



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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16TH July 2024

Dear Members,

It has been a busy few weeks, not just for the Master, but for the Guild!

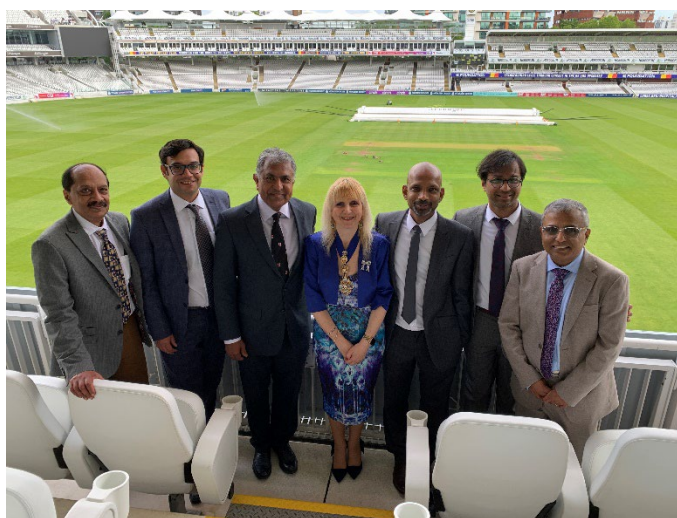
Last week the Master attended Prize Day at City of London Freemen's School. The Guild Charity donates prizes as well as providing bursary support to two pupils. This year's recipients are pictured below with the Master.



In June we had a return visit to the privately owned Allington Castle in Kent. The rain held off and many enjoyed a fascinating tour of the castle, its treasures, and the garden, as well as a delicious lunch in the medieval Great Hall, rounding off the day with a sumptuous cream tea.



Later in the month we had a privileged visit of Lord's Cricket Ground, home of the MMC, and its museum. The famous Ashes are held at the museum, along with an array of other cricket memorabilia including signed bats, numerous trophies and plaques, cups, and other silverware. The view of the immaculate grounds from the President's suite was superb and the visit to the writing room a rare treat. The Master had arranged for singer Cara Bo to entertain us through a delicious cream tea.



From the President's suite



In the writing room





The Lord Mayor, Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli held his Master's weekend in London, with visits to many of the capitals well known and lesser-known attractions, culminating in a dinner at Guildhall.



The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli, the Master and Mark Rutter at Guildhall

June culminated in the Master's dinner held at Girdlers' elegant hall. With fine weather, members were able to enjoy reception drinks in the Hall's garden, followed by a superb meal and equally superb wines, accompanied by the magnificent sound of the tenor Yuri Sabatini. Before the dinner the Guild Court welcomed new members in the traditional joining ceremony.





Despite the rain this past Tuesday, and at times it did rain stair rods, we had an enjoyable visit to Nutbourne Vineyards in West Sussex.

The owner Peter Gladwin (who founded and used to own Party Ingredients) gave a fascinating talk on the growth of UK viniculture and how wine is made at Nutbourne. We then had a particularly good lunch of chalk stream trout, sea bass, both accompanied by vegetables grown at Nutbourne, before a medley of desserts.

Learning about wine in the lodge



The Master and Chris McGee



Geoffrey Scott Baker



Janet and Colin MacDonald



Richard Adkinson



Shane Sullivan aka
Lord of Potter Newton

FUTURE EVENTS

<https://www.guild-freemen-london.co.uk/events>

It's not too early to start thinking about the Guild's flagship event, our **Annual Banquet at Guildhall**, which this year takes place on **Friday 6th December**. We hope to have the full Civic group as well as the usual rousing songs from the London Banqueting ensemble – the Master also has a couple of extra special surprise entertainments for the evening. If you've not already booked, do so now! <https://www.guild-freemen-london.co.uk/events/home/annual-banquet-6>



Earlier in the autumn, on **8th October**, we have a visit to the **College of Arms** which is absolutely fascinating, so if you've not been before I recommend booking. How often do you get the opportunity to handle manuscripts and books from Medieval and Tudor times and, of course, to learn about heraldry from the real experts.

Later in October, on **Wednesday 16th**, the Master has arranged a **champagne tasting** with a light supper to follow the Court meeting and AGM earlier that day. The evening promises to be educational for the palate as well as fun.

Longer term members will know but newer members may not appreciate how fortunate the Guild is to be able to offer its members lunch on the day of the Lord Mayor's Show (**Saturday 9th November**) in the **Members' Private Dining** room which overlooks Guildhall yard. The lunch itself is always a superb three-course meal with wines as well as a cheese board.

Please note that the **Sheep Drive** is full and we are unable to take any more bookings. If you wish to attend, apply via the website and will place you on the waitlist in the hope that we may be able to obtain further places.

OTHER DATES AND NEWS

Members may well recognise the recently installed Worshipful Mayor of the London Borough of Bromley with the Lady Mayoress.



Past Master Ann-Marie with her husband Dr David Jefferys

Ann-Marie reports that it has made both their lives even busier and they are enjoying the role where it is humbling to visit so many organisations and finding out about the work they do for the community.

Sheriffs' Ball – Guildhall, Friday 20th September, in aid of the Lord Mayor's Appeal

Reception, Dinner, Dancing, a fundraising auction and the legendary DJ – William Bartholomew.

Further information at thelordmayorsappeal.org/sheriffsball2024 and queries to events@thelordmayorsappeal.org or on 020 7332 1582

Don't forget about the Lord Mayor's **Knowledge Miles** lecture series and his **Coffee Colloquies**, full details of both can be found at : [Knowledge Miles: The 695th Lord Mayor's Lecture Series - Gresham Society](#)

And [Lord Mayor's Coffee Colloquies - City of London](#)

There will not be another *newsletter* until September after the Master's holiday in Cyprus, and in mentioning the Master's holiday:

Save the date for 2025, when Adrian Waddingham our Senior Warden will be taking us on a tour of the Southern Lakes: Arrive Sunday 28th September and depart Thursday 2nd October 2025.

Please note that the office will be closed for at least one week in August – probably 12-18th – as my and Abbie's holiday may coincide.

Enjoy the summer if it ever arrives.....

Best wishes,

Kate

Kate Pink

Clerk to the Guild of Freemen of the City of London.