

THE FREEMAN



OFFICIAL JOURNAL AND PROGRAMME

of the
GUILD OF FREEMEN OF THE CITY OF LONDON

The Master 2023
CHRISTOPHER J WALTON, Esq.

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 Nicholas Lyons

★

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THE ORIGINS OF THE GUILD

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

It was against this background that in 1908 the Guild of 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 2,000 men and women who take pride in their City and who participate actively in the Guild's extensive and varied programme of educational, charitable, benevolent, and social activities.

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

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

The Freeman

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

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The Patron

The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Alderman Nicholas Lyons

Nicholas Lyons is the 694th Lord Mayor of the City of London. Nicholas was elected as Alderman for the Ward of Tower in 2017 and served as Sheriff of the City of London in 2021-22. He sits on the City Corporation's Education Board and the Epping Forest and Commons Committee.

During his year as Lord Mayor, Alderman Lyons will act as a spokesman for the City, leading overseas business delegations to key international markets on behalf of the UK financial and professional services industry.

In the role he will meet government representatives, alongside business leaders and policy makers both at home and abroad. He will look to strengthen economic ties with the UK, identify new business opportunities and promote the UK as a top global destination for foreign investment.

During his year as Lord Mayor, Alderman Lyons will champion Financing our Future promoting a resilient, resourceful and responsible city, deploying capital and expertise to supercharge economic growth nationwide and grow our global competitiveness.

Financing our Future will focus on driving growth and investment especially in the areas of long-term infrastructure lending, green and sustainable finance, boosting the early stage growth economy by mobilising private savings and pension funds and attracting international asset owners to have more of their money managed by asset managers in the UK. All of which will be underpinned by a commitment to financial inclusion for all.



The Lord Mayor's Appeal



The Lord Mayor's Appeal's strategic aim is to create A Better City for All that is inclusive, healthy, skilled and fair. We deliver an impact in the City that transforms lives.

Looking forward to 2023 The Lord Mayor's Appeal now renews its rolling programme of support for charities. We are delighted to continue support for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award and National Numeracy and we are welcoming MQ Mental Health Research as our new charity partner and look forward to working with them for the next three years.



Low numeracy is holding 3.5 million Londoners back from fulfilling their potential, by increasing vulnerability to unemployment, debt, fraud and financial exclusion.

The Lord Mayor's Appeal will be supporting a new campaign with National Numeracy 'Every Londoner Counts' throughout 2022 and beyond. This initiative will improve employability and financial inclusion, by supporting thousands of Londoners in greatest need to build confidence, skills, and positive attitudes to basic numeracy.



We are delighted to be collaborating with the Lord Mayor's appeal this year, which will enable us to directly fund vital research into the impact of economic inequalities on the mental health of people who have been most heavily impacted by the cost of living crisis.

Too often it is the most disadvantaged, the most marginalised and the most vulnerable people who suffer from the worst mental health outcomes, but without research we cannot know the most effective and impactful methods of supporting these people and helping them to live healthy, happy lives.

Lea Milligan, CEO MQ Mental Health Research



During a time when young people are facing many challenges, the life-changing experiences offered by a DofE programme have never been more vital. DofE programmes are tailored to unlock the unique skills and interests of each young person, supporting them to understand their limitless potential.

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

For further information: www.thelordmayorsappeal.org - email: info@thelordmayorsappeal.org - call: 020 7332 1582

Chris Walton, Esq.



As incoming Master for 2023, I step into the shoes of John Garbutt, who has just completed a very successful year. In addition to black tie dinners at Ironmongers, Grocers, Clothworkers and Merchant Taylors, we had the pleasure of a Baroque classical concert and supper in the Great Hall at Barts.

We have had visits to the Honourable Artillery Company, Allington Castle, Bletchley Park, Spencer House and RAF Brize Norton. These visits were crowned by the Guild trip to Croatia. On behalf of Members who enjoyed these events, I thank the Past Master and his wife Solangela.

This is also the time to reflect on the “behind the scenes” portions of the Guild: The reason the Guild works well is the quiet, effective work of the Court and its supporting Committees. Members give significant amounts of unpaid time to ensure that the Guild prospers. I thank them.

The 2022 year began with changes in the Clerk's Office. We welcomed Kate Pink as Clerk and Martin Budds as Assistant Clerk. Both “hit the ground running” and, for Members, there was a seamless continuation of support. To enable this, we had the assistance of a former Clerk, Christine Cook. We owe all three our thanks.

In my programme for 2023, good food and wine will predominate. There will be black tie dinners at Innholders' Hall, Goldsmiths' Hall and Carpenters' Hall. In addition, there will be a tour and lunch at The Reform Club, the annual service (which will be in the King's Chapel of the Savoy) and a tutored tasting of St Emilion wines, led by the UK Southern Chancellor of the Jurade de St Emilion, Dr Gerald Sacks. In addition, I am negotiating to secure several particularly special venues, dear to my heart.

The Guild holiday will be to Tuscany, to the home of Brunello red wine. This is Montalcino, a wine town which has sat upon its hill top since Etruscan times.

We enjoy the Guild's events, but the aim of the Guild is to be an association of Freemen which supports the City and contributes to its welfare and its future.

The Guild's charitable work will continue. We will support the Lord Mayor's Annual Appeal, the Sheriffs' and Recorders' Fund, various schools connected to the City of London and a number of one-off grants to causes in, or associated with, the City.

I am looking forward to promoting the Guild and the City around the UK. As is customary, I will attend annual events held by our sister Guilds and Trades Houses around the UK. As we move away from the COVID lockdown years, we need to ensure the longer term health of the Guild. The core of this is our membership. I ask that you encourage friends and colleagues to join. A good first step is to invite others as your guests to our events.

If you know of someone who is interested in joining and who is not a Freeman of the City of London, the Clerk's Office can assist. Please contact our Clerk, Kate Pink, at clerk@guild-freemen-london.co.uk.

On behalf of my wife Sally, and myself, I wish you well for 2023.



New Guild Merchandise for 2023



New Style Gemset Brooch - £149.00

Two-tone polished gold and silver-plated metal, cut out to shape and pierced through. The overall size is approximately 32mm x 35mm and it is hand-set with imitation diamonds and ruby's. There is a three part jewelers brooch pin on the reverse with a D ring and safety chain. The brooch is supplied complete in a leatherette covered presentation case with the company name and Royal Warrant gold-blocked on the inside lid.

New style Gemset Stick Pin - £95.00

Two-tone polished gold and silver-plated metal, cut out to a special shape and pierced. The overall size is approximately 32mm x 35mm.

The pin is individually hand-set with imitation diamonds and ruby's, with a stick pin fitting. The pin is supplied in a leatherette covered presentation case with the company name and Royal Warrant gold-blocked on the inside lid.



Events of 2022

Dinner at Ironmongers' Hall

Wednesday 9th February



The Master's year started off with a lovely dinner at Ironmongers' Hall on 9th February, receiving 149 members and their guests. The guest speaker was the Lord Lieutenant of Greater London Sir Kenneth (Ken) Olisa OBE CStJ FRSA FBCS, a highly respected businessman and philanthropist who founded the merchant bank Interregnum and Restoration Partners.



Sir Kenneth is a past Master of the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists. Together with his wife Julia he endowed the Olisa Library at the Fitzwilliam College in Cambridge.

Sir Kenneth Olisa with the Master's Lady, Solangela, Mrs. Julia Olisa and the Master (below)



Sir Kenneth gave a heartfelt and timely speech to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee year. He also talked about his personal problems facing COVID in 2020. He was admitted to Pembury Hospital with the virus and placed in an induced coma for three weeks, before eventually recovering. Sir Kenneth's father was also diagnosed with COVID and admitted to hospital where, sadly, at the age of 93 he passed away.

Sir Kenneth then continued to give the rest of his wonderful speech about the role of the Lord Lieutenantcy, as granted by King Henry VIII, to raise an army in his district and to maintain the dignity of the monarchy. He also reminded us all of the values in society that we have pledged to uphold and promote with some heart lifting stories of the love and respect that Her Majesty the Queen has earned, and the commitment and bravery of so many services that protect and provide for the people of this great nation.

The Master and Mark Johnson (below)



During the evening, the Master was presented with a silvered gavel and block by Mark Johnson. The block was created in honour of Mark's father and is inscribed with the words "Gifted by Past Master Rex Johnson, following his death, in the knowledge that it will be struck regularly by abuse".

Rex Johnson was a well-loved and respected member of the London Guild who became our Master in 1991. He was also a member of the Worshipful Company of Woolmen, becoming the Master in 1997 and Senior Past Master in 2020.

Honorary Editor, Steven Morson

Sir Kenneth Olisa making his wonderful speech (below)



Tour of the Priory Church of St John

Thursday 17th February

“I never knew it existed” is a common refrain from those who have lived in London all their lives. A group of some 15 members met early on a bright February for a tour of The Priory Church of St. John and the Museum of the Order of St. John. We were met by the Master at the entrance and were divided into two groups.

Whilst the Priory Church of St. John was built in the 16th century the crypt below displays its Norman architecture from the 12th century. In 1540 Henry VIII dissolved the Order and its land - some 11 acres - were seized by the Crown.

The modern Order of St. John was established in 1877 and was granted a Royal Charter by Queen Victoria in 1888. It recognised the need for public first aid and ambulance services mainly for industrial workers. The Queen is Head of the Order and many members of the Royal Family are associated with it.



Excellent guides were on hand (above)

The Museum at St. John’s Gate has been welcoming visitors for over 100 years. It has a large collection of artefacts dating back hundreds of years, and an eclectic mixture of first aid apparatus. We were able to wander around at our leisure before and after the tour which started with the Church and Crypt. These are separated from the Gate and the Museum by a main road. From the outside you wouldn’t recognise it as a Church as it looks more like a library or smart offices.



We then returned to the Gate which dates from 1504, but has substantial Victorian extensions. Here we were shown splendid meeting rooms and offices, some dating from the 16th century. In the Chapter Hall after the tour we met with Sarah Duthie, Director of Priory and International Affairs, who explained their plans for the future.

They are looking at a long-term strategy, including Lottery funding, to give better access, reconnect with local communities and other ambitious plans. They are inspired by their founders and want to bring the Order into present times. After the speech the Master thanked Sarah and presented her with a cheque towards the project on behalf of the Guild.



There was then an optional luncheon at the Apollo Lounge in the Crown Tavern on Clerkenwell Green, together with some members who would be joining the afternoon tour. This well-known concert hall has distinctive features and has been the setting for many concerts and films.

After lunch we explored the Church Cloister Garden with its medicinal plants creating a tranquil space for the public to enjoy on the edge of the city. It was a splendid and surprising day out.

Guild Member, L.A.W.



Events of 2022

Visit to the College of Arms

Monday 7th March and Tuesday 8th March

On this chilly evening we were met at the College of Arms by Dominic Ingram, Portcullis Pursuivant, who was to tell us something about the College's work. After a short tour during which we were able to admire portraits, some very old, of various officers of the College we entered the record room. This room had fine wood-panelled walls which concealed dozens of cupboards each with five or six shelves having, perhaps, 20 bound volumes of 'grants of arms' on each shelf. These are the records of the college dating back hundreds of years.



Many hundreds, if not thousands, of volumes are stored here. Their existence has been threatened; one occasion was the Great Fire when Derby House, where they were then stored, was burnt down. Aware of this danger records had been removed to Westminster to escape the flames. Much later, during the London Blitz, they were taken to Gloucestershire. Dominic explained that the art of heraldry had developed primarily from the mid-12th century as a means of communicating 'who was who' to a population which, though generally illiterate, could recognise signs and symbols. Under battle conditions this was particularly important and the art developed during the Wars of the Roses. Changing fashions in heraldry include the heavily pictorial 'landscape heraldry' of the Georgian period, which was later rejected by the Victorians who tried to return heraldry to its medieval emblematic roots.



Some of the items displayed would originally have used silver as a mineral pigment but due to oxidation these had tarnished, becoming blackened. Dominic then displayed a modern example 'an ice pick and a kiwi' and invited us to guess the name of the person whose arms were displayed. At least one of us guessed the late Sir Edmund Hillary, a New Zealander and the conqueror of Mount Everest. We were amazed at the rapidity with which Dominic was retrieving volume after volume from the shelves. Apart from the sheets of vellum and parchment displaying the shield shaped image of an individual or a family's arms there were volumes of family trees which are necessary to relate the subtle alterations in arms between the generations of a particular family.



Finally, after questions, (which included the cost of obtaining a grant of arms!!) we went on to take a very enjoyable supper. The buzz of conversations and questions showed the pleasure that we had enjoyed and the vote of thanks to our speaker offered by John Garbutt our Master, was well applauded.

Guild Member, Rod Strong



Tour of the Honourable Artillery Company

Wednesday 16th March

Many members may have passed the imposing castellated stone wall in City Road and wondered what lay behind the large black gates with the brass plaque denoting the Honourable Artillery Company (HAC).

The Master's commitment to take members to "places the public can't reach" enabled around forty members to enjoy an enlightening and entertaining tour around Armoury House, the headquarters of The Company of Pikemen and Musketeers.

Tracing their origins back to 1537 the Company retains its role as bodyguard to the Lord Mayor and commitment to the defence of the City. The Pikemen and Musketeers are former serving soldiers of the HAC, providing the ceremonial bodyguard for the Lord Mayor and attending many important City events, including our own annual banquet in the Guildhall.

We enjoyed a delicious lunch in the Queen's room, so named when the Queen Mother refused to enter the Long Room, the traditional dining venue of the HAC, while the portrait of her brother-in-law Edward VIII was displayed there. In the Medal Room Captain Tony Gabb highlighted the five hundred year history and achievements of the HAC and, more specifically, the Company of Pikemen and Musketeers. Three walls of this room display an impressive array of medals donated by the families of former HAC members including a number of Victoria and George Crosses.

The Master resplendent in the uniform of a Pikeman (below)



Captain Gabb was resplendent in his red and gold uniform adorned with his "badges" of rank, ornate lace collar and cuffs, gorget and officer's thigh high boots with brass spurs. He told us many interesting facts, including that a number of former senior officers of the HAC elected to join the Pikemen in a more junior role and unlike all other British military establishments officers and men share a single mess, including the bar or Sutler Room, and dining together in the Long Room surrounded by valuable paintings of former commanding officers and royalty.

He explained the significance of the traditional slits in the sleeves and trousers of his officer's uniform, which identified an officer as a man of wealth who could afford to buy underwear - visible through the slits.

In small groups, led by a uniformed Pikeman, all armed with a sense of humour, we toured Armoury House. We learned more about the history of the HAC, both in relation to ceremonial duties within the City and as a valuable military resource in conflict zones across the world. From their inception until today they reflect their motto "Arma Pacis Fulcra" translating as "arms the mainstay of peace".



The building houses many treasures with impressive portraits, including a rare portrait of Edward VIII in military uniform, brass cannon presented to the regiment adorn the main staircase and of course, the uniforms and weapons of Pikemen and Musketeers are also on display.

In the changing room Captain Gabb demonstrated the loading of very long heavy muskets while the Master and two of the ladies were persuaded to don very heavy armour with pike, sword and helmet for a photo opportunity.

The Museum, established in 2011, houses many fascinating exhibits. Every new Pikeman is required to sign a vellum book confirming his commitment to the Company. The Ancient Vellum Book with the signatures of Princes Charles and James, later King Charles II and King James II, when admitted to the Company in 1641 is on display, as are the uniforms and weapons throughout the ages. Postcards from prisoners in Colditz describing their experiences, and an extensive display of silverware is kept behind lock and key in the Treasury.

The HAC today is a key part of the National Reserve Force Territorial Army, as well as providing a Special Constabulary unit for the City. The Company supports two Cadet Units and provides the traditional gun salutes for Royal Celebrations.

It was an incredible experience and rare privilege to see the world behind the black gates and stone wall in City Road.

Guild Member, Colvin Rae

Events of 2022

Concert, Reception and Supper in St. Bart's

Monday 21st March



The evening began with a prosecco reception on the ground floor in the North Wing before we climbed the Hogarth Stair to the Great Hall, where the concert and supper were held. Two splendid paintings, 'The Pool of Bethesda' and 'The Good Samaritan', adorned the walls of this magnificent staircase.

Before the recital, we were given a talk on the Barts Heritage Project, a charity that has been formed to raise funds for the necessary £9 million restoration. The National Lottery Heritage Fund has offered half if the balance can be raised during 2022. The public will be offered tours to watch this very delicate restorative work.

The Great Hall is the jewel in the crown of this historic hospital, built by private donations during the eighteenth century. The names of the private benefactors are inscribed on plaques that are displayed on wall panels. A donation of £50,000 allowed people to have their names added to the panels.

United Guild's Service (London Event)

Friday 1st April

At a meeting of the Masters and Prime Wardens of the Twelve Great Companies, held at Goldsmiths' Hall on 1 February 1943, it was decided to hold a service in St Paul's Cathedral for the Livery Companies and Guilds of the City of London. The idea being to help lift the spirits of the City following the Blitz.

As far as records show, this was the first occasion on which all of the Livery Companies and Guilds of the City combined to hold a religious service. Since then, it has become an annual event and remains one of the few occasions in the calendar at which the Livery Companies and Guilds of the City can gather together.



The superb concert was performed by the Echéa Quartet. (see picture above). This quartet was founded in 2017 by violinist Aliayta Foon-Dancoes while she was at the London Royal Academy of Music. The ensemble played pieces by Vivaldi, Schubert and Haydn. We were all enthralled by the outstanding talent of these four young musicians.



A delicious supper followed, and I can honestly say I have never seen such huge steaks. We sat on small tables of 6 rather than the usual long tables and it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening that appealed to the senses of sight, sound and taste.

Guild Member, Lynda Schama

Following the United Guild's Service in St. Paul's Cathedral, the Master invited all Guild members to lunch at Plaisterers' Hall.

The company's first hall was bequeathed by William Elder, Citizen and Plaisterer in 1556. It was situated on the corner of Addle Street and Philip Lane but was destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666. Its second hall was built in 1669 to the design of Sir Christopher Wren, although this too met the same sad fate by being destroyed by fire in 1882. The third hall on the site was destroyed during a bombing raid in 1940.

The current Plaisterers' Hall, the largest Livery Hall in London, opened in November 1972, reflects the grandeur of a bygone era in an ultra-modern setting. Its décor is of the neo-classical style created by Robert Adam in the 18th century with various Robert Adam designs having been faithfully reproduced in great detail both on plaster and wood, some being taken from his original moulds.

The hall, set within One London Wall and designed by Foster and Partners, backs on to the remains of the original London Wall, which itself dates back to the 3rd century.



Diamond Light Source Virtual Tour

Wednesday 6th April



Members joined the Master on this fascinating virtual tour of the Diamond Light Source, via Zoom. The Diamond Light Source is a synchrotron; a huge scientific machine, more than half a kilometre in circumference, designed to produce very intense beams of X-rays, infrared and ultraviolet light.

For centuries, scientists have used microscopes to study things that are too small to see with the naked eye, however microscopes are limited by the visible light that they use. Optical microscopes can be used to study objects that are a few microns (0.001mm) in size, about the size of cells. To study smaller objects like molecules and atoms, scientists need to use the special light generated by the synchrotron.

The machine accelerates electrons to near light speeds so that they give off light 10 billion times brighter than the sun. These bright beams are then directed off into laboratories known as beamlines. Here, scientists use the light to study a vast range of

subject matter, from new medicines and treatments for disease to innovative engineering and cutting-edge technology.

Whether it is fragments of ancient paintings or unknown virus structures, at the synchrotron, scientists can study their samples using a machine that is 10,000 times more powerful than a traditional microscope. Diamond is one of the most advanced scientific facilities in the world, and its pioneering capabilities are helping to keep the UK at the forefront of scientific research.

In 2022 Diamond Light Source celebrated its 20th anniversary and 15 years of research and innovation. Therefore, we all felt privileged to take part in this fascinating Zoom event, for which the Master expressed thanks from all of us. I have since continued to follow the progress of Diamond Light on their web site at <https://www.diamond.ac.uk/Home/News.html>

Honorary Editor, Steven Morson

A view inside the hutch of beamline I22, where the X-ray beam exits the pipe and arrives at the sample stage. (below)



The Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch

Thursday 7th April

The Master, as a member of the organising committee, was keen to support the 15th annual lunch, especially as Covid had precluded attendance and therefore fundraising, for a couple of years. There were 36 Guild members present, amongst the 1,500 attendees, with Guild members meeting in the East Crypt for a champagne reception, before heading off to enjoy the plentiful supply of curry with accompaniments, as well as beer and wine to boot, so this event is very aptly named.

The lunch was hosted by The Lord Mayor, together with numerous other City dignitaries, with Royal support this year coming from their Royal Highnesses, Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie. Other guests included senior leaders of City business and professional communities, representatives of Livery Companies and Ward Clubs and senior officers of the Armed Forces.

The Big Curry Lunches give the City an opportunity to show their support for members of the three branches of the Armed Forces through their respective charities – ABF The Soldiers' Charity, The Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity and the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, with all three services represented around the event, lending a hand to provide the masses with liquid refreshment as an aid to loosen the wallet and flex the credit card.

With this in mind, there was ample opportunity (via plentiful electronic devices) to make a silent bid on a wide range of 'money can't buy' items, with the current highest bidder's name being shown on tv monitors around the event, much to the surprise of some, encouraging others to make 'just one more bid' before the deadline. For 2022, the fundraising is targeted at supporting the Veterans' Pain Management Programme. Pain being one of the biggest inhibitors to

veterans getting back into the workplace, and a new initiative this year: 'LifeWorks', a 3-year programme aiming to support service personnel in finding employment, education and/or training.

It is hoped to fund 65 veterans through a LifeWorks course and 15 through the PMP course as a result of this year's lunch.

At the time of writing, the 56 items in the silent auction, as well as the items in the prize draw, and other donations had raised over £75,000, adding to the £2.5m already raised over the previous 14 'Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunches'.

Guild Member, David Brady



Events of 2022

Dinner at Grocers' Hall

Wednesday 20th April

It was a very pleasant spring Wednesday evening when 105 members joined the Master and his lady at Grocers' Hall for the second black tie dinner of his year.

The Hall is home to the number two livery company in the order of precedence and is hidden away in its own courtyard just opposite the Bank of England. However, it is rather Tardis like; once you walk through you will find one of the City's finest livery halls, which is home to some magnificent treasures.



The Master welcomed everyone to the dinner and explained that the company was founded in the 14th century by members of the Guild of Pepperers, which itself dates from 1180. This Guild dealt in spices and other foreign produce that were sold by the gross and this gave the new company its name.

After the Loyal and Civic toasts, we welcomed the Master's guest speaker, Assistant Commissioner Matt Jukes QPM. Matt explained that the Metropolitan Police are responsible for leading investigations into possible acts of terror in the UK with up to 800 active investigations at any one time.



They are also responsible for investigating war crimes and had around 50 live investigations in progress at the time, most arising from the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Matt also explained that the City of London Police are responsible for leading investigations in the UK which involve cyber-crime.

As a City of London Guide, an opportunity to see inside the City's livery halls is always a real pleasure. To see this one was a privilege; many thanks to the Master and his team for their hard work in organising such a wonderful event.

Guild Member, Jack Yeomanson



Annual Service St Margaret's Lothbury

Wednesday 4th May

We gathered on a drizzly afternoon in early May at the historic church of St Margaret Lothbury, just behind the Bank of England, for the Guild's Annual Service. Dating from at least the 12th century, the church was rebuilt in 1440 but was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666. Rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren in the years after, it retains its original classical features and has proud links to various Livery companies and City associations.

We were warmly greeted on arrival by the Master and Wardens and had time to enjoy the interior of the church, not least the wonderful rood screen and carvings by Grinling Gibbons, before proceedings started at 6pm.



The service was taken by the Guild's own Honorary Chaplain, The Very Revd Dr David Ison, Dean of St Paul's, who was splendid throughout and gave a very interesting and relevant sermon. The Dean was supported by the church's rector, Jeremy Crossley, who made us all most welcome.

We were once again delighted to welcome the choir of King Edward's School, Witley who were in impressively fine voice, as were those Guild members and their guests who attended this enjoyable annual event. Lessons were read by the Master and Court members and the service concluded just before 7pm. A convivial wine and canapé reception followed inside St Margaret Lothbury before the evening finally drew to a close and we said our farewells.

Guild Member, Jamie McCrudden

Visit to Bletchley Park

Thursday 12TH May

Having arrived at Bletchley Park, by car or train, we met outside the Visitor Centre at 12 noon, where the Master and Clerk issued us with our Season Pass tickets.

We all then proceeded to the Mansion Dining Room, where we enjoyed a two-course lunch of chargrilled chicken breast, served with caramelised onions and black olives and capers, new potatoes, and a salad; the dessert was a forest fruit pavlova with cream, and tea or coffee followed. Wine could be purchased separately, and most people took advantage of this.

After lunch we were divided into two groups for a tour of the site. Our group was led by Bob Laveesey, who was very knowledgeable, with a great sense of humour. Firstly, we visited the Chauffeurs' Hut, where he gave us an introductory talk on the history of Bletchley Park and its progress throughout the war.



*Bletchley Manor, the main building (above)
The Guild members and guests (below)*



He told us that at the height of Bletchley Park's operations nearly 9,000 people worked there, of which three-quarters were women. As hardly anyone lived on site, nearly 30,000 miles a week were travelled transporting staff to and from the billets in camps and hostels in the surrounding areas. In fact, all the numbers involved in running Bletchley Park, including catering, punch cards, messages and decryptions etc. are enormous.

Next, we visited the stable yard which includes some cottages, one of which was used by Alan Turing and Dilly Knox when they broke the German Enigma Code. Another was used by three Polish mathematicians whose early work from 1933 on Enigma was given to Bletchley in 1939, and helped in breaking this code. In the corner of the yard is the Polish Memorial commemorating these three gentlemen.

We then continued our tour, stopping at various huts and buildings, all very important, but too many to mention, so I will highlight only some. Hut 11 was home to the Bomb Machines developed by Alan Turing and Gordon Welchman to speed up codebreaking work. This hut was hot and noisy, so the Wrens who worked there called it "the Hell Hole". Hut 8 was Alan Turing's office, where he worked on the German Naval Enigma. All the early huts are wooden, but the later blocks were brick-built.

In the Teleprinter Building we saw a film explaining Bletchley Park's role in the planning of D-Day. Later in the War, a new computer was developed by Tommy Flowers, a telephone engineer at Dollis Hill. This was known as Colossus and was installed at Bletchley Park. It was the world's first large-scale electronic digital computer and could process 5,000 characters a second.

Before our tour ended, our guide informed us of many interesting facts. One was a visit by Winston Churchill in September 1941. He asked what sporting recreational facilities were available to staff, the answer being none. This was rectified by the laying out of some tennis courts.

After our conducted tours were over, and we had thanked our most informative guides, there was time to visit the various huts and buildings around the site. Many of these premises still contain their original wartime contents and give some indication of the atmosphere during the dark days of the War. To see all at this most Top-Secret wartime facility which was in use from 1938-1974 would require several visits.

A most enjoyable day was had by all.

Guild Member, Anthony Hall

Lunch in the main dining room (below)



Events of 2022

Virtual Magic Show with Alan Hudson

Wednesday 8th June

Following the success of Alan Hudson's Virtual Magic Show in 2020, the Master was delighted to be able to offer a new show to Guild members in June.

The Zoom meeting was an incredible 30 minute virtual online magic show where we saw mind reading, card tricks, sleight of hand and close up magic. Having the best seats in the house, we were all mesmerised by the skill of Alan's first-class show.



He was not only captivating but funny too and we all enjoyed watching everyone interacting and reacting to this magical performance.

Zoom Magician, Alan Hudson is one of the UK's top magicians. He is a regular performer at The Magic Castle in Hollywood and is also a member of the world famous The Magic Circle. In fact, he's a member of The Inner Magic Circle with Gold Star, the highest position you can achieve.

He has appeared on ITV's Britain's Got Talent, Penn & Teller: Fool Us and ITV's The Next Great Magician. The event was truly spectacular and spellbinding.

Honorary Editor, Steven Morson

Visit to Allington Castle

Thursday 16 June

On a glorious English summer day approximately 100 members arrived at Allington Castle to a very welcoming and friendly atmosphere.

The Master welcomed everyone and introduced our host, Sir Robert Worcester, who spoke a few words about his home and the agenda planned for our visit. Members then enjoyed drinks in the sunshine before entering the dining hall for a superb three course lunch. The Great Hall, complete with twin fireplaces, stained glass windows, hanging tapestries, minstrel's gallery and grand piano was certainly interesting and impressive.

After lunch, Sir Robert gave us a brief history of the Castle and its distinguished previous owners, Lord Conway having been largely responsible for its rescue and restoration during the last century. There have been many Royal visitors including Henry VII, Cardinal Wolsey and Catherine Parr. We were given a short tour of part of the Castle which included a ground floor room now used as a reception which has unique window reveal features and an amazing priest hole which originally led to the moat.



Our tour then continued to the very extensive garden and grounds which include a moat, gardeners' cottages, outbuildings, gazebo, a well, water features, small bridges and a wonderfully restored stone pigeon house or columbarium. The Italian Garden designed by Philip Tilden was enchanting. The extensive lilyponds either side of the winding drive create a haven for birds and wildlife and are a fabulous addition made by Sir Robert.

Before our tour ended, we were privileged to visit the memorial to Margaret Lady Worcester which overlooks her favourite part of the grounds, the lavender path.

As our visit came to a close, we returned to the Great Hall for a cream tea where The Master thanked Sir Robert on behalf of Guild members for a most interesting visit. Sir Robert was given a huge round of applause and there were calls for a return visit from many.

Guild Member, Denise Speight

Dinner at Clothworkers' Hall

Wednesday 22nd June



Tucked away amidst the courts and lanes of the eastern side of the City is the Clothworkers' Hall. The Clothworkers Company is one of the twelve great livery companies whose history stretches back more than five centuries, being established following a merger of the Fullers' Company and the Shearmen's Company.

The hall is a modern building with an elegant, warmly lit, welcoming entrance hall but upstairs the décor and ambiance reflect our City's traditions. It is the Company's sixth hall in its long history, having been built to replace one that was destroyed during the Blitz. Elegantly refurbished in the 1980's, the Clothworkers' Hall is a delightful venue.

It was here that in June the Master welcomed his guests and members for one of our traditional Guild dinners. After a sparkling reception in an imposing room in which the Clothworkers plate was displayed, we moved into a splendid, high ceilinged livery hall where we enjoyed an excellent meal.

The Master's guest speaker was The Right Honourable the Lord Lingfield, Kt DL. Although Lord Lingfield has had a long and distinguished career in education, a field in which he continues to be very much involved, he chose to speak about Her Majesty the Queen.

In this month in which we had been celebrating the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II's reign, he spoke of her long service, her dedication and loyalty to the country and reflected on our good fortune to have such an admirable sovereign who has brought much stability to our society.

Altogether it was yet another very enjoyable evening shared with fellow members and guests but I will be glad when we can once again enjoy our loving cup ceremony.

Guild Member, Christine Coultrup



Visit to Spencer House

Monday 4th July

On a very warm day, 120 Guild members visited Spencer House. Probably one of the last eighteenth century private houses in London, many having been pulled down during the 20th century owing to rising costs or bomb damage. The house was built by Earl John Spencer between 1756 and 1766 for fashionable entertainment and as a setting for his impressive art collection.

Our guides were most entertaining and extremely knowledgeable. Amongst many things, they pointed out a marble sculpture of a child strangling two serpents. In fact, this was a satirical dig at William Pitt the Younger strangling Charles Fox and Lord North. Then in the painted room the guide pointed out a painting of a semi clothed Venus, by Stuart. The Earl's guests often pointed out that the half-naked Venus was an exact likeness of Lady Spencer. It is not known if this was an intentional insult by Stuart, or a joke between the two men.

The Rothschild Foundation took a long lease of the building and went to great expense in order to bring it back to its glorious origins. Many of the original pieces have been brought back to the house and those that were been taken to Althorp by the family have been expertly copied.

We enjoyed a nice lunch afterwards at the Admiralty pub in Trafalgar Square and we highly recommend a visit to this excellent house.

Guild Member, Basil Preuveneers



Events of 2022

Visit to RAF Brize Norton

Thursday 14th July



We were the lucky few to enjoy such a privileged visit to RAF Brize Norton as the numbers were restricted to just 25, despite the Master's attempts to increase the attendance and even try to set up a second visit. Our visit began in the Officer's Mess where we were welcomed by Wg Cdr Andy Hampshire, whilst we enjoyed a cup of coffee. A group photograph was taken outside the Mess before we went to see an A400M Atlas, the aircraft that is replacing the Hercules C130 aircraft. We were taken inside and given a detailed and very interesting talk about the Squadron operations, and also shown the flight deck and cargo hold.

We returned to the Officer's Mess for lunch, before being taken to Air Traffic Control. We learned how the Brize Norton controllers can communicate and co-ordinate their aircraft with other Air Traffic Control units. When our guide increased the radar screen to cover a radius of about 200 miles, we saw the vast number of aircraft operating around the UK.



Next, we were taken to the R.A.F. Military Police dog unit. We were shown a number of dogs, with a warning not to touch any of the dogs except one, who was controlled by a handler. Aside from patrolling the air base, some of the dogs are trained to work alongside the local police to combat drugs and other issues around the locality. It was clear the dogs enjoy a close working relationship with their handlers, and the dogs are rehabilitated on their retirement, many being homed with their handler.

Our visit concluded with more coffee in the Officer's Mess and it was 4.15pm when we made our departure.

Guild Member, Jonathan Lewin

Swan Upping

Tuesday 17th August

In medieval times the Crown claimed ownership of all mute swans to protect them from those who wanted a free meal. In the 12th century an official, now called the Queen's Swan Marker, aided by his Swan Uppers, carried out an annual count of all swans on the Thames. In the 15th century, the Crown arranged shared ownership of the Thames swans with the Vintners' and the Dyers' Livery Companies. Until about 1900 the swans were nicked on the beak, one nick for the Dyers', two for the Vintners' and none for The Queen.

In modern times this annual swan census occurs in the 3rd week of July. The Queen's Swan Marker, currently David Barker, wears a scarlet jacket and is accompanied by his Swan Uppers as they join the Swan Upping teams of the Vintners' and Dyers'. Over 5 days they row their wooden skiffs, with pennants flying and a swan feather in each of the Markers' caps, upstream from Sunbury Lock to Abingdon Bridge searching for cygnets to ring and swans to count. The first to spot a brood of swans shouts: "All Up" (hence the name Swan Uppers), to warn the skiffs to get into place to catch the birds.

The birds are checked for health and the cygnets ringed by the Queen's Swan Marker who, at the conclusion of the Swan Upping, submits his annual report on swan numbers and health. Occasionally, the late season cygnets are too small to ring, as it would fall off and any un-ringed bird will belong to Her Majesty.

The Master of our Guild, ably helped by our Clerk, organised a wonderful trip on the Hobbs's Mississippi style paddle steamer, called the New Orleans.



Starting from Henley, we cruised upstream through Sunbury Lock following the colourful Swan Markers and Uppers in the skiffs and admiring the magnificent riverside residences. During the cruise we were served a delicious 3 course lunch with wines, including a spectacular chocolate mousse.

On our return through Sunbury Lock we came across the Swan Markers and Uppers releasing seven ringed large grey cygnets and a rather indignant Pen. The weather was delightfully cool compared with 40 degrees the day before, although being permitted to dress down in open necked short sleeved shirts was much appreciated by the men. Everyone was in relaxed mood and lots of new friendships were made. A fantastic Guild event that I recommend to you all.

Guild Member, Tim Milward

City Walks

Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th July

Our guide was Peter Tompkins, Past Master of the Wax Chandlers and a regular leader of our Guild walks. We started the walk overlooking the charming Super Bloom Meadows of The Tower of London. There we had our first glimpse of what remains of the London Wall built by the Romans in about 100AD. This was some time after Queen Boudica had, in a fierce uprising, in about 60AD burned the young town of Londinium. The wall was built to guard against further attacks and surrounded about half of what is now the City of London.

Nearby on Tower Hill we found the best surviving section of the wall that is still above ground level, standing at a height of 10.6 metres. Of this, the original Roman construction is the lower 4.4 metres and is 3 metres thick. A small piece of the Postern gate is still visible, having been discovered during excavations for later building work, but this dates from mediaeval times. In this location is the reproduction of an inscription found on the tomb of Classicianus, a top official in the Roman administration at the time of Boudica's rebellion. Also, there is a modern statue of a Roman emperor.

We moved on to the most impressive section of City wall at Cooper's Row, the tallest section of the wall still standing. Peter led us through the courtyard of a modern hotel where there are traces of a staircase up to a parapet with openings for archers to shoot arrows, that were added in the Middle Ages. It is possible to see the footings on this section of the wall made of dressed sandstone.



Next, we moved up to Vine Street, where an excavation in 1979 revealed the base of one of the former Roman towers. A new museum is about to open on this site, including this piece of wall. There would have been deep ditches outside the wall to improve defences. Passing over Crosswall, by way of Jewry Street we reached Vine Street and Emperor House. This is a modern office block in which, visible from the street is a well preserved but small section of the Wall.

Across the street from Jewry Street is Aldgate, which would have been the major exit to Essex and Colchester, an important Roman settlement. The square is positioned where the gate would have been located. Geoffrey Chaucer had lived in a room over Aldgate from 1374 during his time as a custom official in the Port of London.

Heading along Bevis Marks there was no trace of the wall, but Peter told us that nearby were wooden tenter frames used with hooks for the stretching newly woven cloth. This gives rise to the saying to be "on tenter hooks". Running parallel is Houndsditch, so named because of a ditch used to dump dead dogs, with all the consequential problems, and not filled in until 1580. On Bevis Marks, Peter pointed out a Synagogue undergoing extensive refurbishment and told us how King Edward I had expelled all Jews who were subsequently welcomed back by Cromwell.

After crossing Bishopsgate we came to St. Botolph without Aldgate Church, so named because it was outside the wall and is currently an Inclusive Church. Nearby is a Turkish bathhouse of Victorian design, now part of a bar and restaurant. A street nearby was built in 1959 to follow the route of the wall but there is no evidence of it.

Just off here, we were led to St. Alphage Garden containing an imposing section of the wall. This originally formed the northern wall of a Roman fort built around 120AD, at the north-west corner of Londinium. Next to this is the charming garden of Salters' Hall containing its herbs and flowers, particularly roses.

From there we progressed to Broad Street and to All Hallows on London Wall, where a tiny piece of wall remains. Then on to Moorgate which led to the moorland (marshland) and to Islington and north of the City. In Salters' Hall garden, which is outside the Roman wall, there is evidence of the mediaeval wall with Victorian brickwork on top. This part of the City was devastated by the Blitz and the Barbican complex completely reconfigured the street pattern when it was redeveloped. Some buildings abutting the wall were destroyed in the Blitz, but Salters' Hall garden has been created in what would have been the ditch.

St Alphage gardens have also remained although the church was destroyed. A high-level walkway was constructed about 10 years ago to link to the Barbican and the tranquil gardens beneath have been beautifully landscaped with waterlilies in the ponds. Originally the Roman fort would have been located where the Museum of London is today.

At this point, the Tuesday walk took a detour through the Barber Surgeons' Hall to see the Physic garden, demonstrating the variety of wild flowers and herbs which would have had medicinal applications in the 16th century.

With our minds nourished by information and our bodies well exercised, we repaired to the Tokenhouse pub on Moorgate for refreshments and happy chatter.

This text has been created from the combined reports of Guild Member, Richard Adkinson and Trustee of the Guild Charity, Dorothy Saul-Pooley

Events of 2022

Holiday in Croatia

Friday 9th to Tuesday 13th September

On the morning of our first full day in Split, we set off with our guide, Danitza, through the labyrinth of narrow streets of the old city, to Diocletian's Palace built at the beginning of the 4th century for the Roman emperor. It is now a UNESCO world heritage site and an integral part of the modern-day city of Split. The palace occupies a prime harbourside position; it was a combined imperial residence, military fortress and fortified town.

Intending to spend his retirement here, the emperor built his private apartments along the south façade facing the seafront. Here, the original bronze gate would have opened straight into the water, enabling goods to be offloaded and stored in the basements below. The basements, which now bustle with souvenir stalls, are the only part of the palace to survive wholly intact. From the basements we went out to the Peristyle, a beautiful imperial square, adorned by classical colonnades, surrounded by the Temple of Jupiter and the Cathedral of St Dominus. Near the entrance to the cathedral are two Egyptian sphinxes, more than 3,000 years old.



Wandering through the palace, we came across the Round Hall (*pictured above*), where people would have waited to be received by the emperor and in which a group of singers were now performing traditional Dalmatian songs. As we continued our tour, Danitza pointed out a large painted wall mural. With its distinctive Croatian red and white chequerboard flag, it was obviously not a remnant of Split's imperial past. Put up to deter graffiti, it was the symbol of the current Hajduk Split football team!

In the late morning, we headed out by coach from Split towards the Krka National Park. Danitza pointing out a stunning Roman aqueduct that brought water to the city in ancient times and that engineers today would struggle to match. The motorway climbed eastwards passing the imposing Fort Klis, a medieval fortress perched on a mountaintop and controlling a gap in the Dalmatian Alps. The fortress served as the seat of many Croatian kings and a defence against the Ottoman Empire. After an hour or so, we entered the National Park a land of lakes and waterfalls. We drove down a winding road to the village of Skradin on a lakeside to enjoy lunch at the Visovac restaurant.



Following lunch, and under deep blue skies, we strolled down to the jetty for a short boat trip down the lake to the waterfalls of Skradinski Buk (*pictured above*). The limestone scenery was stunning and the waterfalls (seventeen in all) resulted from the accumulation of a soft rock called travertine that has created a series of barriers across the river. We walked onto a wooden bridge and the clear water filled with trout provided the backdrop to many photographs.

We climbed up from the bridge into the woodland – steep at first and then relatively flat over duckboards in a circular walk of a couple of kilometres past a series of lakes ending at a renovated watermill. As we gathered as a group again, we visited a viewing point to have one last look at the waterfalls and the lake before re-joining the coach and to take pictures of a cut-out of Archduke Franz Ferdinand.

On the return to Split, Danitza provided us with an interesting perspective on Croatian history from Greek times up to the early 1990s when a series of political upheavals and conflicts led to the fragmentation of the former Yugoslavia into the states we see today. Her personal reminiscences living in Split at the time were particularly poignant.

Our destination on Sunday was the island of Hvar, reputedly the sunniest spot in Croatia. After a leisurely cruise we docked at the port of Stari Grad. This seemed a tranquil place after the hurly burly of Split. There, seven brightly coloured open top VW beetles awaited us. (*see picture below*) We roared through the countryside passing vineyards, olive groves and lavender fields towards Vrboska. The drivers were able to enjoy the challenges of old fashioned steering and gears whilst the passengers waved at the locals. In a rural restaurant we sat outside and had the pleasure of tasting some local cheese, fish cooked over hot coals and some delicious home-grown grapes washed down with the local wine.



It was then back into the beetles and a drive to Hvar town for a quick walking tour. St Stephen's Cathedral provides the backdrop to the main square in the town. The cathedral was built in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and has a distinctive bell tower. We looked up to the medieval fortress, which looms over the town.



Construction began in 1282. The Venetians strengthened it in 1557 and the Austrians renovated it in the nineteenth century. A detour up an alley brought us to a Benedictine convent. The nuns continue to make lace from the fibres derived from agave leaves. UNESCO has recognised this tradition on its Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list.

All too soon it was time to say farewell to Hvar and board the boat for the cruise home. It was an eventful journey back to Split in rough seas, but we were able to enjoy a wonderful moonrise. Late night diners headed to a local restaurant and the rest of the group returned to the hotel to catch up on the latest BBC coverage of Her Majesty the Queen's funeral arrangements.

On Monday, our final full day in Croatia, we set off after breakfast in our coach traveling along the coast to the UNESCO protected city of Trogir (nicknamed Little Venice), the best preserved Romanesque-Gothic city in Central Europe. On the journey to Trogir, Danetsa, our guide, told us about the republic of Croatia, the role of the President and the government.

Although there are local suggestions that there must have been settlements at the site of Trogir in prehistoric times, the city's history really starts with a Greek settlement in the 3rd century BC. Greeks from the island of Vis founded the settlement Tragurion, which then went on to become part of the Roman Empire which was expanding through Dalmatia at that time. Trogir came under Hungarian and Croatian rule over the next few centuries, including the rule of Croatian-Hungarian King Bela IV in 1242. In 1420, again as with much of Dalmatia, it became part of the Venetian Empire, until the Empire's fall in 1797. Trogir then became part of the Austrian Empire (with a brief French occupation in the early years of the 19th century). After World War I, Trogir was part of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (which became Yugoslavia), although it was occupied by Italy during World War II. In 1991, the town was part of Croatia when it declared its independence.



We enjoyed an extensive walking tour of the city under the guidance of Danetsa which ended in the amazing main square of Trogir, surrounded by the Cathedral of St. Lawrence, the Church of Blessed Virgin Mary, the City Lodge, and the City Hall. Its atmosphere is comparable to the most beautiful world squares. The Cathedral is a UNESCO protected Gothic masterpiece of art with its impressive portal, bell tower, cathedral interior, and the treasury (*see picture below*).



The City Lodge, located opposite the cathedral, used to be a public courtroom and is notable for its six pillars decorated with capitals and two reliefs carved into the wall. One is called "The Relief of Justice" made by Nicholas Florentino. It displays a blindfolded woman carrying a weighing scale, which is a sign of justice. Above the woman there is the inscription "Pro Aequitate" a Latin expression which means "for equity". The second sculpture, made by Ivan Meštrović, is dedicated to the Croatian bishop Petar Berislavic. Just near the City Lodge, there is St. Sebastian's church with the clock tower. At the entrance to the church, there are two sculptures: one depicts St. Sebastian the Martyr and the other depicts Christ. The next building surrounding the main square is the old City Hall which is a combination of various artistic styles. Today City Hall is the location of the tourist office. Trogir features many interesting palaces of noble families of which the Cipko Palace stands out amongst them and is the Renaissance building located opposite the Cathedral, on the western side.

After the city tour, we enjoyed an excellent Mediterranean lunch at the restaurant Monika Trogir located in the heart of the stone city, in the fully reconstructed palace of the aristocratic family from the 15th century. After leaving the restaurant we had time to individually explore further this amazing city before heading back to our hotel in readiness for our final dinner of the holiday.

For our last night in Croatia, we walked from the hotel to the Maslina Restaurant in Split. The Master welcomed everyone to the restaurant and thanked us all for participating in the holiday and for making it such an enjoyable time for both him and his wife Solangela.

Events of 2022

The Master recounted many of our daily excursions and exploits to numerous historic sites and in particular the Beetle Drive, our boat trips to the island of Havar and the Krka National Park.

At the end of the evening Court Assistant Stephen Osborne on behalf of all the Guild explorers thanked the Master and Solangela for a wonderful holiday and spoke about how the high standard of the Guild's holidays, lunches and dinners had been maintained. In conclusion, Stephen thanked Danetsa and Karim our knowledgeable guides and Kate, our Clerk, for their roles in arranging the holiday. He made a presentation to the Master on behalf of Karim and Kairos of the "Bringer of Happiness" the youngest of the divine sons of Zeus, which was sincerely appreciated by the Master.

We all agreed the evening was a successful conclusion to a wonderful holiday in Croatia and we all expressed our thanks to the Master and Solangela. We made our way back to the hotel to partake of a final nightcap in the hotel bar, ending yet another excellent Guild holiday which was enjoyed by us all.

From the reports by Guild Members, Janet Bridden, Caroline Leslie and Under Warden Stephen Osborne



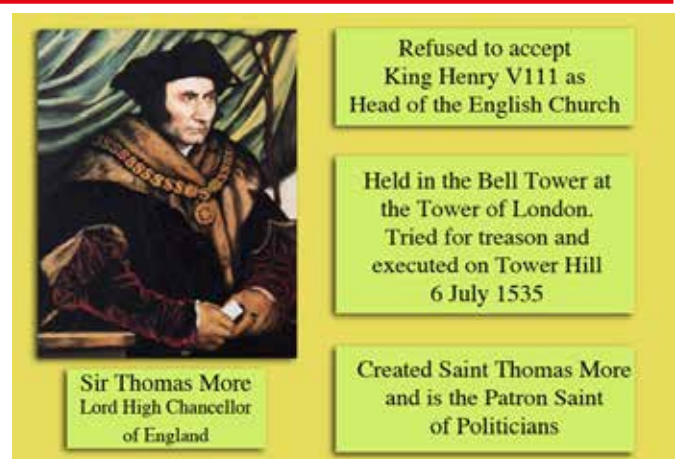
Prisoners of the Tower Virtual Talk

Friday 23rd September



The Master was delighted to offer a virtual event called 'Prisoners of the Tower', given by Guild Member Garry Wykes (*pictured above*) who had done a wonderful Zoom talk in 2021. Garry is a retired Jewel House Warden, who revealed a fascinating catalogue of notable prisoners held at the Tower

For nearly 900 years, traitors, kings, queens, saints and sinners have been held in The Tower of London against their will. Although it has functioned as a prison for many centuries, it was not designed as one. The earliest known prisoner was Ranulf Flambard in 1100 who, as Bishop of Durham, was found guilty of extortion. He had been responsible for various improvements to the design of the tower after the first architect Gundulf moved back to Rochester. He escaped from the White Tower by climbing down a rope, which had been smuggled into his cell in a wine casket.



Other famous prisoners included William Wallace, King Henry VI, the Princes Edward and Richard, Sir Thomas Moore (*talk slide above*), Anne Boleyn, Thomas Cromwell, Catherine Howard, Lady Jane Grey, Sir Walter Raleigh and Guy Fawkes. The last solo prisoner held in the Tower was the Nazi high official, Rudolph Hess, who was incarcerated from 17th to 21st May 1941. Hess arrived in Scotland on the 10th May 1941 after a 5-hour solo flight in a German fighter plane. He claimed to be on a peace mission, but Hitler quickly distanced himself from his former Deputy. The last prisoners held in the Tower were the Kray twins.

At the end of this fascinating talk the Master thanked Garry for his contribution and we all applauded that comment.

Honorary Editor, Steven Morson



Sheep Drive

Sunday 25th September

The sun was shining with a slight chill in the air. Time to get out of bed and do my duty. The challenge was on. It's the sheep or me.

I arrived a little early to peruse the market, which was set up by the Worshipful Company of Woolmen. Displays of various skills for all to see: a bizarre and brilliant spectacle by the Monument. Having worked many years ago in Custom House this little spot of quiet London had erupted into the centre of all things wool. Some tourists walking through asked me if this was on every day.

I managed to get a quick picture with The Lord Mayor, Vincent Keaveny, together with my younger brother and then proceeded to register and get our access badges to the bridge. We were escorted by two members of the Young Freemen's Guild to our starting point and also by some Army Cadets, in case we got lost.



The Young Freemen told us the history of the sheep drive, which is organised by the Worshipful Company of Woolmen for all who are Freemen of the City of London. Getting there early helps as the butterflies in my stomach were now growing into vultures. The sheep with their escorts arrived and the time had come for us to concentrate on the task at hand. Our turn in the group queue had arrived and, on the command "you may now go", we did.

Off we meandered slowly across our portion of the bridge and with true professionalism driving the sheep forward. We didn't have to do much, as the sheep were well behaved. A few years ago I never thought I would be moving sheep across London Bridge. Tourists stood along the side bewildered by this old ritual. I am not sure if they were photographing me or the sheep.

After such a historic mission, a most welcome end to our experiences was lunch and refreshments in the Banker public house. I met some really nice Freemen, learning about their life and other things. It was a real privilege for me and my brother to have enjoyed both the Sheep Drive and the lunch. I would honestly advise all Freemen who haven't taken part to do it, and help to keep that tradition alive. Thank you to the staff for organising such an interesting event.

Guild Member, Ed Sokolowski

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

Shield Design Cufflinks

These traditional cufflinks comprise the Guild shield in enamel and have a toggle fitting
Hallmarked silver gilt £95.00
Gilt metal £49.00



Formal / Country Silk Tie £20.00

The formal wine or blue coloured tie has the coat of arms in heraldic colours and multiple representations of the coat of arms in shadow weave throughout the tie. The silk Country Tie has red, gold and white diagonal stripes, with the coat of arms woven in at the bottom.



Blazer Badge £20.00

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).



Tie Tack £20.00

A neat tie tack of the shield of the Guild's Arms in gilt metal, with red and white enamel. 1.6cm height, the tie tacks have secure clutch fitting.



Six Dress Shirt Studs £69.00

A set of 6 dress shirt studs with the shield of the Guild's Arms in red and white enamel. 10mm in diameter).

Events of 2022

Visit to the Central Criminal Court

Tuesday 11th October



On arrival at the Central Criminal Court, commonly known as The Old Bailey after the road on which it stands, you see the daunting instructions for gaining access to the building. However, as the metal gate was opened, we received a warm greeting. Entrance for the those being tried there is rather different: they arrive in a prison van at the secure car park to be taken into custody by the prison warders who take each prisoner to one of the tiny bare windowless cells and, in some cases, to the extra security of the Category A+ cells.

Our guides were Andrew Marsden, the non-Aldermanic Sheriff, and Alistair King, the Aldermanic Sheriff, who had taken office a few days before. The Sheriffs' appointment ceremony is the second oldest in the country after the Coronation.

The present magnificent building, on the site of an earlier court and the Newgate Prison, was opened by Edward VII in 1907. It was thought that the King, being rather portly, would be unable to walk up the steps, so a lift was specially installed, but the King strode up the stairs instead.

During the last War the Old Bailey was bombed, but restored in the 1950s. A new South Block, finished in September 1972, was built to accommodate an increased number of courts, from 6 to 18. In 1973 the building was damaged by an IRA car bomb and a shard of glass has been deliberately left in one of the walls as a reminder.

The Great Hall is decorated with many busts and statues, chiefly of British monarchs, including Charles I and II, but also of legal and other significant figures, including Sir Thomas Gresham and Elizabeth Fry.

As we sat in Court No.1, Andrew explained that the black cap, formerly donned by the judge before issuing the death penalty, is still issued to each new judge sitting in Court No. 1; notwithstanding the abolition of the death penalty for murder in 1969 and all crimes in 1998. Many high-profile trials have taken place here, including those of Jeffrey Archer, Jeremy Thorpe and Ian Huntley. It also serves as the Coroner's Court for other crimes, such as terrorist attacks.

Because the Old Bailey is owned and operated by the City of London Corporation, the centre seat in the Court is reserved for the Lord Mayor to attend, but not participate in, a hearing. The most senior judge is the Recorder of London, who is marked out by his red robe and was our third guide of the evening. There are 12 permanent judges and Andrew pointed out the wig and gown they wear.

Before the current Central Criminal Court was built, the judges used to go into the adjoining Newgate Prison, where many were infected by and died of jail fever. The architect of the present building, Edward W. Mountford, decided to design Court No 1 with a domed roof, which opens to let in the air from outside. The light from the dome is remarkable, as it remains the same all day.

Just off the Great Hall can be found an historic plaque recording the trial of William Penn (who founded Pennsylvania) and William Meade, together with its historic outcome. In 1670, Penn and Meade were arrested and tried before a jury. The accused challenged the legality of the indictment: they had not been shown a written copy. The judge instructed the jury to convict and when they refused, committed the accused and the jurors to prison for two nights without food. The jurors were released on a writ of habeas corpus and Chief Justice Vaughn delivered the opinion of the Court which established the Right of Juries to give their verdict according to their convictions. This is a decision which goes to the very heart of English criminal law.

As we visited some empty cells beneath the Courts, our guide told us that prisoners were surprising compliant. It costs thousands of pounds to bring the prisoners from institutions such as Belmarsh, Pentonville and Brixton to the Old Bailey, so now many prisoners will remain in prison during their trial and appear via video link. 30-90% of cases have a mental health element, so many of the offenders are in fact coming from hospital.

After our fascinating tour we were treated to drinks and delicious nibbles in the Judges' dining room, which afforded us the opportunity to talk to other Guild members and our guides.

Guild Member, Susy Jepson

Dinner at Merchant Taylors' Hall

Wednesday 26th October

Apparently on the occasion of this event we were in the Hall of 'the sevens' it being Merchant Taylors' turn to be in that position in the order of precedence of the Great Twelve Livery Companies for this year. From the street the doorway seems quite ordinary but it leads into a building of absolute wonder. Whilst the first charter was granted in 1327 it was in 1347 that the Company built its hall on this site where it has remained ever since through the Great Fire of London and the London Blitz of WW II.



Members of the Guild, friends and family were received by the Master, John Garbutt and his wife, Solangela, at the foot of the staircase which leads to the Drawing Room. Peter Holland, photographer, was on hand to record the introductions. The sparkling reception was just that and an opportunity for those attending to meet fellow diners and to re-acquaint with people they had not seen for some long while.

At the appropriate time we were invited to make our way to the Great Hall via the Cloisters where we had a glimpse of the Courtyard. Despite the fact that it was quite dark outside by now, enough could be seen to appreciate how stunning the Courtyard is. We were all welcomed by the Master, especially the new members who had come from their event at Tallow Chandlers' Hall. Grace was then said and we all enjoyed a delicious meal.



Mr Peter Nelson, was the Master's guest speaker. He had been Assistant Town Clerk for twenty years, before retiring. He described the work as being an interface between the Court of Common Council, the Lord Mayor, the London Boroughs, the Corporation of London and the Livery Companies. He had a lovely knack of flipping through pages of notes and kept us all well entertained in both an informative and amusing way.

At the end of the evening, the Master gave thanks, to his honoured guests, the Clerk, the staff of the Merchant Taylors' Hall and everyone who attended. He then wished us all a safe journey home.

Guild Member, Christine Hawthorne

The Lord Mayor's Show

Saturday 12th November

On a dry but overcast day, the 694th Lord Mayor of London, Alderman Nicholas Lyons of the Tower Ward rode in the State Coach during the Lord Mayor's Show.

The role of Lord Mayor has a long and illustrious history dating back to the early 13th century, when a desperate King John allowed the City of London to appoint its own Mayor. The King insisted that each newly elected Mayor should swear loyalty to the Crown, and the Mayor of London has been making that journey from the Mansion House to the Palace of Westminster for over 800 years. Over the centuries this attestation of loyalty has morphed into the noisy, colourful and joyous procession that we witness today.

There was no official seating in front of St Paul's again this year, so there was no designated point where Guild members could assemble and socialise before and during the parade.

The parade started at 11am and the traditional guardians of the City of London, Gog and Magog (*see picture below right*) led the procession of many floats and contingents from the Guilds, commerce and military affiliations of the City.



The procession was a very entertaining mixture of a military parade and Mardi Gras, with the addition of music from the many military and civil marching bands.

It was a day when you could see knights in full battle armour on horseback, flying pigs and camels being ridden down the middle of Eastcheap. It was also good to see so many of the youth organisations being represented and their marching and musical performances matching those of the military. There is no wonder why the BBC has broadcast the Lord Mayor's Show every year, excluding the WWII years, since 1937 making it the longest-running British television programme.

After the parade Guild members and their guests assembled in the Members Private Dining Room in the Guildhall, hosted by Past Master Barbara Newman CBE. We enjoyed the opportunity to socialise with a pre-lunch drink. There followed an excellent and very well-presented lunch that rounded off a very entertaining and pleasurable event.

Guild Member, Colin MacDonald



Events of 2022

Annual Banquet at Guildhall

Friday 2nd December

Since joining the Guild in late 2021, I had eagerly anticipated my first opportunity to attend the Annual Banquet. From my first Guild event, I was told by fellow members that this glittering occasion was the highlight of the Guild's calendar, and it truly did not disappoint.

The Guildhall was a stunning location for the evening's festivities. The site upon which the Guildhall sits has been a centre of the prestige and power of London since Roman times. It was the original site of London's amphitheatre built in 70 AD before becoming the site of the centre of city life in the Middle Ages and the 1400s saw the construction of the Guildhall in its current form. The Guildhall largely survived the Great Fire of London and the Blitz, and it rightly remains a symbol of the strength and fortitude of the City of London.



The Master inspects the Honourable Artillery Company (above) and greets the Lord Mayor (below)



*The Assistant Clerk and his wife (above)
The Master, Wardens and Civic Party (below)*



The evening commenced in the Art Gallery where guests greeted one another before being formally welcomed by the Master and his wife. We were able to linger just long enough to admire the stunning collection of works on display before progressing into the Old Library to meet with other guests, while serenaded by the London Banqueting Ensemble. The presence of a Carpet Guard from the Honourable Company of Pikemen and Musketeers was a delight, dressed as they would have been in the 17th Century, adding to the sense of history and occasion. With the Old Library now full of guests decked in their finery, a fanfare announced the arrival of the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress accompanied by the Sheriffs and their consorts. It was time then to process into the imposing medieval Great Hall. Surrounded by statues of some of Britain's most important historical figures as well as the statues of Gog and Magog. We were treated to a truly delightful menu and jovial conversation before it was time for the speeches and toasts.

The Welcome Address by the Senior Warden, Christopher Walton delighted all with a correction of "fake news", including that the 100 years' war in fact lasted 116 years; that Panama hats come from Ecuador; and the Canary Islands are in fact named after dogs, before summing up the Master's memorable year as it draws to a close and some of the exciting events ahead for 2023. The Lord Mayor gave an inspiring address focusing on "Financing our Future", his mayoral theme, and the importance of enhancing growth and talent, including among the City's young people as well as the importance of resilience and responsibility in what will be challenging years ahead. As a lawyer, I was particularly delighted to hear Lord Reed, President of the Supreme Court before the speeches were closed by the Master in his closing address.

The evening was one of colour and pageantry, of collegiality and celebration, and was the perfect start to the festive season.

Guild Member, Antonia Benfield



*Lord Reed (above) with the Master
The Master makes his closing address (below)*



Carol Service at St Stephen Walbrook

Monday 12th December

Our Master, as Alderman for the Ward of Walbrook and a churchwarden of St Stephen, Walbrook church, chose this church for the Guild's carol service. In his introduction to the service he explained his connections and active involvement with the church. The Guild has met at the Church of St Stephen for its carol service in the past and this was a welcome return.

The Reverend Steven Baxter conducted the service with the Choir of St Stephen Voices and Michael Cayton as the organist. The Lessons were read by Guild members and the Christmas message was made by Revd. Baxter. There was good support from Guild members and their guests and the blessing of Christ's glorious birth was celebrated with great joy.

The church is located immediately to the rear of the Mansion House and the Lord Mayor is an honorary churchwarden. A church here was first mentioned in 1096 and in 1439 it was rebuilt in its current location. The church was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666 and rebuilt by Wren in 1680. The church suffered bomb damage in 1940 and in 1950 it was Grade 1 listed.

The church is truly magnificent inside with a central dome used by Wren as the prototype for his dome in St Pauls Cathedral. The pulpit, a Wren original structure, is spectacular and quite unique. There is a magnificent round altar table sculptured by Sir Henry Moore. The pews surround the altar in a circular

fashion. The church has needed much care and attention and was closed for 10 years after 1977 to resolve structural issues. It is listed by Pevsner as one of the ten most important buildings in England.

The evening concluded with wine and canapes and an opportunity to meet old friends and this Carol Service brought our Master's year to a fitting and very successful end.

Guild Member, Dick Clay



253 (London) Provost Company

Annual Report

This past year has been a busy one for 253 (London) Pro Coy. The Company has seen a number of changes of staff including the change Officer Commanding, Operations Officer, Company Sergeant-Major (CSM) and Permanent Staff Instructor (PSI). We do of course wish Major Gordon, Captain Bate, Warrant Officer (Class 2) Cowden and Staff-Sergeant Willingale the best of luck in their future posts.

Major Roberts and CSM Bennett are now firmly established in post as OC and CSM respectively, having welcomed Capt Poulain as the new Ops Offr (poached from the Regular Army) and SSgt MacPhail who has taken over as PSI, bringing a wealth of experience and a positivity to the role. Congratulations are in order to the newly promoted Sergeants Green and Thompson, who are a welcome addition to the WOs' & Sgts' Mess.

Company training has been demanding, conducting a plethora of exercises in the field and education in the classroom. These have included policing and soldiering specific training, live fire ranges and annual physical tests allowing members of 253 (London) Pro Co to hone their skills and prepare themselves for the challenges faced by a modern Military Police soldier in the contemporary environment.



Continuing the proud commitment to supporting our Regular Provost Companies 253 (London) Pro Coy are preparing to deploy personnel across the full spectrum of operational commitments for the RMP. In addition members of 253 (London) London Pro Coy including the OC have been mobilised to support home base Military Aid to Civilian Authorities (MACA) operations which include assistance to Border Force.

Building on the successes of recent collaborative efforts across 3 RMP, the OC received the backing of the CO to make policing opportunities across 3 RMP available to all RMP Reservists. This means that RMP Reservists have paraded with 156, 158 and 160 Pro Coys to conduct joint policing activity in addition to Company training. This has provided personnel with valuable policing experience and assisted Regular units in providing extra staff to conduct proactive policing activity.

There have been a number of excellent sporting opportunities throughout the last year including Ex TIGER PANTHERA, a skiing package to Val Thorens. 3 Regt RMP are thankful

to both incoming and outgoing PSIs in the organisation and running of this event. 253 (London) Pro Coy were happy to see a number of it's own departing to the sunny Alpine climate for several weeks on the slopes. Members of 253 (London) Pro Coy were also seen supporting and participating in the SAAFA 13 Bridges, between Tower of London and El Brook in support of the charity and congratulations are in order for Cpl Ward's outstanding showing at the Army Triathlon last year.

253 (London) Pro Coy have also supported a number of important ceremonial events including the annual Tower of London parade, the Lord Mayor's show and of course provided the ceremonial guard to the Guild of Freemen Annual Dinner. The friendship between 253 (London) Pro Coy and the Guild of Freeman remains strong as Master John Garbutt was welcomed to the company to award Soldier of the Year to the winner LCpl Dimova.

Soldier of the Year

Lance Corporal Dimova joined 1 Platoon in March this year and quickly integrated with her peers. She is known to be quick to learn, highly reliable and enthusiastic in her willingness to help others. Always the first to volunteer, Lance Corporal Dimova is frequently found helping others with their taskings both in the field and out, and when she is not doing that, she is diligently going through previous lessons or training scenarios.

Lance Corporal Dimova has shown dedication not just in her role within the Royal Military Police, but to 253 (London) Provost Company and the regiment itself by representing the Royal Military Police at an Armed Forces Day event run by JP Morgan. She received praise and thanks from the Provost Sergeant Major for her diligence and professionalism and generation of expressions of interest from the public in joining the unit.

Lance Corporal Dimova is a dedicated and enthusiastic soldier who has proved her value to the Platoon, the Company, and the British Army, and for this she is awarded this title of 'Soldier of the Year' by the Guild of Freemen of the City of London.



Walking the Camino to Santiago de Compostela

During the early days of the first lockdown of 2020, many of us were inspired by the fundraising efforts of centenarian Captain Tom. The sudden nature of the pandemic meant some of us were forced into unwelcome solitude, perhaps loss of employment and its associated social structures, and distance from family members increased the feelings of loneliness.

Having expected to remain a consultant to the flying school I had recently sold, it was a brutal and unexpected retirement. The only activity that kept me sane was my daily walk. As we were only supposed to take one period of exercise a day, I made sure that mine was as long as possible, walking for at least two to three hours at a time. I decided that I would aim to walk the Camino to Santiago de Compostela when restrictions were lifted.

As we all know, travel abroad was not permitted for many months, so the 2020 plan became a 2021 plan and that was delayed until this year. In the meantime, as I was a complete novice at hiking and trekking, I did a practice trek and walked the Cotswold Way in October 2020. That taught me a lot about the equipment I would need and also confirmed that I enjoyed the effort involved in scaling hills with a pack on my back, walking day after day and coping with the vagaries of the weather (considerable in October 2020, when a storm brought three times the normal month's worth of rain to the Cotswolds in the first four days of the month – I carried most of it in my boots and rucksack).



In 2021, whilst stranded in the Canaries for a few months, I also walked the Step out for Homelessness challenge for Crisis and raised £1000+ with a fairly low-key campaign while I was covering 1,000,000 steps.

2022 saw an easing of restrictions and I decided to raise funds for MIND, because the massive surge in suicides, depression and mental health issues was very evident as we came through the pandemic. The plan to raise money also focused my pre-departure training, as I really did not want to injure myself and have to give up or drop out part way through. By the middle of the year, I was determined to try to achieve the full 500 mile (800 kms) route from St Jean Pied de Port on the French side of the Pyrenees.

Using the JustGiving platform enabled me to update progress on the trek at completion of each stage and to add relevant photos for supporters to view. I was also able to upload photos onto my social media which helped with further fundraising and gave me much needed feedback and support. Originally, I set out to raise £5000 and as I was close to the target when I left to start walking over the Pyrenees, I increased the target to £6000.



Many people have kindly supported me in my fundraising efforts which now total £7599. As I am not known for doing things by halves, I managed to walk a total of 740 MILES, i.e. nearly 1200 kms or nearly 50% further than anticipated. This greater distance was achieved by adding in the guidebooks' suggested detours, walking more quickly than others might to reach the next place in the itinerary and then spending time exploring the area, or simply having to walk a route more than once because, having scaled a mountain, I then discovered I had left my purse in a café at the bottom.

It was enormously demanding physically and mentally and took me several weeks to recover on my return. As some of you know, I have pledged to match the total funds raised to provide flying scholarships and bursaries and anyone who still wishes to contribute to this can access my JustGiving page at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Dorothy-Saul-Pooley>

Trustee of the Guild Charity, Dorothy Saul-Pooley



The Immediate Past Master's Address



Being Master of the Guild of Freeman for 2022 was a unique privilege. My wife, Solangela, and I thoroughly enjoyed my year, and I would like to first thank her for all the help and support she gave me (and is still giving). I would also like to thank my Wardens, Court Assistants, Past Masters and the Guild members who were able to attend my events, physical and/or virtual. Master is the highest honour which the Guild can bestow upon one of its members and, for me, this followed some six years as a Warden progressing upwards annually in the Guild hierarchy over this time.

The purpose of the Guild is to provide a welcoming association, supporting the City of London by contributing to its welfare, celebrating its history and helping to shape its future. Around 30 social events were held in my year to contribute towards this purpose. As well as these, via the Guild's charity, financial support was given indirectly to the charities benefitting from the Lord Mayor's Appeal and the Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund. Among the charities which the Guild supported directly during my year were the Reed's School Foundation (for orphaned children); the London Air Ambulance; Christ's Hospital School and other City of London-related Schools, plus the Guildhall School of Music and Drama among several more third sector entities.

To return to my events, these were based around the normal framework of four Livery Hall Dinners plus the Guildhall Banquet. I was most fortunate in securing all of these at Great 12 Halls with very special speakers. The year began at Ironmongers in February with the Lord Lieutenant of Greater London Sir Kenneth Olisa as my guest speaker. This was followed in April at the Grocers with Matt Jukes, Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, then Lord Robert Lingfield, the famous educationalist, at the Clothworkers in June, Peter Nelson, former Assistant Town Clerk of the City of London Corporation at the Merchant Taylors in October and finally Lord Robert Reed, President of the Supreme Court at Guildhall in December.

As well as the above, I decided and was able to have several "money can't buy" events using my personal contacts, and the new Master has mentioned these in his Message elsewhere in the Freeman. I also continued my predecessor, Ann-Marie's programme of virtual events which had gone down so well in her Covid-infected term of office. These incorporated a fascinating virtual visit to "Diamond Light" which had previously been a secret government scientific establishment; an incredible magician's performance by Alan Hudson and a most stimulating talk by our very own member, Gary Wykes, on the notorious historic inmates of the Tower of London.

Outside London, Solangela and I were invited to visit four of the "outwith" Guilds in York, Coventry, Chester and Glasgow, me making speeches at two of them. More is said about these elsewhere in this magazine. We also attended the Lord Mayor's Livery weekend in Sheffield (previously always held at Ironbridge).

Our Master, with the Master of the Guild of York (below)



Within London I presented three sets of awards on behalf of the Guild: In July at the City of London Southwark Academy for their "most improved student"; in September at 253 Provost Company of the Royal Military Police for their "Soldier of the Year"; and lastly in December at Mansion House for the Lord Mayor's 800th Anniversary Awards where I presented the Guild's own prize to someone who had completed a very valuable study on seabirds and how they were variously impacted by climate change.

Of course, as well as all these wonderful events, there was also some sadness in my year with the tragic loss of a number of our member colleagues and friends, and the names of these are mentioned elsewhere.

On a happier note, we also had a new Clerk, Kate Pink, who started working for the Guild in April, following Christine Cook's final departure. Kate has slotted into the Guild remarkably quickly as has our still relatively new Assistant Clerk, Martin Budds. I sincerely thank them both for what they have done to help me during my year.



The Master, with the winner of the Lord Mayor's 800th Anniversary Awards Trust prize, Kate Morrison and Sir Michael Savory, Chairman of the Awards Trust (above)

Finally, I would like to thank all Guild members for giving me a most rewarding and memorable year. Without you it would have been a lot less fun. I would also like to wish my successor, Chris Walton, and his Consort, Sally Martin, all the best of luck for their year. As Chris can see from the above, he'll have a very busy, but most interesting time.

Last, my very best wishes to all Guild members until we meet again.

Immediate Past Master, John Garbutt



The Master, with Aldermen Alistair King and Andrew Marsden, the Sheriffs of the City of London (above) and presenting the Accademy Awards (below)



Golfing Society

As you know this is to be the final active year for the Guild's golfing society, unless someone new steps forward to organise it for the future. I hope therefore that you will be able to support at least one of the two events that we are running this year. The two events are Gerrards Cross Golf Club on Thursday 20th April and Frinton Golf Club on Thursday 6th July. Bob Morgan will circulate details of the Frinton event at a later date.

Gerrards Cross Golf Club, Chalfont Park, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 0QA on Thursday 20th April 2023

Timings: Check-in is 12.45 for bacon rolls and coffee in the main lounge bar. First tee time is 13.40. Dinner is at 19.15

Golf: 18 holes singles with stableford scoring. Nearest the Pin in 2 on 6th and Nearest the Pin on 16th. Prizes of wine/golf balls is included in the price for the day.

Dinner menu: Chicken Supreme wrapped in Parma Ham, filled with Boursin Cheese, Pepper and finished with Basil and Garlic Cream, followed by Strawberry Pavlova

Freedom of the Borough for Past Master John Barber

Past Master John Barber DL, MRICS, has received the Freedom of the Borough of Newham.

The award was made by Newham Council at a Civic Awards ceremony held on 7th December 2022 at the Old Town Hall Stratford. The awards event recognised people who have made an outstanding contribution to the life of the Borough.

The borough was formed on 1 April 1965 under the London Government Act 1963. It covers the areas of the county borough of East Ham and West Ham that were abolished by the same act. North Woolwich and a small area west of the River Roding also became part of this new borough, that had the unique name created for it.



Notices

Change of clothing for dinner; jacket and tie preferred.

Payment: The all-in price for the day will be £90 per person (excluding personal drinks). You can pay by credit card (but not American Express) on the day to the club or pay cash.

Please will you let me know urgently by reply to my email address (below) with the following details:

- 1) Confirm that you wish to come to the GXGC event
- 2) The name of your home club (or IG) and your current World Handicap Index
- 3) If you are bringing any guests: if so, their names and information as at 2) above
- 4) If you or your guests have any dietary issues that require a different menu.

Best wishes
Gail

Mobile: 07808 519660 and Email: gail.sharp@btinternet.com

Guild Members' News

The Guild Welcomes New Members 2022

February

Mr Brady Brim-DeForest of Balvaird Castle MstJ, FRGS, FRAI, FSA(Scot) *
Mrs B Cork Ross RGN *
Mrs Maria Zucconi *
Mr Jeffery Barratt LLB, LLM
Mr R. Breslin MSc
Mrs Ilinka Budds MBA, MSc, BSc
Mr Anthony Joseph
Mr Andrea Di Lena MBA, MSC, Ceng, MiChemE
Mrs Eileen Fraser
Mr S.A. Garforth BSc (Hons)
Mr Lee Gilroy
Mr Craig Harding BA(Hons)
Mr Peter Hillier DL
Mr Alan Peters
Mr John Roddy
Mr Nicholas Royle BSc, MBA
Ms A Schmidt

March

Ms Katherine Oberc MSc, LLB *
Mr Ian Sharp
Ms Ann Bessey BSc, MIM, CEng
Mr Hugo Shaw BSc (Hons), CISI
Dr John Manley Phd
Mr Hamantkumar Bharadia MBA, CGMA, ACMA, CPFA
Mr Herbert Nally BA(Hons), FCMI, MAPM
Ms Susan Jepson MA (Cantab)
Mr Ashley Pover

April

Mr Murray Craig *
Mr Gerald Kidd LLB *
Mr John Cavanagh
Mr David Cooke BA(Hons)
Ms Megan McCracken MBA, MIOd, CEng, MIMechE
Mrs Valerie Power
Mr Nicholas de Wiggondene-Sheppard FICA
Mr Daniel Ayton BA (hons) FCGI, FIH, FRISP
Ms Sylvia Cristofori
Mr Mark Bowden
Mr Stephen Smith

May

Mr Azad Ayub BSc, MSc, DIC, Fiod, FRSA, MRI *
Mr Malcolm Butler MA, LLB, FCG
Mr Kevin Craig BA (Hons)
Mrs Barbars Jayson MBE, MSC, RN
Mr J C Roberts
Mr Brendan Barns
Miss Florence Keelson-Anfu
Mr Tim McNally CC, FBCS, CITP, MSc (econ), BSc (hons)
Miss Deborah Oliver TD, CC, MSc, MA, FCIPR

June

Mr Marcus Cooper B.Ed (Hons), QTS, FCCT
Prof. Dr. Guenter Nebel *
Mr Tony Kerslake MBE, FIA *
Colonel Sylvia Short OBE, TD, RGN, RCNT *
Miss Sarah Sinclair
Mrs Mary Putt
Mr Anthony Fitzpatrick FRSA
Mr Ernest Smart FCA, LLB (Hons)

The Editor appologises to the following members for incorrectly spelling their names in the last journal:

Ms Kauser Mizra JP, BA (Hons), Cert.Ed

Mr John Burnapp, FBCS

Mr James Gillan

Mrs Cara Cunniff

July

The Very Reverend David Ison **

August

Mrs Pam Kingsland MSc Occ Psych, BSc (Hons), AFBPsS
Dr Mark Jones Mphys, Dphil, CPA, EPA
Deputy Madush Gupta BA, LLB

September

Mr Stephen Deakin BSC, CITP, CSyP
Mr Bhiku Soni Bsc (Hons)
Chev Hugh Macpherson KLLJ
Mr Alan Jones
Mr Paul Williams
Mr Charles Montlake ACCA, PGCE
Mr Peter Bruemmer

October

Mr Emmet Keffe III *
Mr Andrew Taylor Ceng, FIMEchE
Mr Simon Levine BA, MA
Dr Diane Napier PhD, Eds, MA
Mr James Davis BA, MSC, MBA
Mrs Claire Davis BA
Mr Gary Nolan BA (Hons), MSC
Ms Christine Hampson
Mr David O'brien GGSM
Mr Paul Eveleigh BoC (Finance)
Mr James Swanston

November

Mr Richard Everton BA
Mr Bivas Ambasada FRSA

December

Mr Hans Bathija OSS, FRSA, FRSPH, FSAscot, FBBS, FRAS, FRGS *
Dr Fraser Peck Mbchb, Bsc (Hons) *
Dr Samantha Waller Bsc (hons) Phd
Mrs Hannah Constantinidi
Mr Thomas Pickering Ma (Hons)
Ms Caroline Nurse Bsc, BCom
Ms Jennifer Bryant-Pearson
Mr Robert Beales Ieng, Fiet, Fapm, Fcmi, Mciob
Mr Daniel Holden LLB, ICAEW
Mr James McGrath
Miss Juna Margariti BA (Hons)
Captain Christine McGee ATPL, ATP

* *Life Members*

** *Honorary Members*



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.

Mr Brian Monk
Mr Michael Williams
Mrs Rita Yates
Mr David Evans
Mr Gordon Sanders
Mrs Gloria Kustow
Mrs Doris Shales
Mr Edward James Smith
Mr John Roscoe Walker
Mr Jack Maynard
Mr Colin Victor Maddison
Mrs Diane Margaret Stilling
Mr Nicholas John Ferrier
Mr Alan Orme
Mr Anthony Latham
Mr Joseph Byllam-Barnes
Professor AAJ Barros D'Sa
Dr GLC Colenso-Jones
Mr Paul Nicholas
Mr Frederick William Hilton

Mr John Peters
Mr Peter David Newman
Mr John Barns
Mr David Alexander
Mr William Mahoney
Mr Michael Cumper
Mr John Anthony Godfrey Hopkins
Mr James David Thomas
Mr Edward Last
Mrs Maureen Bonanno-Smith
Mr Derek J Pendry
Mrs Lilian Whitley
Mr WJM Mahoney
Mr AA Curtis
Mr GAW Enticott
Mr Philip Rimmel
Mr Victor Stroud
Mr George Tutt
Mr John Durston
Lady Audrey Buchanon

Obituaries

Joseph Charles Felix Byllam Byllam-Barnes was born in Streatham on 30 August 1928. Later the family lived for some time in Bournemouth, where his beloved great-aunts lived. In Streatham their home was near the station and there Joe spent much time admiring the steam engines and his life long interest in trains began.

At one time he expressed a wish to work on the railways, but his father did not agree and instead he joined Barclays Bank in 1945, later taking time out for National Service in the Royal Army Medical Corps. There his abilities were soon recognised and he was offered the opportunity to train as a doctor. He was put in charge of the health of the whole of Eritrea and was proud that during the whole of his time in that post there were no outbreaks of infectious disease in the country.

After leaving the Army he returned to Barclays Bank to pursue a career in banking. In 1978 he married Maureen and they embarked on an extremely happy marriage, during which she supported him in all that he did. In 1992 Joe retired from Barclays Bank having served with distinction in many roles there, ending as Senior Head Office Inspector, having responsibility for the largest claims made by or against the Bank.

Throughout his life, Joe's Roman Catholic religion was of great importance to him. As an Oblate of the order of St Benedict he was a member of Quarr Abbey in Ryde, Isle of Wight. During his year as Master he combined a deep religious belief with his love of the Army and the City.

In his retirement, Joe became involved in many Civic Institutions and Livery Companies, becoming a Common Councillor for the Ward of Cheap in 1997. In that role he served on many committees of the City Corporation, giving valuable input to their debates. He accepted office in many of the civic institutions he joined, helped as always by Maureen. They were an unrivalled team.

In 2000 Joe became Master of the Guild of Freemen, where I first met him as a new Court Assistant. I always thought of him as the definitive English Gentleman, greeting everyone

Past Master Joseph Byllam-Barnes



with a genuine warmth, showing courtesy to all and always ready to listen and offer wise counsel when requested. He introduced me to several City Institutions and opened up for me a wealth of happy experiences I would have missed.

He resigned from the Court of the Guild of Freemen several years ago, when his problems with mobility made it difficult for him to travel from his home in Ashted to London for meetings. We still miss the part he played in the governance of the Guild. Those of us fortunate enough to have known him will long remember all he did for the Guild and the many other organisations with which he was involved.

Past Master, Barbara Newman CBE

David Irving, who died on 14th October 2022, was Master of the Guild of Freeman in 2001-02.

He was born in Melling, Lancashire on 15th May 1934 and later was evacuated to his grandparents in Morecombe during the War. In 1945 he went back to his parents in Harrow and attended Harrow County Grammar School. He studied at Acton Catering College and then undertook National Service with the RAF in the Catering Branch at Uxbridge. After National Service he joined Grosvenor House and then went on to the London Hilton Park Lane and was their Banqueting Manager from 1972. He became Director of Conferences and Banqueting in 1992 and in the same year won the CATEY 'Manager of the Year' award. He handed over these responsibilities in 1996 but in 2000 he was appointed Director of the Hilton in the Community Foundation and was charged with setting this up.

In addition to his strong and very successful background in 'the hospitality industry', David was a Liveryman of the Distillers' Company, a President of the Reunion des Gastronomes and a Council Member of the Wine Guild of the United Kingdom and joined the Guild of Freeman in May 1982.

His year as Master with his many credentials reflected the pleasures of food and wine and an opportunity to see more of the City's special venues.

A highlight was the Midsummer's Ball at the London Hilton held in aid of the newly formed Hilton in the Community Foundation and the Guild's Charities, which received £10,000. David was later Chairman of the Centenary Planning Committee, who planned and organised the Centennial Celebrations for 2008 with HRH The Princess Royal as our Centenary Master and Deputy Pauline Halliday as our Assistant Master.

The Guild benefitted enormously from David's contacts and of especial note were the tours of the Champagne Country both in his year as Master and in the Centenary Year. This was a long weekend trip in visiting several Champagne Houses, sampling their champagnes and Champagne Dinners.

Other events of note in the Centenary Year were the Installation Dinner at Merchant Taylors' Hall, the Annual Service with a Dinner at Goldsmiths' Hall, 'Birthday Party' at Gibson Hall, Centenary Reception and Beating Retreat at Guildhall,



the Centenary Banquet at Guildhall and the Final Reception and Dinner at Mansion House. A truly remarkable year with several Events attended by HRH The Princess Royal.

David was married to Ita who played a great part in David's year as Master and they had three sons and a daughter. The couple had lived happily in Victoria for many years and David continued to do so after Ita's demise. However, more recently, with increasing frailty, David moved into a care home in Henley, near to his daughter and family.

A wonderful Service was held in loving memory and as a tribute to David at St George's Church, Hanover Square, which was attended by Past Masters and their spouses, Members of the Court, and Guild Members.

Past Master, Dr John Smail

Anthony (Tony) Latham

Tony was born on 1st September 1942 and brought up in Everton, which led to a life-long support for Everton Football Club. He met his wife Sheila at university; she also originated from Everton but supported Liverpool Football Club.

At university he gained a B.Sc in Chemistry, following which they moved to Upminster, Essex, where Tony took up employment with Tate and Lyle. He was to remain with them for his entire working life, retiring in 1999 as London Refineries Operations Manager.

He was a family man with twin daughters and two grandchildren who he loved spending time with. He and his wife Sheila enjoyed holidaying, with Cyprus a favourite destination.

He was a very generous man of his time and experience, involved in charitable work, and a well known and respected member of his local church in Upminster, serving as treasurer for over ten years.

He was a keen golfer and a long-time member of Upminster Golf Club, including being the club's Seniors' Captain. He became a member of the Guild of Freeman on 12th September 2001 and was Secretary of the Guild's Golfing Society for over 20 years. This involved three golfing meetings a year and a closely fought annual match against the City Livery Club for the Square Mile Trophy. Tony was a gentle man and a gentleman. He passed away on 6th March 2022 and is sadly missed.



Guild Member, Gail Sharp

The Guild of Freeman's Charity

The Guild's Charity continues to make a real difference to the lives of the many applicants, especially in this year of financial hardship due to the cost of living crisis and the continued impact of the pandemic affecting the charity sector and the more vulnerable in our society.

Your Trustees are pleased that charitable giving has remained at the heart of the Guild's activities, and the Charity continues to support a range of charitable organisations within, or associated with, Greater London and a number of schools linked to the City of London, with special emphasis on work associated with the impact of the pandemic. Our aim is to support those where our limited resources make the most impact. The Trustees receive many applications for support, and this has been especially the case this year. They are carefully examined and discussed before decisions are made. Sometimes visits are made by the Trustees, where possible, to give further insight into where our money would be most impactful. It was a pleasure to attend the City of London Girls School Prize Giving in December and had the opportunity to speak to our worthy recipients.

In May, I had the pleasure of attending The Annual Service and Speech Day at Christs' Hospital. It was good to meet and spend time with our two presentees. Both were delightful students who were so grateful for the support they receive, allowing them a superb education and outstanding pastoral support that your Charity's contribution makes possible. Both had grown in confidence and had made excellent academic progress.

Besides supporting the two presentees at Christ's Hospital, the Trustees awarded bursaries or prizes to students at the City of London Freeman's School, the City of London School, The City of London Academy Southwark, Reed's School, The City of London School for Girls, King Edward's School Witley, and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Cufflinks Gift by Ann-Marie Jefferys

Some Masters elect to commemorate their year of office by donating an item to the Guild. Ann-Marie Jefferys commissioned a stunning pair of cufflinks from Goldsmith and Guild member Harvey Sillis.

The links are 18ct yellow gold and bear the Guild's Coat of Arms. They have swivel backs and are pavé set with 0.40cts of G colour VS 2 quality Brilliant Cut Diamonds in the quarters of the shield which are rhodium plated. The Cross is also pavé set with 0.48cts of Rubies. They are enamelled in red on the Cross, white on the central flower and green of the leaves. They bear the Platinum Jubilee Mark in addition to the Hallmark.

The cufflinks are to be worn by the male consorts of female Guild Masters – lucky Mark Rutter next year and thank you Ann-Marie for donating such a beautiful gift.



In the year to 31 December 2022 the Charity awarded 23 grants totalling £32,100 to give educational, welfare and social support to those in need. These included the Red Cross Emergency Appeal for Ukraine, a charity supporting children with muscular and skeletal conditions, the Whitechapel Mission supporting the homeless, and hospices supporting the dying and especially bereavement services for families.

Our management fees are kept to a minimum to maximise our giving, and our gratitude must go to the Guild's office for their continued support with all the paperwork associated with the Charity. Our Clerk, Kate Pink, and Assistant Clerk, Martin Budds, ensure that all financial giving is correctly administered, alongside their ongoing commitments to the Guild.

During the year to 31 December 2022, Guild members generously supported the Charity for which we are very grateful. The joining ceremonies generate a high number of donations. The income generated by the Charity's investment portfolio meant that the overall value of the Charity stood at just over £1 million this year which is amazing considering the financial difficulties. The Charity's Trustees' Annual Report to 31 December 2022 is available to Guild members in a separate document from the Guild's Office.

None of the work done by the Charity would be possible without the generous support of the members of the Guild, who continue to give. Your kind donations make such a difference to the recipients. If you would like to donate to the work of the Guild's Charity please do so with a one off donation through the website, or by cheque to the Guild office, or perhaps consider a regular annual or monthly donation, or a legacy. A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed during this challenging year!

Past Master, Ann-Marie Jefferys

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The Master and Wardens 2023

The Master Christopher Walton, *BAMBA FIoD FRAeS*



Chris Walton is an experienced company Chairman, Audit Chair, and independent non-executive director. He is the Chairman of NC KazMunayGas, a large vertically integrated oil and gas company.

He has also chaired the Strategy and Innovation Committee, the Audit Committee, and the Finance Committee. In the defence sector, he is the Audit Chair of the Submarine Delivery Agency and is a Non-Executive Member of the Royal Navy's National Shipbuilding Strategy Client Board.

In past roles, he has been Chairman of Goldenport Holdings, a UK listed shipping company, Chairman of Lothian Buses Plc, the operator of Edinburgh's bus network, Senior Independent Director and Audit Chair of Rockhopper Exploration Plc, a listed oil exploration company, Chairman of Asia Resource Minerals Plc, a UK listed coal miner, and Audit Chair of the

Kazakhstan State Railways, the world's 19th largest railway system. Pro-bono, Chris has recently stepped down as the Interim Chairman of the Institute of Directors.

He is a former non-executive member of the Audit & Risk Committee of the UK Department for Culture, Media, and Sport, which was responsible for the 2012 London Olympic Games. Chris was a member of the Bank of England's Regional Economic Advisory Panel (SE England & Anglia) from 2002 to 2005.

As Finance Director of EasyJet Plc, Chris successfully directed its IPO. Chris has held senior finance and commercial posts at Qantas, Air New Zealand, Australia Post and Australian Airlines. Chris has also worked as a corporate planner for BP Australia, as a staffer in the Australian Senate and in open-cut iron ore mines for Hamersley Iron. Chris is a Fellow of the UK Institute of Directors, and a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society. He served for almost a decade in the Australian Army Reserve, principally in the 1st Commando Regiment.

The Senior Warden Lisa Rutter



Lisa was a London Borough of Barnet Councillor for Brunswick Park Ward (2006-2022) and was Mayor of the Borough (2011-12) raising funds for three charities - The Alzheimer's Society, Barnet Young Carers & Siblings and The Outward-Bound Trust. With funds raised for the Alzheimer's Society she opened the first Dementia café in Barnet in August 2013 at the Finchley Memorial Hospital and in 2015 she set up Dementia Club UK, a registered

charity. Lisa is the founder and chairman of Dementia Club UK which is sponsored by Saracens Foundation.

Although dementia clubs were suspended during the pandemic, Lisa continued to provide Zoom dementia club sessions and carers group meetings to help as many people who were left isolated and depressed. People joined from the around the country. Lisa achieved visiting rights for relatives

visiting their loved ones in care homes and prioritized unpaid carers on the vaccination list. Dementia Club UK won Charity of the Year 2020 in the Borough of Barnet.

As we return back to normal after the pandemic, Lisa is running dementia clubs at various locations in Barnet and works in partnership with Barnet Council and Barnet Carers.

Lisa received the National Councillor Achievement Award in 2016 for her work in the community helping people with dementia and their families. She is the Ageing Well and Mental Health Champion of the London Borough of Barnet and a Liveryman of The Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers.

Lisa worked in banking for many years and then trained as a litigation officer. She worked for the Insurance Ombudsman Bureau dealing with pension and general cases as arbitrator and finally worked at Coutts Bank as Special Matters and Fraud Manager.

The Renter Warden Adrian Waddingham, *CBE FIA*



Adrian Waddingham retired in 2018 after a 47-year career as a consulting actuary. Brought up in Preston, Lancashire Adrian 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 and which has now become the largest firm of independent consulting actuaries in the UK with over 1,400 employees. Adrian 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. Adrian 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 will be published.

Adrian's main home is in Vauxhall. He also has a home in his native north Lancashire.

The Junior Warden Deputy Chris Hayward MStJ, FRSA



Chris is married to Alexandra. They have two children and live near Chorleywood, Hertfordshire and in the City of London. He is a former Deputy Leader of both Dorset and Hertfordshire County Councils and a former Parliamentary candidate. He was elected to Common Council of the Corporation of the City of London in 2013 for the Broad Street Ward since when he has served as Chairman of Planning and Transportation, currently Chairman of Policy & Resources and he served as Sheriff of the City from 2019 - 2021.

Chris is a member of the Broad Street, Bread Street, Bridge, Candlewick, Cheap, Cripplegate and Coleman Street Ward Clubs, President of the City Livery Club, Life and Council Member of the City of London branch of the Royal Society of

Saint George. In addition, he is a Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers, a member of the Worshipful Company of Parish Clerks and a Freeman of the Haberdashers.

His charity commitments include serving as Chairman of Barts Guild and of the Friends of St Margaret Pattens and as a Trustee of the Central Fund for the Homeless.

Chris is a member of the Carlton, Brooks's and Bucks Clubs in London and a member of the Leander Rowing Club in Henley-on-Thames. He is an Honorary Bencher of the Inner Temple and an Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of London. He is also a member of the Order of St John.

Chris is a Non-Executive Director of a number of private companies in the commercial property, public affairs and infrastructure sectors.

The Under Warden Stephen Osborne



Born in Cuckfield, East Sussex. I currently live in Eastbourne, with Brighton & Hove being my home city. I lived for many years in the county town of Lewes.

A Chartered Governance Professional and prior to my retirement I was employed by Lewes District Council and Eastbourne Borough Council as a Principal Accountant, having spent most of my career in local government financial services. I am an Associate member of the Chartered Governance Institute (formerly Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators), the Institute of Financial Accountants and the Institute of Public Accountants.

I 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. I am a Court Assistant and former Honorary Editor of the company's annual journal Integrity.

A Court Assistant and a Director of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London. I was for several years Honorary Editor of the annual Journal The Freeman. A member of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and a Trustee of the Guild of Freemen Charity.

A member of the City Livery Club and a Director and member of the governing Council and 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.

A Freeman and Burgess of the City of Glasgow and a member of the Master Court of the Incorporation of Wrights in Glasgow. I am currently the Late Collector and subject to election, I will, in September 2023, become Deacon of the Incorporation of Wrights in Glasgow. I am trustee of Trades House Glasgow and a member of the Glasgow North Parish Washing Green Society.

I have a long-standing interest in London and the 'City' and its colourful history. My 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.

I am a member of English Heritage, National Trust for Scotland, Historic Royal Palaces and Sussex Wildlife Trust. I also enjoy membership of the Brighton Royal Pavilion and Museums Foundation and I have interests in several other Brighton & Hove-based organisations. I enjoy walking the South Downs and the highlands of Scotland. Foreign travel, especially to more remote parts of the world, has been one of my leisure passions since a young man and I am actively pursuing these interests now that I have retired.

Fifty Years of Membership

The following members celebrated fifty years of membership in the Guild of Freemen of the City of London at the end of 2022

Mr P Davis
Mr PRW Cox
Mr Peter Smart
Mr TB Willcox
Mr K Colman
Mr JH Berman
Mr JC Trice
Mr HW Kingsbury
Mr GA Sklar
Mr AB Woodd
Mr HG Gould OBE JP DL
FCA
Mr PAL Browning AMBIM
Dr K Chapman MB
ChB(Edin) FRCOG
Mr EA Seabrook
Mr EW King

Mr AS Jenkins
Mr M Jacobs
Mr TWE Munns
Reverend Canon J Ovenden
Sir Clive H Martin OBE TD
DL
Mr B Dorn
Mr TW Tofield
Mr JP Attridge
Mr GR Rudge
Mr HRJ Simpson
Dr S Chakravorti
MRCS(Eng) LRCP DIH
Mr B Colman
Mr Anthony Tomkins MA,
CEng, MIET, MBCS
Mr RK Stowe

Mr JG Harris MA FIH
Mr JF Wilkinson CEng
MIEE
Mr BV Clark
Mr LH Carson
Mr CG Ring
Mr SP Cohen
Mr N Macdonald
Mr JS Telfer
Lady Gadsden
Mr LR Roe
Mr DM Green
Mr PJS Allington OBE BSc
CEng MIEE
Mr TR Binstead
Mr JL Treves
Mr MK Elkington

Mr DR Macmichael MInstM
Mr TE Aldiss
Mr RA Downing
Mr TE Maltby
Mrs E Dray
Mr CP Fairweather
Mr JC Harris CBE DL MA
LLM
Dr CJD Dunstan MA BChir
Mr WB Fraser OBE
Sir Ian Lawson Bt
Mr G Bareham
Mr RW Parker
Mr S Brown
Mr AW Howell FCA
Mr G Williams
Mr Brian Winston OBE

Events Programme for 2023

Wednesday 25 January 6.00pm Event No. 1
Installation of the Master and Wardens
Dress: Blazer / Jacket & Tie

Wednesday 15 February 7pm Event No. 2
Dinner at Innholders' Hall
Dress: Black Tie

Innholders Hall is the setting for the First Dinner of our new Master, Chris Walton. The Master's guest speaker is Lt Isobel (Izzy) Rawlinson, Royal Navy, who has served as a Warfare Officer on board Ballistic Missile submarines.

Tuesday 7 March 11.30am, 11:45am, 1pm and 2.30pm
Event Nos. 3a / 3b / 3c and 3d
Lunch and Tours of the Reform Club
Dress: Blazer / Jacket & Tie

The Club was founded in 1836 for the benefit of those Radicals and Whigs pledging support for the Great Reform Act of 1832 who subsequently developed the Club as the political headquarters of the Liberal Party.

Friday 24 March 10.45am Event No. 4
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.

Friday 24 March 12:30pm Event No. 5
Lunch at Plaisterers' Hall afterwards
Dress: Suit / Jacket & Tie

Plasterers' Hall is offering a three-course lunch with wines and a glass or port after the United Guild's Service. Members are welcome to attend the lunch even if you have not been able to attend the Service.

Thursday 30 March 12 noon Event No. 6
The Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch
Dress: Suit/Jacket & Tie

The Master will be supporting The Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch at London's Guildhall. The lunch supports members of Her Majesty's Armed Forces and Veterans. Tickets include unlimited curry, beer and wine in the Great Hall.

Tuesday 18 April 7.30pm Event No. 7
Reception and Dinner at Goldsmiths' Hall
Dress: Black Tie

The Goldsmiths' Company is the fifth of the Great Twelve Livery Companies. The Hall land was purchased in 1339 and the Hall has been in the exclusive use of the Company ever since. The Master's guest speaker is Rebecca Smith, an international professional footballer.

Wednesday 26 April 2pm Event No. 8
Visit to the Royal Parks Nursery in Hyde Park
Dress: Jacket & Tie

Robert Dowling, the nursery manager will be guiding us through the various greenhouses, explaining how they look after the plants grown for the Royal Parks and Palaces.

Wednesday 26 April 4:15pm Event No. 9
Traditional Afternoon Tea at the RAF Club
Dress: Suit/Jacket & Tie

Join the Master and Sally for a traditional afternoon tea in the splendour of the RAF Club's President's room.

Thursday 27 April 6pm Event No. 10
Annual Service: The King's Chapel of the Savoy
Dress: Suit/Jacket & Tie

A Chapel Royal and the chapel of His Majesty the King. The King's Chaplain will be joined by our Honorary Chaplain.

Thursday 27 April 6.45pm Event No. 11
Reception after the Annual Service
Dress: Suit/Jacket & Tie

Our Annual Service will be followed by a wine and canapé reception in the Chapel, or if the weather permits, the Chapel's Garden. Members not attending the service are welcome to attend the reception.

Wednesday 10 May 3pm Event No. 12
Traditional Afternoon Tea at the RAF Club
See Event No. 9 for details

Wednesday 10 May 5pm Event No.13
Visit to the Royal Parks Nursery in Hyde Park
See Event No.8 for details

Tuesday 16 May 6pm Event No.14
Dinner and talk at the Frontline Club
Dress: Smart casual

The Frontline Club is a gathering place for journalists, photographers and other like-minded people interested in international affairs. The Master has secured Vaughan Smith, founder of the Frontline Club as the speaker.

Monday 22 May 5:30pm Event No. 15
Saint-Émilion Wine Tasting
Dress: Suit/Jacket & Tie

Join the Master at Tallow Chandlers' Hall for a tutored tasting of the wines from the Saint-Émilion region led by Dr Gerald Sacks, Chancellor of the Jurade de Saint-Émilion for London and the South.

Tuesday 6 June 6.30pm Event No. 16
Visit and Buffet Supper at the College of Arms
Dress: Suit/Jacket & Tie

This ever-popular annual event comprises a fascinating tour of the College of Arms by William Hunt the research assistant to John Petrie, Windsor Herald. The tour will conclude with a light buffet supper with wine.

Thursday 15 June 6pm Event No. 17
City Walk and Supper
Dress: Casual

Led by Peter Tompkins, a Past Master of the Wax Chandlers Company, the walk will take us along Fleet Street, where we will explore some of the nooks and crannies dotted around the former centre of the newsprint industry and the chambers of the legal fraternity. The event is hosted at no charge, but Peter has asked for a donation (suggested as no less than £12 per person) toward the Lord Mayor's Charity Appeal.

Wednesday 21 June 7pm Event No. 18
Reception and Dinner Australia House
Dress: Black Tie

The Master is in discussions to hold a dinner in the Exhibition Hall of the Australian High Commission. Built during WW1 with 1,200 tons of Australian marble, the Hall was the set for Gringotts Wizarding Bank in the Harry Potter movies. In view of the recent signing of the Trade Agreement and the Aukus Agreement, it is hoped that the speaker will be the Australian High Commissioner. As an alternative, the dinner will be held at Apothecaries' Hall.

Tuesday 4 July 6pm Event No. 19
City Walk and Supper
Dress: Casual

Once again, this walk will be led by Peter Tompkins. The event is hosted at no charge, but Peter has asked for a donation (suggested as no less than £12 per person) toward the Lord Mayor's Charity Appeal. See Event No.17 for full details

Events Programme for 2023

Monday 10 July 11am Event No. 20

Tour of Spencer House

Dress: Blazer/Jacket & Tie

The Master is pleased to invite you to Spencer House, the only great 18th century town house to survive intact. Built between 1756 and 1766 by John Vardy and James 'Athenian' Stuart for the first Earl Spencer, an ancestor of Diana, Princess of Wales, Spencer House boasts the first neo-classical interiors in Europe.

Tuesday 5 Saturday to 9 September Event No. 21

Holiday in Tuscany

Dress: Smart casual

Details will be sent to those attending the holiday. The trip will be based in the medieval hilltop town of Montalcino which is set within the fortified walls and boasting a fine castle. Sadly, being a hilltop town, this trip is not suitable for those with mobility difficulties. The streets are uneven and there are a significant number of steep steps. Neither the Hotel nor its neighbouring rooms have a lift facility. Please ensure you have travel insurance.

Sunday 24 September 10:30am Event No. 22

Sheep Drive, Southwark Bridge

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

Following the success of previous year's Sheep Drives the Master is hopeful of securing spaces for six teams of ten Guild members each, to again drive their sheep over Southwark Bridge. The cost to participate is £65 per person and all proceeds go to the Lord Mayor's Appeal and the Woolmens' Charitable Trust.

Sunday 24 September 1pm Event No. 23

Lunch after the Sheep Drive

Dress: Casual

The Master invites all members and especially those who have taken part in the Sheep Drive to join him for a pub lunch afterwards at The Banker. Enjoy a three-course lunch with wine, beer or soft drink.

Wednesday 11 October 7.30pm Event No. 24

Dinner at Carpenters' Hall

Dress: Black Tie

The Carpenters' Company has had a Hall on London Wall since 1429. About 1520, the land was bequeathed to the Company by its then Master, Thomas Smart. The current Hall was built following an air raid in 1941 that practically destroyed the 1880 Hall and at least 18 different kinds of wood were used.

Wednesday 25 October 7.30pm Event No. 25

Dinner at Mosimann's Private Dining Club

Dress: Lounge suit / Jacket without a tie Ladies: Cocktail

Mosimann's is one of the most prestigious private dining clubs in the world. Founded by Anton Mosimann OBE, the youngest chef to attain 2 Michelin stars.

Tuesday 7 November 6:30pm Event No. 26

A virtual talk about Breakspear

Our Renter Warden Adrian Waddingham CBE will be giving a ZOOM talk about the life of Adrian IV: the only English pope in the history of the Church. Donations to the Guild account before 27th October with reference 'Pope charity'.

Saturday 11 November 10.30am Event No. 27

Lord Mayor's Show

Dress: Smart casual or Jacket & Tie

This is your opportunity to welcome the new Lord Mayor to his City and to watch this historic pageant. There is no grandstand seating, so we suggest gathering at the West wing entrance to Guildhall Yard.

Saturday 11 November 12.30pm Event No. 28

Lunch after The Lord Mayor's Show

Dress: Jacket & Tie

After the Lord Mayor's Show there will be a delicious four-course lunch with wine in the exclusive Members' Private Dining Room at Guildhall.

Thursday 16 November 6.30pm Event No. 29

Visit and Buffet Supper at the College of Arms

Dress: Suit/Jacket & Tie

See Event No.16 for details

Tuesday 21 November 6:30pm Event No. 30

A Virtual Talk about Queen Victoria

Guild Member Garry Wykes is a retired Jewel House Warden at the Tower, who will take you on a fascinating journey through Queen Victoria's long and eventful reign. Garry has asked for a donation to St Joseph's Hospice in East London. Please send your donation to the Guild before 17th November using the reference 'St Joseph'.

Friday 1 December 6pm Event No. 31

Annual Banquet - Guildhall

Dress: White Tie preferred but Black Tie is acceptable

The most glittering event of the Guild's calendar is the Annual Banquet in the magnificent medieval surroundings of Guildhall. At the time of going to press the guest speaker is yet to be announced. After a sparkling reception in the Old Library there will be a sumptuous four-course dinner accompanied by excellent wines.

Monday 12 December 6.30pm Event No. 32

Carol Service at St Stephen Walbrook

Dress: Suit

St Stephen Walbrook is the Lord Mayor's Parish church. One of Sir Christopher Wren's masterpieces, built in 1674 with the magnificent round altar table sculpted by Sir Henry Moore at its centre. There will be refreshments in the church afterwards, this year catered by The Cook and The Butler.

CITY EVENTS 2023

Inter Livery Charity Clay Shoot – 17th and 18th May

<https://www.interliveryshoot.com>

Inter-Livery Yacht Club Regatta - 19th and 20th May

For further information, email: clubsec@clyc.co.uk

City Beerfest Guildhall Yard – 6th July 12:30pm

<https://www.citybeerfest.org>

Cart Marking Ceremony Guildhall Yard – 22nd July

<https://thecarmen.co.uk/events/cart-marking-and-lunch/>

Sheriff's Ball – 22nd September Dress: White or Black Tie

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

City Giving Day – 26th September

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

The Grand Finale – 2nd November

email: events@thelordmayorsappeal.org

Red Cross Christmas Market 27th and 28th November

<https://www.redcross.org.uk>

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

COURT MEETINGS 2023

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

Wednesday 15th February 2023

Tuesday 18th April 2023

Wednesday 21st June 2023

Wednesday 11th October 2023

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.

Acknowledgements

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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 473164

The Guild wishes to credit additional photography to:

City of London Corporation, Steven Morson, Kate Pink, City of York Gild of Freemen, The Diamond Light Source, 253 (London) Provost Company, The Bishop of London, The Worshipful Company of Security Professionals, Janet Bridden and Colin MacDonald.

Guild Information

Did you know that your Spouse/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.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR

2023

The Annual General Meeting will be held at

Carpenters' Hall

at 6 pm

11th October 2023

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 Freemen

From the Honorary Editor

Steven Morson



This edition of The Freeman continues to set the new Master's Address at the front of the journal, with the Immediate Past Master's Address later on.

The journal is still a reflection of the year enjoyed by John Garbutt and his wife Solangela, who have created such wonderful occasions for us all to enjoy.

I hope the reports will inspire many more of you to enjoy the events that are on offer each year.

I would like to thank everyone who has written articles and offered photographs for this edition of the journal.

I am extremely grateful to our Clerk, Kate Pink and Assistant Clerk, Martin Budds, who have supported me so well.

A special thank you also goes to my excellent proof-reading team of Kate Pink, Ann Bessey, Dorothy Saul-Pooley, Ann-Marie Jefferys and Frances Golland.

I was asked to reduce this edition of The Freeman to forty pages, as we came very close to paying an extra rate of postage last time. By reducing the copy and amount of pictures I hope that it has not detracted from the journal and you may still enjoy the content.

We are always on the look-out for advertising in The Freeman. So if anyone is aware of companies or individuals who are interested in advertising in this journal, please ask them to get in touch with the Clerk.

Masters of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London

Centenary Master 2008-2009

HRH The Princess Royal

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

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