



*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 September 2025

### A message from the Master:

Dear Member,

The highlight of the Guild's year is our popular December Banquet, and this year will take place at Mansion House. The Guild has not dined there for some time and the Lady Mayor, Dame Sue Langley (subject to election at the end of this month), has kindly given her permission for our banquet to be held in the magnificent Egyptian Room. The Lady Mayor has also accepted our invitation to dine with us.



Our guest speaker is The Lord Lisvane KCB DL, Robert Rogers. Lord Lisvane, a crossbench peer, who served as Clerk to the House of Commons from October 2011 until August 2014. Born in Cardiff, Robert attended Tonbridge School before going to Lincoln College, Oxford, where he studied Old Norse, Old English, and medieval Welsh but he will address us in English on the night.

As well as representing Oxford University at cricket, hockey and real tennis, Robert also captained Lincoln College in the series of University Challenge broadcast in 1970, reaching the semi-final.

Lord Lisvane is a Liveryman Skinner and well used to City affairs.

Some 200 places have already been taken, and early booking is the best way to ensure that you do not miss the fun.

Adrian Waddingham CBE

Master of the Guild of Freeman 2025

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*Please bear with us! Interim assistant Julie and Christine your previous Clerk are doing a fantastic job supporting me now that Abbie has moved on. However, they are both part time and both have holidays booked. Additionally, Julie is joining her husband in Hong Kong from mid-December and will be away most of October, arranging their accommodation in HK. I hope to have some other part time assistance but like anyone new, they will need to learn the ropes.*

*We are actively looking to recruit a new full-time assistant who needs to have superb attention to detail, a love of administration, experience in bookkeeping, the ability to prioritise and juggle multiple tasks and must be prepared to work from the office as well as, at times, from home. If you know anyone suitable, please contact me. Thank you - Kate*

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And hot off the press: Guild Assistant, Keith Bottomley held his Shrieval Chain ceremony today.

Congratulations – Keith some of us will be there on Friday to see you and Alderman Hughes Penny take up office as Sheriffs.





We 'hit the ground running' on return from the summer break with a fascinating visit to the Society of Antiquaries on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. We learned of the Society's history and were fortunate to view many of the *City* related books and illustrations in their library as well as Henry III's actual Magna Carta of 1225'. If you want to learn more about the evolution of the Charter and its present day significance, think about attending a lecture at the Old Bailey on October 30<sup>th</sup>, in the series Justice for All - 800 Years of Justice: Magna Carta to UN SDG 16. (<https://justiceseries.org/>)

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## ROYAL HOLLOWAY COLLEGE

The following week we had an equally interesting, guided tour of the Master's university, Royal Holloway College, one of the first colleges for the education of women only. Its Chapel is a masterpiece of renaissance revival and as impressive as the college buildings modelled on the Château de Chambord, only much bigger (over 500 chimney pots). The painting collection holds many canvasses. Our guides were informative and enthusiastic; it was a shame that the tube strike meant that fewer people than had booked were able to attend.



The Chapel Ceiling



A small section of the North Quad





Frith's Railway Station

We also held the second visit to the Clockmakers' Museum which again fascinated all who attended and will also be repeated next year to allow those who weren't fortunate to obtain places this year to so do.

Next weekend some 60+ Guild members will be exercising their right to drive sheep across a London bridge whilst some 45+ others will be attending the Master's holiday in the southern Lake District.

In October we have lunch at the Westminster Catering College, a black tie dinner at Trinity House and in November the splendour of the Lord Mayor's Show with a special lunch for members following the parade at Guildhall, lunch at Mercers' Hall and the opportunity for Guild members to win the quiz against other some other invited Liveries at the Master's marking of Lancashire Day, and then it's the Banquet! **NB:** *anyone who has already applied for Banquet tickets, has those places. The allocation letters will be sent out at the end of October / early November.* We finish off the year with a Carol Service and traditional Christmas lunch.

All events can be booked on our website. Book now to avoid disappointment.

## Guild News

I'm sorry to report that Sir Robert Worchester has passed away, an obituary appeared in The Times and a shorter obituary will be in next year's Freeman Journal. For those of you who knew Tony Appleton, he has also sadly passed away. His funeral will be held at 2pm Mon 29 Sep 2025 at Basingstoke Crematorium.

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## BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

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.

Please let me know if you can help.

Early bird tickets for the Fair are available [here](#).

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Whilst mentioning Christmas, Guild cards are ready for order along with all our other merchandise, if you're starting to think of presents; including our bespoke slippers – the latter need to be ordered by 3<sup>rd</sup> October.



## CITY NEWS and other EVENTS

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December** - Continuing the Christmas theme, tickets for the Well Being for Women Christmas Fair that takes place at Drapers' Hall are now available together with further information at <https://www.citychristmasfair.com/>

**8th October: the Lord Mayors Fight Night at Guildhall.** A London vs New York black tie charity dinner raising funds for:

- The Lord Mayor's Appeal, which in turn supports homelessness and mental health charities
- The Firefighters Charity
- Grassroots boxing clubs and their youth clubs/outreach programs

Tables and individual tickets can be bought directly [here](#).

This event sadly clashes with another fundraising initiative for the Sheriff's and Recorders' fund:



**THE OLD BAILEY CHOIR**  
presents  
**BY THE WATERS EDGE**



at  
**The Old Bailey Grand Hall**  
on  
**Wednesday 8 October 2025 at 6:30pm**



**Baritone: JAMES STOREY**  
**Conductor: ANDREW STOREY**

**ADMISSION BY TICKET**  
[www.oldbaileychoir.com](http://www.oldbaileychoir.com)

**£20 per ticket**

**All profits go towards The Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund**

[www.oldbaileychoir.com](http://www.oldbaileychoir.com)

**30<sup>th</sup> October, 800 Years of Justice - Magna Carta to UN SDG 16**

Guild member and Sheriff Elect, Alderman Robert Hughes-Penney is organising five events at Old Bailey during his year as Sheriff. The first one, on 30 Oct, will focus on 800 years of justice since the Magna Carta.

**The Justice for All Series** is a year-long programme of high-level events that will bring together leaders from the legal, political, corporate, and civic sectors to examine the urgent challenges facing modern justice systems and the investment and reform needed to address them; why justice for all makes economic sense.

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**And**, if you are looking for lunch in the City, consider **Bistro 1365 at Founders' Hall**

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*I look forward to seeing you at our events and / or at the Guild AGM on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October.*

*with best wishes,*

*Kate*

**Clerk to the Guild**