



*A Company Limited by Guarantee*

# The Guild of Freemen of the City of London

*Patron*  
**THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE LORD MAYOR**

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## NEWSLETTER

July 2025

### A message from the Master:

Dear Member,

At our Dinner in Haberdashers' Hall on 30<sup>th</sup> June I launched the on-line auction to raise funds for our charity. Thanks to our kind donors we have already raised £2,500. **The auction closes on Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> July so do take a look.** We have added an option for those who would like to support our charity without bidding. You can use the Custom field to donate £40, to make a gift-aided contribution to the Guild's charity: with tax relief this will be worth £50.

I am already half-way through my year as Master and have been delighted with your support at our events and grateful for it. I have been pleased to meet members, and I hope to meet many more before the climax to our year, the **Annual Banquet on December 5<sup>th</sup>** (do remember to book – it is always popular).

Before then we have a visit on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September to an architectural gem - Royal Holloway College** in Englefield Green (near Egham). Thomas Holloway made a fortune selling 'pills'. Efficacious or not they made his fortune and, being childless, and encouraged by his wife, founded a college for young ladies amidst 135 leafy acres and opened by Queen Victoria in 1886. Part of London University, its red-



brick and stone Grade 1 listed building is modelled on the Château de Chambord. Pevsner called it 'the most ebullient Victorian building in the Home Counties' – the summit of Victorian design. The Times called it 'Britain's most remarkable university building'. The visit includes lunch and a guided tour of its important picture collection. Here is the booking [link](#).

We will be able to offer anyone travelling by train collection and return lifts.

The **Dinner at Trinity House on 27 October** will be a fun occasion. I have been plugging 'numbers' this year (I can't help it - I am an actuary) and at Trinity House we will hold a debate. A retired Old Bailey Judge will argue that letters have done more for civilisation than numbers, and I will reply on behalf of numbers. Your votes will decide whether letters or numbers win. In less formal mode, there will be a **fish-and chip supper quiz night at the Guildhall Club to mark on Lancashire Day on 25<sup>th</sup> November**.

I know that not all of our members find travelling to evening events in the City easy so I am hosting a **lunch at Mercers' Hall on 3<sup>rd</sup> November**. The Mercers Company, Number One in the City Livery hierarchy, will allow most of us to have a tour of their Hall, the only one with its own chapel.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as Master this year - I do appreciate it.

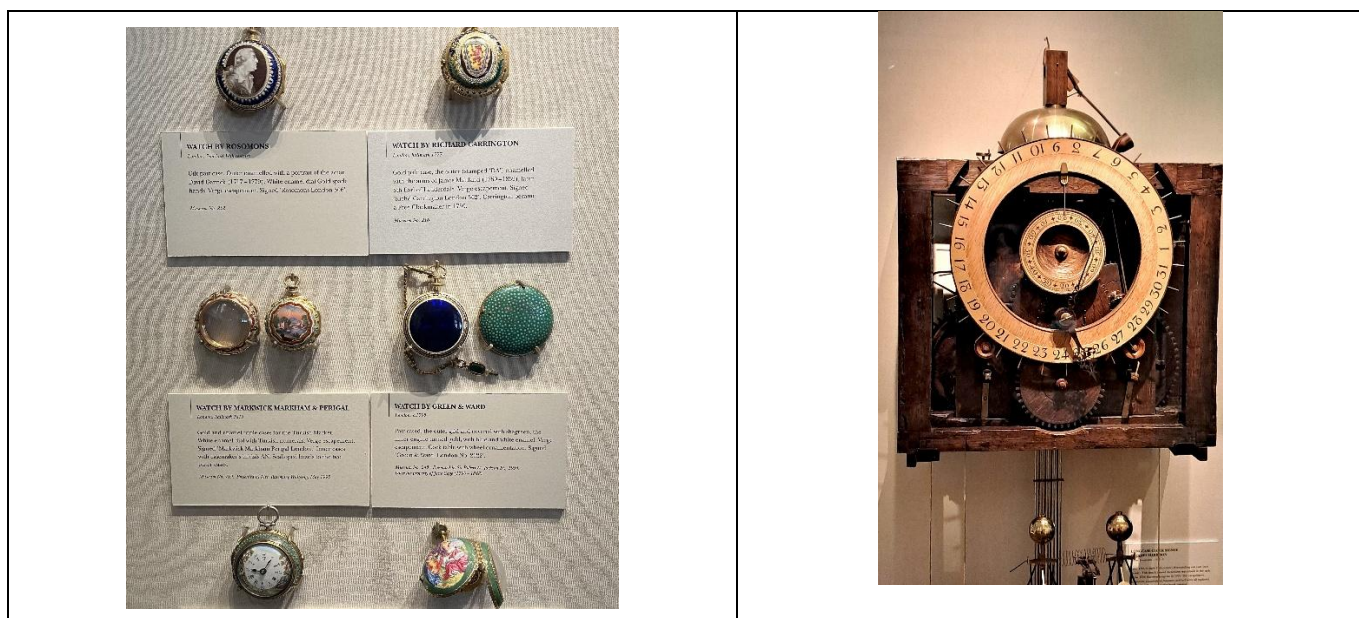
Best wishes for the coming summer break.

Adrian  
Adrian Waddingham CBE  
Master of the Guild of Freeman 2025

Since the last newsletter members have attended a guided tour of the Clock Makers collection at the Science Museum as well as a tour of Forman & Sons fish smokery. Forman's are kindly offering all **Guild members a 15% discount on their delicious goods that can be ordered from [www.formanandfield.com](http://www.formanandfield.com)** The code to enter for the discount is GFM15. It expires at the end of August.

We also had a very enjoyable time at the Master's black-tie dinner at Haberdashers' Hall despite the temperature (over 33 degrees) and watching the ancient Cart Marking ceremony and parade of vehicles at Guildhall last weekend. Whilst wet it was fun and everyone enjoyed the lunch in the Great Hall that followed. Angela Waddingham repeated her walk around Battersea on another sweltering day and Past Master Peter Tomkins led another walk around the City looking at modern buildings. Owing to Guild member Shane Sullivan being a member of the Manorial Society, members were also able to attend a dinner at the House of Lords.

Below are a few photos from those events.







How to carve a smoked salmon demonstration



Before dinner we welcomed 15 new members to the Guild including Commander Peter Gracey, Clerk to the Engineers



Dr Jonathan Mead, former Clerk to the Horners' Company



Haberdashers' Courtyard



Members Paul Williams and Jola Krecichwost-Kudzio speaking with Senior Past Mast Terry Nemko





Master Haberdasher and former Lord Mayor, Sir William Russell speaks on the Hall.



Past Master Wax Chandeler Peter Tomkins presents some amazing statistics on the work of the RNLI

As you can see, many gentlemen took up the offer to remove jackets owing to the heat



Harvey and Thelma Sillis on the Terrace at The House of Lords

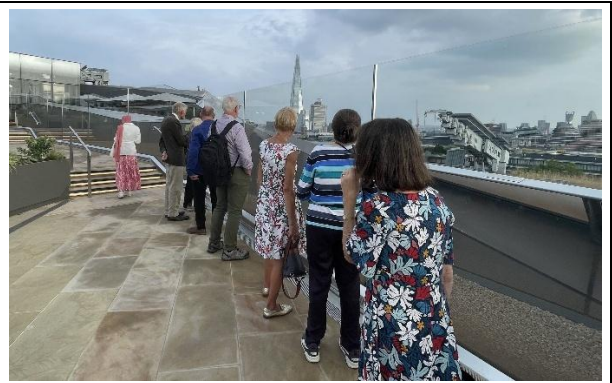


Pam Lorainne, Geraldine Gray and Angela the Master's wife find their seats at the House of Lords dinner



Members enjoying lunch at Guildhall following the Cart Marking





Left: members at no. 1 New Change before taking the lift to the rooftop (above) to admire the skyline of buildings ancient and modern.

The Master has already mentioned future events and we look forward to seeing many of you at Trinity House or Mercers' or at the Banquet.



## Guild News

**FACEBOOK** - Following the announcement that we are back on Facebook, I'm aware that some have struggled to find the page. You must use **The** Guild of Freeman of the City of London and not Guild of Freeman here is a direct link to the page: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1FYePPxnLZ/> Please "Like" and follow the new page.

When posting photographs on Facebook of Guild events that you attend it will help the popularity of the new page if you could tag the Guild by using "@The Guild Of Freeman of The City Of London" **please.**

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We very much appreciate your swift payment for events once the allocation letters have been sent, however, there is no need to advise that you have paid. Rest assured we'll be chasing those who haven't before the event!

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It is not too late to make a donation, should you wish to Court Assistant **Keith Bottomley** and Alderman **Robert Hughes Penny** Shrieval Chain Appeals. **Both are Guild members.**

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The Guild will be running a second hand book stall at the **Red Cross Christmas Fair** and we need Guild members to either donate their books to the stall or to volunteer their time to help run the stall, especially on opening night Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December, but help on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> would also be welcomed.

In addition, early bird tickets for the Guildhall Christmas Market are available on sale [here](#).

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## **CITY NEWS and other EVENTS**

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September: The Sheriffs' Great Gatsby Ball – [more information here](#)**

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### **Sunday 21st September: The LSO Livery concert and Reception**

Alderman Sir Andrew Parmley and Graham Barker, Past Master of The Worshipful Company of Arts Scholars, are delighted to invite you and your family and/or associates to the London Symphony Orchestra's Annual City Livery Concert and Reception on Sunday 21 September 2025.

Conducted by LSO Chief Conductor Sir Antonio Pappano, the concert will begin with Benjamin Britten's *Violin Concerto* performed by Janine Jansen, a work characterised by its virtuosic demands on the soloist. The evening will conclude with Dmitri Shostakovich's *Symphony No 10*, a grand, powerful work that was premiered shortly after Stalin's death, and was coined as Shostakovich's "testament of misery, forever damning a tyrant" by Russian soprano, Galina Vishnevskaya.

The concert will start at 7pm. During the interval, you are warmly invited to attend a reception with your fellow Liverymen and Freemen.

Tickets cost £65 per person, and can be booked using [this link](#) (Group tickets for 10 or more are available at £55 per person contact: [rsvp@lso.co.uk](mailto:rsvp@lso.co.uk)) If you have any special access requirements email [development@lso.co.uk](mailto:development@lso.co.uk)

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### **Pepys Day 2025 – Guided tours - 5<sup>th</sup> September**

In September 1666 the Great Fire of London swept through the City. Man-about-town Samuel Pepys witnessed and recorded the events of that extraordinary week. The fire started at 1.00am on September 2nd and by mid-morning Pepys was writing about it in his diary. The fire was put out on September 6th and we are marking this as Pepys Day.

There is so much more to Samuel Pepys and his Diary than that one fateful week in September. His diary covers just over nine years and the tours, with an official City of London Guide, will include much about him, his life and exploits and the times in which he lived as well as key moments from the Great Fire.

There are four different walk routes. Two routes start from the Monument on Fish Street Hill, both end inside The Royal Exchange. Two further walks start from The Royal Exchange in the afternoon and will head south down to the river, as well as west towards Fleet Street.

Tickets cost £20.00 plus booking fee, includes a voucher to redeem at Engel for refreshments, and the event supports the Lord Mayor's Appeal

Book your tickets here: <http://bit.ly/44wYbSG>

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Bistro 1365 at Founders' Hall – [link here](#)

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### **A goodbye from the Assistant Clerk**

A little note from me to say thank you so much for welcoming me as your Assistant Clerk. I am sorry it has been so short but I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know you and will miss our encounters greatly.

I wish you and the Guild well for the future, and I am sure I will bump into many of you again.

Abbie

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*Wishing everyone an enjoyable summer break.*

*I will be away from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August returning to the office on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September.*

*Julie who is providing interim cover as assistant to the Clerk will be away from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August returning to the office on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September. Julie's working days are generally Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.*

*We'll send another newsletter after the Master's next holiday, so around mid-October.*

*with best wishes,*

*Kate*

**Clerk to the Guild**