



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 May/June 2025

It has been a busy couple of months and the Master has been particularly busy representing the Guild at special events such as the Speech Day at Christ's Hospital, one of the Guild Charity's affiliated schools, as well as enjoying some more of his events with those members who have attended.



The Master and Renter Warden with fellow Masters and Wardens enjoy a private tour of Westminster Abbey



Christ's Hospital School Speech Day

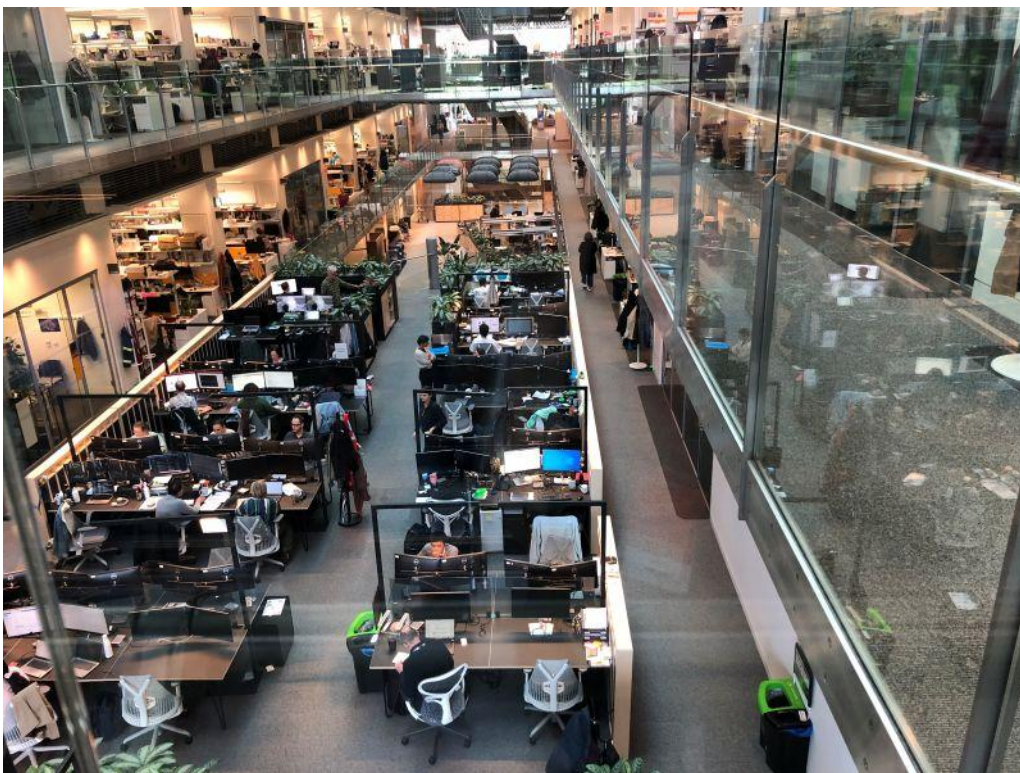
Angela led a walk around the Vauxhall area concluding at Battersea Power Station during the early *heatwave* in April – a full report will appear in next year's Journal so for now, a happy snap of the walkers enjoying ice creams.



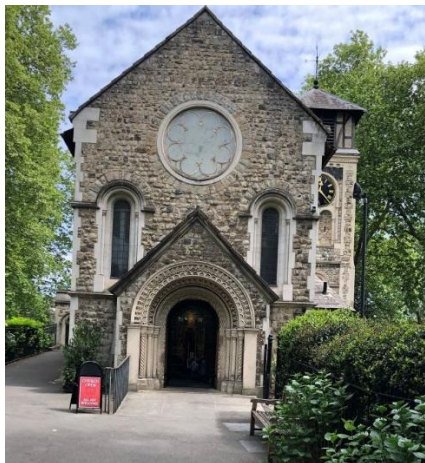
Angela is repeating this fascinating walk on **Thursday 10th July** and there are still some places if you fancy signing up.

Be aware, that you will be on your feet for two hours, so comfortable footwear is a must.

Angela again took the lead following the visit to the Crick Institute, guiding us through the back streets of St Pancras, pointing out some of its historic buildings some of which are now transformed into impressive modern developments. The Crick itself was amazing! Open every day to the scientists and researchers who work there, exchanging ideas and results, working openly and collaboratively; which is reflected in the building's architecture:



Looking down at some of the researchers



St Pancras Church and graveyard – a tranquil space amidst the bustle of the area



Redevelopment!



Those who elected to take the long walk

Future Events

The Master's events continue to be popular, so much so that we can only offer a wait list for the visits to the Antiquaries Society and Clockmakers Museum in September. Things do happen, and people do have to pull out, so if you wish your name to be added to the waiting list, sign up.

It's not too late for the Master's next black tie dinner being held at [Haberdashers' on 30th June.](#)



Do join him and Angela and many of the Court, as well as some new joiners for a 3-course dinner with appropriate wines in this splendid modern Hall designed by Hopkins Architects in 2002. A sequence of vestibules and galleries lead past committee, court and luncheon rooms on a processional route that culminates in the Livery Hall - a contemporary interpretation of a medieval banqueting hall.

Adrian has arranged for Past Master Wax Chandler Peter Tompkins, known to many of you from his excellent guided walks around the City (** see later in this newsletter) to speak to us on his recent work with the RNLI, and for Former Lord Mayor and current Master Haberdasher Sir William Russell to also say a few words – both are excellent speakers. **Book by Monday 9th June.**

Some places are still available for the guided tour of **Formans' Smokehouse and lunch after the tour on 18th June.** If interested, **please book asap.**

**** 23rd July** – Peter Tompkins will guide us through some of the City's modern buildings after which we wend our way to member Shiela Dixon's Pub *The Rising Sun* – **12 places available.**

Kick off your Autumn with a tour and lunch at the Master's alma mater, Royal Holloway, with it's wonderful picture collection, on **Wednesday 10th September.** There are also still places available for lunch at Westminster Catering College, dinner at Trinity House, lunch at Mercers' Hall, the Lancashire Day quiz, the Carol Service and lunch, and of course, the Guild's Annual Banquet – it's not too early to book in.



Guild News

I'm sorry to begin on a sad note: **Pauline Halliday OBE** who worked alongside HRH The Princess Royal as Master in our Centenary year passed away on the 19th May. Whilst the funeral is for family and friends to attend in person, those who wish to may join online at 10.15 on Thursday 12th June:

Website: <https://watch.obitus.com> || **Username:** biwu6236 || **Password** 383997

And this link will take you to a page where donations in Pauline's memory may be made. [Tribute to Pauline Halliday OBE, 1939 - 2025](#)

Golf Day on 23rd June 2025 Guild member **Azad Ayub** who sponsors the Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch and the Sheep Drive invites Guild members to participate in his latest initiative – see details below:

TVE is a UK based non-profit organisation, established in 1984 by UNEP, WWF, and Central Television. It is dedicated to promoting environmental awareness and sustainable development through film and visual media with the aim to empower individuals, particularly young people, to engage with and advocate for environmental issues.

TVE is holding a **Golf Day on 23rd June 2025** at Hadley Wood Golf Club in Barnet – Golfers and non-golfers are welcome and there will be a summer-style BBQ dinner in the evening as well as an additional workshop (for non-golfers) during the afternoon. Details of golf and non-golf packages are provided below:

- Complete Package (Golf + Dinner): £145 per person *Includes breakfast, 18 holes of golf, halfway hut refreshments, and dinner (note: for those who require a buggy, these can be arranged at a reduced cost)*
- Dinner Only (Non-Golfers): £85 per person
- Non-Golfer Workshop (2:30 PM – 5:30 PM): £75 per person - *"How to Achieve Great Style & Charisma" – Presented by professionals in public speaking, style, and presence (includes tea and cakes)*
- **Full event info:** <https://tvecharitygolfdays23june-0403h97.gamma.site/>

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 etc. 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**.

We very much appreciate your swift payment for events once the allocation letters have gone out, however, we receive many emails asking us to confirm if your payments have arrived. We are not always on the bank feed to do this and I am sure you will appreciate that we are a very busy little office and are not always able to attend to these requests immediately. Please note, that unless we contact you directly regarding your payment, it will have been received. We are happy to deal with any anomalies at that point. Thank you for your understanding.

Tuesday 24th June 2025: Shrieval Elections and we have two Guild members standing:

Court Assistant **Keith Bottomley** and Alderman **Robert Hughes Penny**. Any Guild member who is also a Liveryman of at least one year's standing is entitled to vote, so please support Robert and Keith. Each's Election Address are below:

Alderman Robert Hughes Penny: Supported by my colleagues on the Court of Aldermen, I offer myself as a candidate for the ancient office of Sheriff of the City of London for 2025/26 and would be most grateful for your support.

Born in Brazil and spending some of my childhood in South Africa, I attended the Haberdashers' Aske's School after returning to the UK. Graduating from Manchester Metropolitan University and the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, I was commissioned into the 13th/18th Royal Hussars (QMO) and served in Canada, Germany and the UK. In 1993 I entered the City with stockbrokers Laurence Keen.

Since then, I have spent over three decades in the financial services sector, primarily as an Investment Director at Rathbones, managing global multi-asset portfolios. I also served on the Board, Executive and Management Committees of the main operating company, chaired several key business initiatives, and

now representing the company on TheCityUK Business Council. I also chair the Audit and Risk Committee of the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment.

Following eight years as a Common Councilman I was elected Alderman for the Ward of Cheap in 2018. I chaired the Investment Committee and the Financial Investment Board and have served on several other Corporation Committees and am on the Board of the Impact Investing Institute.

I look forward to supporting the Lord Mayor as part of the civic team and working closely with my fellow Sheriff—championing the City and the UK’s world-leading financial, professional, maritime and fast-growing tech sectors, both at home and abroad.

A key part of the role is also to care for the welfare of HM Judges at the Central Criminal Court, popularly known as the Old Bailey—an enduring and historic duty of the Sheriffs. This historic role, with roots going back to the 7th century and sitting beneath the statue of Lady Justice underscores the City’s long-standing commitment to justice.

I am privileged to be a member of the Court of the Worshipful Company of Haberdashers, a Past Master of the Guild of Investment Managers, and serve as Patron and President of the Ward of Cheap Club. These connect me to the City’s unique civic and livery traditions.

Alongside my professional and civic responsibilities, I have sought to give back through charitable and spiritual service. This includes the Army Central Fund, Morden College, Samuel Wilson Loan Trust, Templeton Education & Charity Trust, and the City Prayer Breakfast.

My family’s connection to the City stretches back generations; forebears were bone, horn and tallow chandlers. I am proud that this connection continues with two of my three children working in the City and Canary Wharf. I am supported by my wife, Elspeth, a former City corporate lawyer, a member of the Goldsmiths’ Company, and the Advisory Committee of the Sheriffs’ and Recorder’s Fund.

In all that I do, I am guided by the principles that have shaped my career and public service, as expressed in the mottos of Sandhurst and the Haberdashers: *“Serve to Lead”* and *“Serve and Obey.”*

If elected, I will carry out my duties with diligence, respect the traditions of the role, and work closely with my colleagues in the civic team. I would be most grateful for your support.

AND

Keith Bottomley: Encouraged by friends across the Livery and with the support of the Master, Wardens and the Court of Assistants of The Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers, I offer myself as a candidate for the high office of Sheriff of the City of London at Common Hall on the 24th of June.

If elected to the shrievalty, I will put opportunity for young people, the value of the rule of law and diversity at the heart of engagement. I bring a strong combination of livery, City of London, business and charitable experience, as immediate past master of the Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers, immediate past deputy policy chairman at the City of London Corporation, honorary secretary of the City Livery Club, a financial services professional and trustee.

Since being elected to the Court of Common Council ten years ago representing Bridge Ward, I have been actively engaged in serving the City leading on sustainability, climate action, sport engagement, youth, education, environment, and broader policy agendas.

Serving for the past three years as the deputy policy chairman and deputy political leader of the Corporation, I held responsibility for a broad range of areas including deputising for the policy

chairman, chairing the City of London BIDs strategic partnership and the Skills for a Sustainable Skyline taskforce, Director of Thames Estuary Growth Board and engagement with London Councils, the GLA and HM Government.

I have extensive business experience in executive and non-executive director roles in the financial services, banking and strategic communications sectors. This stands me in good stead to fulfil the primary responsibilities of Sheriff - supporting the Mayoralty and working with HM Judges at the Old Bailey in an important ambassadorial role with the Aldermanic Sheriff in the vital mission of promoting the 'City' domestically and internationally.

As a chartered banker and former Director of Communications at NatWest Group I have considerable experience of working at a senior level in the City of London's dynamic financial, insurance and professional services industries.

I am passionate about advancing the interests of young people and about skills and education. I am deputy chair of governors at the City of London School and a former governor at three City of London Corporation academies and the new City Junior School. I chair Partnership for Young London which influences London, regional and central government on youth policy.

If you elect me, my husband Kevin and I will support the Mayoralty and Judiciary and promote the Livery to the very best of our ability. I therefore invite you to use one of your votes at Common Hall on the 24th of June for Alderman Robert Hughes-Penney, the Aldermanic shrieval candidate, and your other vote for me.

CITY NEWS and other EVENTS

Wednesday 11th June 2025: Alderman and Sheriff Gregory Jones is hosting

City & Legal Lecture: Decisions Under Pressure

The Keynote speech will be given by former international rugby referee, Wayne Barnes, with other speakers. Guest arrival is from 17:45 at the Main Entrance of the Old Bailey for a drinks reception beginning at 18:00. The lecture and discussion will begin at 19:00 and will end promptly at 20:00. Dress code is business attire.

Should you wish to attend, tickets can be purchased via the Eventbrite link below for £25pp + fees - <https://city-legal-decisions-under-pressure.eventbrite.com>

Please note that there are a limited number of tickets available for this event, and only named ticketholders will be permitted entry. All proceeds from this event will go towards the Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund.

Friday 11th July 2025 at 5.00pm in Guildhall – the 10th "Reflections of the Lord Mayor" Gala

This milestone occasion will honour Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli, the 695th Lord Mayor of London, as he reflects on his mayoralty. His address will explore the City's global role through the lens of financial stewardship, sustainability, and connectivity, followed by a live Q&A session.

Bringing together leaders, innovators, and changemakers, the evening promises to be an inspiring gathering in the heart of the City of London – a night of reflection, celebration, and connection. Early Bird Tickets are now available at a reduced rate until 11 April 2025 (inclusive), or while allocated seats last.

To book, please visit: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/reflectionsofthelordmayor/1544448>

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

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 Freeman.

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) If you have any special access requirements email development@lso.co.uk

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

Please note that the office will be closed from Wednesday 11th June to Monday 16th June inclusive – I'm off to the Umbrian Hills, where phone signal is absent!!

Kate
Clerk to the Guild