned from either Operation Cabrit in Estonia, Operation Linotyper in Germany/Poland or policing duties in Colchester, these individuals worked in partnership with the Dutch Police and NATO MP partners for the duration of the event, most notably in locating and providing medical treatment for a High Risk Missing Service Person, maintaining high standards and professionalism throughout.

Major JMP Roberts AGC (RMP)



The Immediate Past Master's Address

It was a huge honour and privilege to serve as Master of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London for 2024, being the eighth Lady Master of the Guild since our foundation in 1908. My intention for the year was to bring you a variety of exciting, magical and memorable events which I hope I have achieved. At the same time, I wanted to remind members of the purpose of the Guild in bringing together the Freemen in order to interact with the city's rich history and traditions, not forgetting our underlying purposes of charity, benevolence, and education.



The Master and husband Mark Rutter, at the Gherkin

My programme of events started with the Burns Night at The Caledonian Club which included traditional Scottish dancing. I had two formal black-tie dinners, at Butchers' Hall with some magic, and Girdlers' Hall with Italian tenor Yuri Sabatini. Other events included visiting the Gherkin and Allington Castle, which is generally not open to the public; a Champagne Afternoon Tea at Lords Cricket Ground, with a jazz singer Cara Bo; a Whisky Tasting event with Greg Dillon and a visit to Nutbourne Vineyards in West Sussex.

We enjoyed the Swan Upping on the Thames, a Champagne tasting evening at Tallow Chandlers' Hall, and a tour of St Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral, where we were privileged to have the Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain give us a talk about the Cathedral. On 16th May we attended a Greek Cypriot evening at the Cypriot High Commission in St. James's Square, where we were entertained by students from Manor Hill School who treated us to an excellent display of traditional Cypriot dancing.

The Master prepares to ride in the landau during the Lord Mayor's Show supported by the Soldier of the Year



A particular success was my holiday to Cyprus, with an amazing forty-one members joining me on this trip, staying at the delightful Mediterranean Beach Hotel in Limassol.

My connections with the Mayor of Morphou and the former High Commissioner of Cyprus in UK enabled me to organise a very interesting itinerary, seeing great architecture, beautiful churches and cathedrals, plus a winery in the mountains. We also visited the Presidential Palace to meet the President of Cyprus, His Excellency Nikos Christodoulides, who gave us a short talk about the history of Cyprus and how it is now 50 years since the Turkish invasion. With the help of The Mayor of Morphou, I was also able to organise a visit to this occupied town.

This was a most overwhelming visit and in fact the driver of our coach showed us his house as we passed, which has been occupied for all of this time. The holiday also included visits to Troodos with a banquet lunch at the highest peak and a visit to Paphos, where we saw the making of Loukoumia (similar to Turkish Delights). There was also time for dips in the warm crystal-clear sea water which everyone looked forward to every day.

The highlight of the year, of course, was the Guild Banquet that was attended by more members and guests than in previous years which again included some magic during the evening. Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain gave a moving grace, and I was delighted to have Past Lord Mayor, Sir Andrew Parmley as the Lord Mayor's Representative. His speech was interesting and amusing. We were also honoured to have the Mayor of Morphou Victor Hadjiavraam and his wife Dina. His Excellency the President of Cyprus, Nikos Christodoulides did plan on being present but unfortunately, due to circumstances in the Middle East, he was unable to attend. I was delighted however to receive a letter from him which I read out. My special guest speaker was Nigel Wray, the retired Chairman of Saracens Rugby Club. As well as leading Saracens in the Premier League, Nigel has helped communities and schools in the Barnet area, as well as many local charities. My good friend, the operatic tenor, Yuri Sabatini, brought the evening to a wonderful finale.

The Master and Mark Rutter at the Guild Banquet



The Immediate Past Master's Address (continued)

It has also been a pleasure during my year as Master to visit various Guild cities across the country. The rich history and traditions of our Guild are a testament to the enduring spirit of fellowship and community that bind us together. On April 13th I visited York with my husband, Mark. We arrived with ample time to explore the historic city centre, and it was fascinating to see the original Mansion House, the residence of the Lord Mayor of York since 1732. The Lord Mayor of York, Councillor Chris Cullwick expressed an interest in visiting Mansion House in London. I was happy to arrange a visit for him and the Mayoress, who were warmly welcomed by the Lord Mayor of the City of London, Michael Minelli.

My next visit took place on October 9th in Glasgow for The Trades: House of Glasgow Dinner. It was an honour to meet Deacon Convener Richard Paterson OBE and the Lord Mayor Elect of the City of London, Alderman & Sheriff Alastair King DL, along with other distinguished guests. Our final visit was to Chester on October 26th, at The Queen Hotel. Although the current President was unable to attend, it was a pleasure to meet the Past President of Chester, Mr. Peter Thompson, and the Lord Mayor of Chester, Razia Daniels. These visits have not only allowed me to witness the unique heritage of each Guild city but also to strengthen the bonds within our community, reaffirming our commitment to fellowship and mutual support.



The Master and Mark Rutter at York (above) and The Trades: House of Glasgow Dinner (below)



The Master and Mark Rutter at Chester

There were also visits to schools and academies where the Guild of Freeman's charity provides support. I attended a few prize days, and it was a pleasure to meet the students we support. As Master I attended many other city events hosted by the Lord and Lady Mayoress to support the Lord Mayor's Appeal. We attended interesting lectures, Livery events, two virtual talks by Andrew Johnson who is a Guild Member and Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Joiners and Ceilers.

My husband and consort Mark and I have enjoyed every moment during my year. I could not have achieved this without his help and unwavering support and would therefore like to thank him first.

I am also profoundly grateful for the steadfast support of my son Nicholas and my father, Father Spiros, (*pictured below with Lisa and Mark*) who were especially proud of my achievement.



I would also like to thank my Wardens, Court Assistants, Past Masters and the Guild members who were able to attend my events. I had an amazing year and one which I will always treasure as a memory with Mark. The success of my year also relied on the help and support of the Clerk, Kate Pink and Assistant Clerk, Abbie Jones. I thank them both. I would also like to give thanks to the Beadle, John Hollingsworth, for his 36 years of service to the Guild.

Finally, I would like to thank you, the members, for supporting me throughout the year, because you are the Guild and its success rests with you.

Guild Members' News

In Memoriam

We were saddened to hear of the following deaths amongst Guild Members and our deepest sympathies are extended to their families and friends.

John Kimp
Alan Blackstone
Stephen Kennard
Prof. John Salter
Bill Place

Melvyn Hill
Mary Barclay
Mrs DL Minty (Blaxland)
Malcolm Mitcheson
Richard Sutton

Christine Leslie
Dr John Farr
Joyce Parsons
Hugh Brady
Avril Newman
Jeffery Sloneem
James Attridge
David Clarke
Stanley Brown
Frank Rice-Oxley

Alan Ripley
Terry McCann
Martin Hale
D.W.Gardner
June Mendoza
Gary Fury
David Hyde
Ruth Deadman
Peter Lewis Crown
Jackie Springett

The Guild Welcomes New Members 2024

January

Mr Simon Eedle
Mr Mark Versallion
Mr Matthew Haine

February

Mr Michael Mail
Miss Helen Demosthenou
Ms Judith Diment
Mr Vincent Frostick
Mr Antony Gosling
Mrs Christine Legge
Mr John McPhail
Ms Gabrielle Oliver
Mr Derek Rose
Mr David Sales
Mr Richard Vickerstaff
Mr Joe Chapman-Allen
Mrs Angela Escott
Ms Patricia Hamzahee
Mr Russell Macdonald
Mr John Parkes VR
Mr Sam Winterbottom

March

H.E. Shivshankar Nair
Mr Kevin Sheekey
Mr Brian Boag JP
Mr Ka Li Cheung
Ms Kay English BEM
Miss Alexandra Fontaine MBE
Ms Kathryn Hamilton
Dr Nicole Klynman
Mr Gareth Scourfield
Mr Malcom Westbrook JP
Mr Alexander Wilson
Mr Dilip Patel FCCA
Mr Clive Tinkler

April

Mr Darren Almeida
Mr Robert Coles VR MCI Arb
Dr Giorgio Cuneo
Mr Alessandro Gianelli
Mr Raymond Playford
Mr David Roberts
Mr Alberto Simone
Mr K.M. Jamal Ahmed
Mr Peter Collins JP
Mr Alistair Ferguson

May

Chris Manners
Joanne Pisani
Kieran O'Donnell
Julie Linsdell
Helena Barr
Stuart Goble
Jagbir Sodhi

June

Ian Neill JP
Lady Jan Carr
Hilary Meades
Mr Bernard Wilson

July

Peter Jackson
Peter Bridgman
Matthew Carroll
Felipe Hillard
Christopher Holland
Matab Miah
Richard Sawle JP

August

Harry Johnson
Martino Cartella
Stephen Cox
John Butler
Roger Davenport
Yvonne Harrop
Tim Pike
Captain Thomas Williams
Susan Whitting JP
September
Angela Kelly-Burns
James Mortimer
Cllr Dr Manju Shahul-Hameed
Brian Smith
Mohammad Talukder
Mr Paolo Cuomo
Mr John Glover
Miss Jillian MacLean MBE
Dr John Thornhill OBE JP

October

Edward Briscoe
Jeremy Davis
Capt. Arne Loland
Sue Paterson
November

Christine Duthie
Jatinder Wasu
Phillip Wale
Kevin Elstub
Stuart Radmore
Paul Youdan-Smith
Dr Deborah Pullen MBE
Dr John Williams

December

John Hollingsworth



Members Celebrating Fifty Years of Membership 50

The following members celebrated fifty years of membership of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London during 2024

Mr JPC Danny
Mr RP Stanley
Mr GD Finnan
Mr VE Emms
Mr RJ Woodward

Mr JA Jones
Mr IA McColl
Mr RWJ Johnson
Mr JB Read

Guild Members' News

Obituary of Peter Lewis-Crown OBE

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Peter Lewis-Crown OBE on 8th August 2024 aged 94. Peter studied Fine Art, Commercial Art and Fashion at St Martin's School of Art, after which he joined the couture fashion house of Lachasse as an apprentice in 1948. In 1964 Peter became a Director of Lachasse and subsequently its sole owner, building a distinguished international clientele. While this was an era when most of the London couture houses were struggling Lachasse retained a loyal clientele.

Liz Smith writing in The Times described it as one of the go-to places in London for bespoke clothing: "Peter Lewis-Crown today continues the house tradition for natty tailoring that looks little changed from the days when Princess Marina and the late Countess Mountbatten were customers".

Throughout his life, Peter had been a wonderful supporter of many charities, including the Westminster Society, a local London charity of which Peter was Vice-President.

He was also Vice-President at Learning Disability Network London. Peter was a long standing, incredibly supportive and much-admired Vice-Patron of the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen (The Fishermen's Mission).

Sadly, declining health in recent years meant that Peter was unable to continue his active participation with his charities. He was a friend to many and will be remembered for all that he did over many years.



Deputy Keith Bottomley - Campaign Theme for Bid to be Sheriff

I have a deep passion for, and commitment to, the livery from being Master Pattenmaker since March of 2024 and through my city credentials as a chartered banker and elected member of the City Corporation. My Master's theme for the year is 'Sustainability & Involvement' with three areas of strategic focus – Membership, Finance and Fundraising – all three keys to the long-term sustained success of the Company of Pattenmakers. We are working to produce a five-year plan to take us through to March 2029 and working together as one team to deliver it. There is a packed programme of activity and events at all price points with a new series of face to face and live recorded events. There will also be podcasts including 'meet the military', 'meet the charities', and 'meet the vicar' with our very own Honorary Chaplain the Rev Andrew Keep.

I've been an elected member of the Corporation for almost ten years representing Bridge ward. In that time, I have led on sustainability, climate action, sport engagement, youth, education, environment, and broader policy agendas. For the past three years I have served as the deputy alongside Chris Hayward as political leader, having been Vice Chair of policy for two years prior to that. I am a trustee of Housing the Homeless Central Fund and Bart's Hospital Guild, where I am also Honorary Treasurer. My campaign theme for Sheriff 'Linking livery and city' describes clearly what I would bring to the role of sheriff.

I am hugely grateful for all the support to date. I am blessed with the most amazing campaign chain in Vicky Russell with Lars Andersen, my election agent, Andrew Cross, our marketing guru, and John Hammond our legal eagle and all the tremendous members of my supporter's committee. As one example of 'linking livery and city' in action I have been convening the Livery Group chairs for the past 18 months and facilitating meetings with senior officers of the city corporation, contributing to strategic reports such as 'Vision for Economic Growth'.

A central theme of my campaign is 'opportunity for young people', alongside the 'value of the rule of law' and 'diversity'. Many of our Livery companies place important emphasis on participating in educational and youth engagement projects, with tremendous results and outcomes. Many young people struggle to access the opportunities and networks that they need to achieve their ambitions. Some of those young people fall into the criminal justice system and are given long prison sentences, but for many more it is not too late.

We need to focus on early intervention and prevention, in particular supporting young people affected by gang culture. I chair Partnership for Young London which provides research, training and support for 18 to 24 year-olds across the capital. Our experience is that the range of services in place across London are very fragmented. So, I have convened an advisory board bringing together Old Bailey Judges, and representatives from education, business and the youth sector. We will be focussing on an area where we can make a difference, and if elected I will develop a programme with legacy benefit.

Of course, I couldn't do any of this without my husband, the 'Mistress Pattenmaker', Kevin, Mr Pilates, who is enjoying the year and is 100% behind the shrieval campaign. The fellowship of our combined Livery Companies of the City of London is something to enjoy and treasure. I am taking nothing for granted and we need to earn every supporter.

Keith Bottomley is pictured in the robe of the Master Pattenmaker with his husband Kevin at the Sheep Drive



You can sign up to support Keith in his bid to become Sheriff here: <https://keithbottomley.city/support-keith/>

The Guild of Freeman's Charity

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

The Guild's Charity is pleased to report that it continues to make a real difference to the lives of the many applicants in these difficult economic times, supporting a range of charitable organisations within or associated with Greater London and also a number of schools linked to the City of London.

The trustees receive many applications for support which are all carefully examined and discussed at our regular meetings before any decisions are made.

This involves careful examination of the charity's activities and accounts. Where possible visits are made by the Trustees to gain further insight to where our money would make the most impact and gain the most advantage from our limited resources.

The Trustees maintained the Charity's educational support of two presentees at Christ's Hospital, bursaries to students at City of London Freeman's School, King Edward's School Witley, Reeds, and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. We endeavour to keep our management fees to a minimum to enable us to maximise our giving.

The Trustees are most grateful to the Guild Office, our Clerk Kate Pink for her support with all the administration associated with the Charity ensuring everything is correctly administered alongside her ongoing commitments to the Guild.

The joining ceremonies generate a high number of donations. The generosity of Guild members and legacies from members generated £9446. The overall value of the charity after a turbulent time has once again broken the £1 million mark.

The Annual report to 31st December 2023 is available from the Guild's Office. This year we saw the Chair of the Trustees, Past Master Ann-Marie Jefferys, retire from her post as Chair and as a trustee. The Trustees thank Ann-Marie for all she has done on behalf of the Charity during her term of office.

I have taken over the responsibility of the Chair of the Guild's Charity. He has also taken over as Donor Governor at Christ's Hospital, and during the year I had the pleasure of attending their Annual service and Speech Day. Additionally, I attended St Paul's Cathedral where the whole school paraded through the city, from St Paul's to Mansion House and visited Treloar's school in Surrey.

The Trustees would like to thank the generous support of the members of the Guild, without whose support this would not be possible. Your kind donations make such a difference to the recipients.

If you would like to make a donation to the Guild Charity this can now be done through the Guild website, or by cheque to the Guild Office, or perhaps consider a regular monthly or yearly donation.

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has contributed during the year.

Renter Warden Alistair Mitchelhill

Guild Charity Fund Donation to Dementia Club UK

On Wednesday 22nd January the Master, on her last full day in office, led a thank you event for Dementia Club UK. Together with some members of the charity, the Master said a special thank you for the donation made by the Guild of Freeman. This event was held at Finchley Memorial Hospital in North Finchley, London. This donation will go towards continuing to provide care and support and fun activities to those living with dementia and also professional advice and information to carers and families giving them hope and another lifeline.



Guide to the City of London Book

Jenifer Andersen, wife of Guild Court Assistant and current Master World Trader Lars Andersen, has written a very interesting and useful Guide to the City and its traditions, with a foreword by Sir William Russell, Lord Mayor 2019-2021. It is well worth a read and it's the sort of book you can dip in and out of and refer to when you need a reminder.

£15 plus £3 P&P (of which £5 will be donated to the Lord Mayor's Appeal). To order in bulk contact the author: CityOfLondonBook@gmail.com

A unique introductory visual guide and anyone with an interest in the City of London and its traditions. Learn at-a-glance about the history of the Square Mile, geography, wards, people, livery companies and a year in the life of civic London. Available at Daunts Books, 61 Cheapside, EC2V 6AX or email the author at CityOfLondonBook@gmail.com with your name, delivery address and number of copies required. A payment link will be emailed or on Etsy <https://www.etsy.com/uk/listing/973414582/an-introduction-to-the-city-of-london>



The Master and Wardens 2025

The Master Adrian Waddingham, CBE

Adrian Waddingham retired in 2018 after a 47-year career as a consulting actuary. Brought up in Preston, Lancashire, he was schooled by the Jesuits in Yorkshire.



He graduated in mathematics in 1971, qualifying as a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries in 1975. Adrian worked as a consulting actuary in Malaysia from 1981 to 1985, during which time he served as the President of the Actuarial Society of Malaysia.

Adrian was a founding partner of Barnett Waddingham LLP in 1989, which has now become the largest firm of independent consulting actuaries in the UK with over 1,400 employees. He served as Chairman of the Association of Consulting Actuaries, and Chairman of the International Association of Consulting Actuaries.

Adrian was Master of the Worshipful Company of Actuaries in 2013/2014 and elected as a Sheriff in the City of London in 2013. He is also a Liveryman Haberdasher. In 2014 Adrian was one of four Livery Masters who founded the Brigantes' Association, bringing together Liverymen of London with northern connections.

Adrian is a trustee of the Skeletal Cancer Trust, chairman of the City Music Foundation and an Honorary Fellow of his alma mater Royal Holloway College, University of London. He was awarded a CBE in 2012 for services to pensions. He was also awarded the prestigious Finlaison Medal of the Institute of Actuaries in 2016 for services to the profession.

Adrian studied history at Birkbeck College in 2019 and in 2022 his biography of Nicholas Breakspear, the first English Pope was published. Adrian's main home is in Vauxhall and also has a home in his native north Lancashire.

The Senior Warden Stephen Osborne



Born in Cuckfield, East Sussex, he currently lives in Eastbourne, with Brighton & Hove being his home city. He lived for many years in the county town of Lewes.

He is a Chartered Governance Professional and prior to his retirement he was employed by Lewes District Council and Eastbourne Borough Council as a Principal Accountant, and spent most of his career in local government financial services.

He is an Associate member of the Chartered Governance Institute (formally Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators), the Institute of Financial Accountants and the Institute of Public Accountants.

He became a Freeman of the City of London in 2004 and in the same year became a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators. He was the former Honorary Editor of the company's annual journal Integrity.

For several years he was Honorary Editor of The Freeman journal, a member of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and a Trustee of the Guild of Freemen Charity.

He is a member of the City Livery Club and a Director and member of the governing Council. He is also a member of the Membership and Development Committee, President of The United Wards Club of the City of London and a Director of the company.

Stephen is a Freeman and Burgess of the City of Glasgow and a member of the Master Court of the Incorporation of Wrights in Glasgow. He is currently the Deacon of the Incorporation. He is trustee of Trades House Glasgow and a member of the Glasgow North Parish Washing Green Society.

He has a long-standing interest in London and the 'City'. His interests in other 'City' organizations include Lime Street Ward Club, the Royal Society of St George (City of London Branch), and the Guildable Manor of Southwark.

He is a member of English Heritage, National Trust for Scotland, Historic Royal Palaces and Sussex Wildlife Trust. He enjoys membership of the Brighton Royal Pavilion and Museums Foundation and has interests in several other Brighton & Hove based organisations. He enjoys walking the South Downs and the highlands of Scotland. He also enjoys foreign travel, especially to the more remote parts of the world.

The Renter Warden Alistair Mitchell



Alistair was educated at St Lawrence College Ramsgate, Kent, before training as a Biomedical Scientist at St Georges Hospital (Hyde Park Corner) London. After qualifying as a Biomedical Scientist, he joined the Royal Army Medical Corp (RAMC) serving for fifteen years, and had Postings in the UK, West Germany, Kenya and Australia, as well as seeing active service in Northern Ireland and Bosnia.

On Leaving the Army he joined the NHS at Chaucer Hospital, Canterbury. Alistair then joined the East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust (EKHUFT) as a Chief Biomedical Scientist in Haematology. He was responsible for the management of Haematology in three Pathology Laboratories. He is a Chartered Scientist (CSci), a Fellow of the Institute of Biomedical Sciences (FIBMS) and a Member of the Institute of Leadership and Management (MInstLM).

He was admitted as a Freeman of the City of London in 1985, and became a Life Member of the Guild of Freeman in 1990. He is Chair of the Guild of Freemen Charity. He is also a Liveryman of The Worshipful Company of Fletchers.

He is on the committee of the Old Lawrentians Society (his old school) and is the Hon. Secretary of the Old Lawrentians Rifle Club regularly shooting at the National Rifle Association (NRA) ranges in Bisley. Alistair is an active member of the Friends of Millbank and a member of 41 Club (The Association of Ex-Round Tablers' Clubs). He owns two classic cars, a Triumph Stag 1975 and a Porsche 911 Targa 1984, and is an active member of the Stag Owners Club and Porsche Club GB.

He was in a partnership in an Antiques Shop in Newcastle, Staffordshire for 10 years. He regularly takes part in charity cycle rides in South East Kent. He and his wife owned an Organic Fruit Farm in Herefordshire for 12 years and built their current house as a 'Self Build' in 2000. He currently lives in Westgate-on-Sea in Kent.

The Junior Warden Lady Lauriston



Award-winning writer Dorothy Newlands of Lauriston (Lady Lauriston) was voted Britain's Technology Journalist of the Year. Writing as Dorothy Walker, she has contributed to The Times, The Sunday Times, The Independent, The Guardian, The Daily Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Scotsman and The Mail on Sunday and has been a regular columnist for the Times Educational Supplement. She wrote a regular column on science and technology for Saga Magazine.

Dorothy now runs a bid-writing practice and she has helped bidders to secure some of Europe's largest infrastructure contracts. Her early career was in financial systems in the City, in business development and marketing. She is author of Education in the Digital Age, a front-line report on the impact of information technology in education. She is a member of The Society of Authors.

The Guild's Membership Committee was established under Dorothy's chairmanship in January 2018 and she chaired the committee for six years.

Dorothy is Immediate Past Prime Warden of the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers and a Trustee of the Basketmakers' Charitable Trust.

She is Chair of the Scottish Castles Association. She has served as Deacon of the Incorporation of Wrights, heading the Glasgow-based charity, and as a Trustee of the Trades House of Glasgow.

Dorothy holds a degree in archaeology from the UCL Institute of Archaeology. She is married to journalist William Newlands of Lauriston, former travel editor of the Daily Mail (who writes as Willy Newlands).

Together they have restored their medieval Lauriston Castle in Aberdeenshire, once a royal fortress and first recorded in 1243.

Events Programme for 2025

Thursday 23rd January 6pm Event No. 1 and 2

Installation of the Master and Wardens and Black Tie Dinner at Tallow Chandlers' Hall

Dress: Suit/Jacket and Tie with Black Tie for the Dinner

Tuesday 28th January 4pm Event No. 3

Private tour of the Great Hall at Barts followed by a pub supper

Dress: Smart / Casual

The tour will last for two hours, after which there will be a two-course supper at a nearby public house.

Tuesday 11th February 11.30am Event No. 4

Lunch at Cote and a private tour of the St Bride Foundation Print Room

Dress: Smart / Casual

Meeting at Cote on Ludgate Hill, near St Paul's to enjoy a three-course lunch with wine, before taking a short walk to the St Bride Foundation.

Tuesday 25th February 12.30pm Event No. 5

Tour of a Private Jade collection followed by lunch in Chelsea

Dress: Smart / Casual

Join the Master for a privileged visit to a world-renowned collection of 18th century jades, the Woolf collection. After the tour we will have lunch at the Botanist Sloane Square.

Tuesday 6th March 6pm Event No. 6

Dress: Suit/Jacket & Tie

Visit and Buffet Supper at the College of Arms

A fascinating talk and tour of the College of Arms by William Hunt the research assistant to John Petrie, Windsor Herald, who will give members the opportunity to view some of the spectacular examples of the College's work over the past 800 years. The tour will conclude with a substantial buffet supper with wine.

Tuesday 11th March 6.30pm Event No. 7

Virtual talk by Andrew Johnson

Pirates, Privateers, Buccaneers and Corsairs - Join Andrew Johnson to look at the heyday of the lawlessness on the high seas - some of it state sponsored. Andrew is a Guild member, a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Joiners and Ceilers and a respected keynote speaker.

Thursday 26th March 6.30pm Event No. 8

Dinner at Barber Surgeons' Hall

Dress: Black Tie

The Master will welcome you with a sparkling reception, followed by a splendid three-course dinner with wine. The evening will conclude with port, toasts and a speech from Her Honour Judge Wendy Joseph KC, who is an author, with books such as Rough Justice and Unlawful Killings, so an interesting speech is in store.

Friday 28th March 11am Event No. 9

United Guilds' Service at St Paul's Cathedral

Dress: Suit/Jacket & Tie

The Guild has thirteen tickets to the United Guild's Service at St Paul's Cathedral for members and guests. The service is free of charge, and you must be seated by 10.45am. There is a lunch following the Service, see event 9.

Friday 28th March 12.30am Event No. 10

Lunch at Pewterers' Hall

Dress: Suit /Jacket & Tie

After the Service we are offering Guild members the opportunity to join the Pewterers' and other Liveries at Pewterers' Hall. Pewterers' are offering a pre-lunch reception before a three-course lunch with wines from their own cellar. Members are welcome to attend the lunch even if you have not been able to attend the Service.

Sunday 6th April - Tuesday 8th April Event No. 11

Master's Holiday in Norfolk

Dress: Smart / Casual

Arriving Sunday evening we will stay at the Pheasant Hotel at Kelling. On Monday morning we will visit former Lord Mayor Sir Michael Savory's nearby collection of over 200 military vehicles, the Muckleburgh Military Collection. In the afternoon we will travel by coach to Sandringham House for a private tour and have dinner on the estate. On Tuesday we will tour Holkham Hall, the home of the Earl of Leicester, taking lunch in their Lady Elizabeth Wing. We will make our way home after the lunch. Lifts will be offered to railway stations for those travelling by train.

Thursday 10th April 12.45pm Event No. 12

The Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch

Dress: Suit /Jacket & Tie

The Master will be supporting The Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch which will be held at London's Guildhall. Tickets include unlimited curry, beer and wine in the Great Hall.

Events Programme for 2025

(Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch continued) The Guild has 20 tickets which give access to the reception area of the Livery Hall and Crypts with a complimentary glass of champagne. Standard tickets will also be available.

Monday 28th April 2pm Event No. 13

A walk around Vauxhall with the Master's wife and tea afterwards

Dress: Suitable for the weather and walking

Angela Waddingham will lead a two hour walk around the Vauxhall and Battersea area. We will meet at Vauxhall tube station at 2pm and this guided walk will include passing by the US Embassy, houseboats and the Battersea Power Station. After the walk there is the option for the group to have tea together at a personal cost.

Wednesday 7th May 11am Event No. 14

Dress: Suitable for the weather and walking

Guided tour of the Crick Institute with a guided walk and pub lunch

The Francis Crick Institute is a biomedical research centre opened in 2016. Angela Waddingham will give a guided walking tour from the Institute to the lunch venue. Those who don't wish to walk may take a taxi to the Lighterman. Lunch will be three courses with wine at the Lighterman pub in Kings Cross, by the canal. Members can attend the lunch only, but those who book for the tour will be given priority.

Thursday 22nd May Event 11am No. 15

Private tour of the Clock Museum Followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant

Dress: Smart / Casual

The Worshipful Company of Clockmakers holds the oldest world-class collection of clocks, watches and items relating to the art of horology. A guided tour will be given by the collections curator and chairman. After the visit we will have a three-course lunch at a nearby Polish restaurant. Members who wish to attend the lunch only are welcome but those who book for the tour will be given priority as numbers are limited.

Tuesday 3rd June 6pm Event No. 16

City Walk 1

Dress: Casual

Led by Peter Tompkins, Past Master of the Wax Chandlers Company, who will take us on a tour of the many livery halls within the Square Mile. After the walk, there will be a light supper at the Rising Sun in Carter Lane, which is owned by Guild member Shelia Dixon.

Wednesday 18th June 11am Event No. 17

A visit to and lunch at Formans Smokehouse

Dress: Smart / Casual

H Forman & Son (Formans) is the world's oldest smoked salmon producer. Lance Forman will talk about the history of their business and salmon smoking. Followed by a salmon carving demonstration and tour of the factory by Guinness world record holder Darren Matson. Then a two-course lunch including a glass of English wine or local East End ale.

Monday 30th June 6.30pm Event No.18

Dinner at Haberdashers' Hall

Dress: Black Tie

One of the Great XII Livery Companies, Haberdashers' Hall was opened by her late Majesty the Queen in 2002 following redevelopment by the well known architect Sir Michael Hopkins and Partners. A sparkling reception will be held in the courtyard, unless the weather is inclement. In addition to a three-course dinner with appropriate wines the Master is arranging an auction to raise funds for the Guild's Charity.

Tuesday 8th July 6.30pm Event No. 19

Dinner at the House of Lords

Dress: Lounge suit / cocktail dress

Guild member Shane Sullivan, Lord of Potter Newton offers fellow Guild members the opportunity to dine in the Cholmondeley Room and have drinks on the Terrace at the House of Lords. The dinner will be three-courses with appropriate wines. Only a limited number of places are available so this event may go to ballot.

Saturday 19th July 10am Event No. 20

Cart Marking

Dress: Suit/Jacket & Tie

Join the Master for a privileged view of the annual Cart Marking event in Guildhall Yard, followed by lunch in the Great Hall in Guildhall. Guild members and their guests will benefit from restricted access to covered seating areas in the Yard and the facilities in the Guildhall corridor, followed by a reception and three-course formal lunch in the Great Hall.

Wednesday 23rd July 6pm Event No. 21

City Walk 2

Dress: Casual

See event No.16 for details

Tuesday 29th July 11.30am Event No. 22

La Traviata by Holland Park Opera

Dress: Smart Casual

We are delighted to be able to offer a special trip to the well renowned Opera Holland Park to see Verdi's famed La Traviata. Upon arrival you will be directed to the Dutch Gardens to enjoy a picnic hamper, produced by Il Portico, containing a selection of classic Italian and modern Mediterranean dishes, along with drinks. Following this you will be able to witness a fantastic cast performing many well-known arias for the remainder of the evening. There are two levels of pricing: £155 per person for a seat in the balcony area, which nonetheless affords a good view of the performance. For £175 per person you will be seated closer to the stage in the centre of tiered rows.

Tuesday 2nd September 6pm Event No. 23

Visit to the Society of Antiquaries and Supper

Dress: Smart Casual

The centre of antiquarian learning, discovery and community. As a royal learned society, their Fellows have been inspiring scholarship, debate and research for over 300 years. The Society will be showcasing the 1225 Magna Carta in its 800th Anniversary year. A guided tour will be followed by some wine and nibbles whilst still being able to explore the Society's collections. We will then move on for a supper at a nearby Brasserie, with the evening concluding no later than 10pm.

Wednesday 10th September 11am Event No. 24

Visit to Royal Holloway

Dress: Smart Casual

The Master is pleased to offer a bespoke private tour of his alma mater Royal Holloway College in Egham, part of the University of London. The tour will include the Founder's Building, the Chapel, the North and South Quads, the Reading Room and Victorian Corridor, before we have light sandwich lunch in the Picture Gallery. After lunch a curator will talk to us about the paintings, followed by some free time to tour.

Thursday 18th September Event 11am No. 25

Private tour of the Clock Museum

Followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant

Dress: Smart Casual

See details in Event No. 15

Events Programme for 2025

Sunday 28th September 10.30am Event No. 26

Sheep Drive, Southwark Bridge

Dress: Casual, fancy dress, shepherd's crooks etc.

The Master is hoping for six teams, each of ten Guild members and friends, to drive their sheep over Southwark Bridge. All proceeds go to the Lord Mayor's Appeal and the Woolmens' Charitable Trust. There is a Livery Fair close to the Drive that showcases various Livery Companies and their wares.

Sunday 28th September 12 noon Event No. 27

Lunch after the Sheep Drive

Dress: Casual

A two-course buffet lunch at the Little Ship Club that is conveniently close to the Southwark Bridge. Members with their guests who are not participating in the Sheep Drive are also welcome, though priority will be given to those who are driving sheep.

Sunday 28th September - Thursday 2nd October Event No. 28

Trip to the Southern Lake District

The Master invites members to join him and Angela on a visit to the Southern Lake District. This four-night trip will be centred on the beautiful Lakeside Hotel, adjacent to the steamer jetty at the southern end of Lake Windermere. Travel by car to Newby Bridge, or by train to Lancaster, where a coach will transfer you to the hotel. We will dine at the hotel on two nights, at the Windermere Power Boat Club and Levens Hall. Pre-dinner talks will cover histories of the Lake District.

Tuesday October 14th 11am Event No. 29

Guided Walk of Westminster followed by Lunch at Westminster Catering College

Dress: Smart Casual

Angela Waddingham will lead us on a short walk around Westminster, starting on College Green by the Houses of Parliament, so suitable walking footwear is recommended. At 12 noon we will arrive at Westminster Catering College for a three-course lunch with a bespoke menu. You may join us for the lunch only if you prefer. After lunch you may visit the treasures in the fabulous King's Gallery (*by self arrangement*).

Monday 27th October 7.30pm Event No. 30

Black Tie dinner at Trinity House

Dress: Black Tie

Since 1796 Trinity House has been based at its central London headquarters at Tower Hill, alongside the River Thames. Rebuilt after the Second World War, its beautifully appointed rooms have hosted royalty, mariners, prime ministers, scientists and visitors from all over the world. Following the three-course dinner, attendees will be treated to a battle of wits.

Monday 3rd November 12.30pm Event No. 31

Lunch at and tour of Mercers' Hall

Dress: Jacket and Tie

The Mercers' Company is no 1 in the Livery order of precedence. Their current Hall was formally opened by H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, a Liveryman, on 13 May 1958. Mercers' is so popular a venue that it is a rare opportunity to dine in this prestigious Hall. The Master has arranged an interesting speaker who will amuse us with sayings that have derived from the City of London.

Saturday 8th November 10.30pm Event No. 32

The Lord Mayor's Show

Dress: Smart casual or Jacket and Tie

As there is no grandstand seating, we suggest that members gather at the West wing entrance to Guildhall Yard. In addition to a good view of the Show you will have the chance to see the Master join the procession at approximately 11.15am.

Saturday 8th November 12.30pm Event No. 33

Lunch after The Lord Mayor's Show

Dress: Smart casual or Jacket and Tie

A delicious four-course lunch with wine in the exclusive Members' Private Dining Room at Guildhall.

Tuesday 11th November 6pm Event No. 34

Dress: Suit/Jacket & Tie

Visit and Buffet Supper at the College of Arms

See details in Event No.6

Tuesday 25th November Event No. 35

Lancashire Day and Gordon Sharp quiz with fish 'n' chips

Dress: Smart casual

Being an ardent Lancastrian himself, the Master invites members for a typical Lancastrian meal of fish 'n' chips in the Guildhall Members Dining Room. To add interest and challenge to the evening, Past Master Actuary Gordon Sharp will test Guild members and some other Livery Company teams with one of his famous quizzes and there will be prizes.

Friday 5th December 6.30pm Event No. 36

Annual Banquet - Guildhall

Dress: White Tie preferred but Black Tie is acceptable

Members and their guests will be welcomed by the Master before enjoying a sparkling reception in the Old Library. A sumptuous four-course dinner will be accompanied by excellent wines. The whole evening 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.

Wednesday 10th December 11.30am Event No. 37

Carol Service at St Martin-within-Ludgate Followed by Lunch at Stationers' Hall

Dress: Suit or Jacket & Tie

This year Guild members are invited to join the Inter-Livery Carol Service at St Martin within Ludgate. The church has gleaming oak flooring and carved oak panelling, originating from the 1600s plus huge stained-glass windows. The service will be followed by a traditional Christmas lunch at Stationers' Hall.

CITY EVENTS 2025

Intolerance Trials and Error – 17th to 20th March

<https://wcmfc.wufoo.com/forms/intolerance-trials-error-show-ticket-bookings/>

Treloar's Gala Dinner at Mansion House – 2nd April 6pm

<https://www.treloar.org.uk/events/mansionhouse>

Bistro 1365 - various dates from 9th April

<https://www.foundersco.org.uk/bistro-1365>

Lord Mayor's Eid-Al-Fitr Dinner – 9th April 6.30pm

events@thelordmayorsappeal.org

Inter-Livery Yacht Club Regatta - 16th, 17th and 18th May

Email - clubsec@clyc.co.uk

City Beerfest Guildhall Yard – 3rd July 12:30pm

<https://www.citybeerfest.org>

Sheriff's Ball – 19th September 6.45pm

<https://www.thelordmayorsappeal.org/news-and-events/>

City Giving Day – 23rd September 7am

Email - cgd@thelordmayorsappeal.org

The Grand Finale – 5th November 6.30pm

Email - events@thelordmayorsappeal.org

Further information can be found on the Guild's website
<https://www.guild-freemen-london.co.uk/events>

COURT MEETINGS 2025

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

Thursday 6th February 2025

Wednesday 26th March 2025

Monday 30th June 2025

Monday 27th October 2025

Applications for Guild Membership are presented to the Court every month, 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 2025

The Annual General Meeting will be held at
Tallow Chandlers' Hall
at 6 pm
27th October 2025
Dress for Gentlemen Suit
Dress for Ladies Day Dress or Suit



By order of the Court of Assistants
Kate Pink, Clerk to the Guild
The Guild of Freeman

Acknowledgements

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

Printers: BCQ Group Tel: 01280 824000 www.bcqgroup.com

Photographs: The Guild is indebted to its official photographer, Peter Holland, who covers most of the events. A selection of Peter's images is shown on the Guild's Website 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
Tel: 020 8973 0844 or 07962 4731164

The Guild wishes to credit additional photography to:

City of London Corporation, Warren Page (pagepix.co.uk), City of York Guild of Freeman, Freeman and Guilds of the City of Chester, St. Paul's Cathedral, 253 (London) Provost Company, Kate Pink, Mark Rutter, Steven Morson, Tom Browne, Graham Laddao and Michael Bridden.

Guild Information

Did you know that an immediate family member or partner can join the Guild without a joining fee?

www.guild-freemen-london.co.uk/users/application

To check for new events always view the Guild website at:
www.guild-freemen-london.co.uk/events

Did you know the Guild website is updated with City events as well as Guild events?

www.guild-freemen-london.co.uk/events/cityevents

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

Steven Morson



I would like to thank everyone who has written articles and offered photographs for this edition of The Freeman journal. I am also extremely grateful to our Clerk, Kate Pink, and Assistant Clerk, Abbie Jones, who have supported me so well. A special thank you goes to my excellent proof-reading team: Frances Golland, Ann Bessey and Dorothy Saul-Pooley. I would like to introduce you to Dorothy Saul-Pooley (*pictured left above*) and Ann Bessey.

Dorothy is a former City Lawyer, Flying Instructor and Examiner and currently Consulting Editor and proofreader for a family-owned publishing company selling pilot training manuals. A Past Master of the Air Pilots and Liveryman of the Stationers, Dorothy lives on the south coast but is deeply involved in City events and committees.

Ann is a professional metallurgist and chartered engineer, now retired after a thirty-year career with Cummins Engine Company. She lives in Rugby but thoroughly enjoys her London trips to support the Guild activities and meet other Guild members.

Masters of the Guild of Freeman of the City of London

Centenary Master 2008-2009

HRH The Princess Royal

Cuthbert Wilkinson, Esq., CC	1909	1967	Douglas Dunstan, Esq.
Brodie Self, Esq.	1910	1968	Albert Chandler, Esq.
Sir Thomas Brooke-Hitchins, CC	1911	1969	C H F Fairweather, JP CC
Emile Chatrian, Esq.	1912	1970	Sir Stanley Morton
Alderman George Briggs	1913	1971	Colin Dyer, Deputy
Elliot Sparks, CC	1914	1972	The Rt. Hon Lord Crook, JP
H S A Foy, CC	1915	1973	Stanley Willcox, Esq.
J R Brough, Deputy	1916	1974	Arthur Hodgkinson, JP
Alfred Lockett, Esq.	1917	1975	Charles Coward, JP, Deputy
W I Trice, Esq.	1918	1976	Douglas Dunstan, Esq.
Henry Harrill, Esq.	1919	1977	Harold Gould, OBE JP
Sir Edward Wilshaw, KCMG DL JP	1920	1978	Kenneth Honey, Esq.
Francis Sully, Esq.	1921	1979	Anthony Grant, MP
T W Hewitt, CC	1922	1980	Dr P L Hogg
Sir Lulham Pound, Bt JP	1923	1981	John Harvey, Esq.
Sir Gervais Rentoul, KC MP	1924	1982	Henry Duckworth, JP, Deputy
Major R Rigg, OBE TD JP	1925	1983	David Eldridge, Esq.
Colonel Vickers Dunfee, CBE JP Deputy	1926	1984	Alderman Sir Peter Gadsden, GBE AC, JP
Oscar Berry, CC	1927		(Lord Mayor 1979-80)
Charles Suffield, Esq.	1928	1985	Bernard Morgan, CBE JP, Deputy
Sir Richard Sennett, CC	1929	1986	Wimburn Horlock, Deputy
C G Wittich, Esq.	1930	1987	General Sir Peter Whiteley, GCB OBE DL
The Rt. Hon Sir Herbert Nield, KC JP MP	1931	1988	Donald du Parc Braham, Esq.
Lt Col Sir Hugh Turnbull, KCVO KBE JP	1932	1989	Clifford Newbold, Esq.
Holton Sturges, CC	1933	1990	Dr John Breen
H I Eldridge, Esq.	1934	1991	Rex Johnson, Esq.
Capt M Campbell-Johnston, MP	1935	1992	Derek Kemp, CC
Major Francis Millman, OBE	1936	1993	Sir Clifford Chetwood
Ernest Watts, CC	1937	1994	Sir Colin Cole, KCB KCVO TD CC
John Joy, JP CC	1938	1995	Alderman Clive Martin, OBE TD DL
Capt Francis Read	1939		(Lord Mayor 1999-2000)
T I McManis, JP CC	1940	1996	Vice Admiral Sir Peter Buchanan, KBE
James Gibauld, Esq.	1941	1997	Sir Anthony Grant
Arthur Howard, Esq.	1942	1998	Norman Munday, Esq.
Walter Rose, MBE CC	1943	1999	Terry Nemko, JP
Frederick Youldon, Deputy	1944	2000	Joseph Byllam-Barnes, CC
Arthur Harris, Esq.	1945	2001	David Irving, Esq.
(February to July) George Frizell, Esq.	1946	2002	The Lady Moorea Black, MBE JP
(July to end of year) Arthur Harris, Esq.		2003	Raymond Holl, MBE
The Rt. Hon Sir William Jordan, KCMG PC	1947	2004	Alderman Richard Agutter, JP
Henry Bound, CC	1948	2005	Leslie Lewis, Esq.
Alderman Sir Frank Alexander, Bt (Lord Mayor 1944-45)	1949	2006	Barbara Newman, CBE CC
John Crichton, Esq.	1950	2007	Gordon Gentry, Esq.
Alderman Sir Frederick Tidbury-Beer	1951	2008	Pauline Halliday, OBE, Deputy
Major B W Shilson, OBE	1952	2009	Sir Gavyn Arthur (Lord Mayor 2002-03)
Captain Julien Bennett, DL	1953	2010	Anthony Woodhead, CBE
Lt Col C C Surtees-Shill, CC	1954	2011	Don Lunn, Esq.
H J E Stinson, MC, Deputy	1955	2012	Anne Holden
Major Stanley Wells, MBE	1956	2013	Anthony B Fleming, Esq.
Sir Denis Truscott, GBE TD (Lord Mayor 1957-58)	1957	2014	Dr John Smail JP
Percy Lovely, Deputy	1958	2015	Lady Cooksey, OBE DL
Sir David Floyd Ewin, OBE MVO, Deputy	1959	2016	Alderman Sir David Wootton (Lord Mayor 2011-12)
Sir Sidney Fox, CC	1960	2017	Peter Allcard, Esq.
Charles De Ryck, Esq.	1961	2018	John Barber, DL
Stanley Phillips, Esq.	1962	2019	Neil Redcliffe, JP
Ronald Ward	1963	2020	Ann-Marie Jefferys
Frederick Utting, CC	1964	2021	Ann-Marie Jefferys
Sir Harold Webbe, CBE DL	1965	2022	Alderman John Garbutt
JP Frederick Utting, CC (from June)		2023	Chris Walton, Esq.
Roy Stuart, Esq.	1966	2024	Lisa Rutter

Clerks

Bernard Smythe, Esq.	1909-1914	1987-2001	Colonel Derek Ivy
W N Rodgers, Esq.	1914-1917	2001-2017	Brigadier Michael Keun
J F W Hayns, Esq.	1917-1920	2017-2021	Christine Cook
John Baron Oxenham, Esq.	1920-1938	2021	Jeremy Cross, Esq.
W J Cripps, Esq.	1938-1952	2022 -	Kate Pink
W David Reid, Esq.	1952-1987		

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 groups 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 to the Guild at: Guild of Freemen, Rooms 78/79, 65 London Wall, LONDON EC2M 5TU.

Tel: 020 7239 9016 or by Email: clerk@guild-freemen-london.co.uk