



NEWSLETTER

November 2025

Dear Guild Member

Here are some of the fantastic things we've been up to in the last few weeks:

SOUTHERN LAKES VISIT – 28th September - 2nd October

Guild members travelled north for the Master's Holiday in the beautiful southern Lake District, staying on the shores of Lake Windermere.



Lake Windermere

With fine weather and excellent company, members enjoyed a varied programme in the Lakes. Highlights included: the Jetty Museum at Windermere; historic Town End at Troutbeck; and Blackwell, a superb example of an Arts and Crafts house.

We enjoyed dinner at the Windermere Power Boat Club. Visits followed to Cartmel Priory, the Lakeland Motor Museum and the outstanding Levens Hall, where members toured the house and gardens before enjoying Prosecco and dinner.

The final day featured visits to Stott Park Bobbin Mill and Wordsworth's Dove Cottage, and lunch in Grasmere. A very interesting talk by Guild geologist Mike Bridden and a farewell dinner rounded off a great trip in the beautiful Lake District.



Town End



Levens Hall



Beautiful Sunset in the Lakes



Powerboat Museum Terrace

SHEEP DRIVE – 28th September 2025

Over seventy members exercised their ancient right to drive sheep across London Bridge, joining Freeman from across the City in this much-loved annual event. As always, the atmosphere was festive, with visitors, farmers and Freeman all sharing in the spirit of the day. The event continues to raise funds for the Woolmen's Charity and other worthy causes, and the Guild was well represented both on the bridge and at the accompanying Wool Fair.



LADY MAYOR'S SHOW – 8th November 2025

The Lady Mayor's Show took place on 8th November 2025 and was, as always, one of the most colourful highlights of the City's calendar. The Master rode in a Landau carriage with three other city institutions, proudly representing our place among the many City organisations and Livery Companies.

Members turned out in great numbers to cheer from the sidelines, and many joined together afterwards for a convivial post-parade lunch at Guildhall. It was a wonderful day filled with tradition, ceremony, and good cheer.



Master Adrian Waddington and The Right Honourable Lady Mayor Dame Susan Langley DBE with L/Cpl French, our Soldier of the Year from 253 (London) Provost Company, our military affiliation.

LOOKING AHEAD

With the Autumn calendar in full swing, members can look forward to a busy few weeks. We have a Lancashire Day quiz, which is sure to bring out a friendly rivalry between ourselves and the Guild of Young Freemen, and against other Liveries. We also look forward to the inter-Livery carol service being held at St Martin-within-Ludgate and a very special event in the Guild's calendar - our December Banquet at Mansion House, taking place in the magnificent Egyptian Hall. We have extremely limited availability; please check the Guild website for booking details.

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2026

We are delighted to share details of the upcoming year of our Master Elect, Stephen Osborne. Here are a few details of the packed programme he has planned:

Black Tie dinners

Black Tie dinners to follow all Court meetings starting with the Installation Ceremony:

Saddlers' Hall - Monday 26th January

Tallows' Hall – Monday 27th April

Armourers' & Brasiers' Hall – Wednesday 8th July

Cutlers' Hall – Tuesday 27th October

Sussex by the Sea Weekend: 15th – 18th June 2026 (3 Nights)

Looking for inspiration from his home County, whose famous residents have included (amongst others), AA Milne and Sir Paul McCartney, Stephen has planned a fantastic break in East Sussex to include a very special Banquet at The Royal Pavilion, Brighton.

Holiday in Slovenia: 14th – 18th September 2026 (4 nights)

Arrangements for the Guild holiday in Slovenia are well under way, and it is sure to be extremely popular. Members will be staying in a local family-owned hotel near the shores of Lake Bled.

Toronto, Canada: 30th April – 5th May 2026 (5 Nights)

On Saturday 2 May 2026, the Master Elect will attend the Annual Banquet of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London of North America. The event will take place at the prestigious King Edward Hotel in Toronto.

Any Guild member who is interested in joining the Banquet in Toronto is very welcome to do so.

Other notable Events:

- A Glasgow weekend
- Lunch at The Clink
- A visit to a well-established family brewery

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

The Guild will be running a second-hand book stall at the Red Cross Christmas Fair on Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th December, and we need Guild members to donate their books to the stall.

Please contact: ajmitchelhill@gmail.com

CITY NEWS and other EVENTS

WELLBEING FOR WOMEN CHRISTMAS FAIR - Monday 1st December

Continuing the Christmas theme, tickets for the Wellbeing for Women Christmas Fair which takes place at Drapers' Hall are now available together, with further information: at <https://www.citychristmasfair.com/>

THE CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS' COMPANY CITY PROSTATE CHARITY WEBSITE

The Chartered Accountants' Company have created a website to draw attention to a disease that they support. Please do take a look at their new website.

<https://www.cityprostatecancerties.com/>

BISTRO 365 AT FOUNDERS' HALL

This ever-popular bistro is now sold out for the remainder of 2025, but fear not, new dates have now been announced for 2026 – please click on the link below:

[Bistro 1365 - 2025 SOLD OUT! 2026 Dates Announced!](#)

GILD OF YORK ANNUAL BANQUET – Saturday 21st March 2026

Members are warmly invited to attend the banquet being held in the Oak Room, The Milner Hotel, York. Tickets are £60 per person. Please email the attached form to:

Hornby.steven@yahoo.co.uk

And, finally, for those of you whom we do not see in person before Christmas, we wish you a truly special festive period.

Merry Christmas!



With best wishes,
Kate, Julie and Christine