



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 March / April 2025

The Master and some 44 Guild members have returned this week from his visit to Norfolk which included guided tours of former Lord Mayor Michael Savory's Muckleburgh Military Collection, Sandringham, and Holkham Estates, where in addition to seeing the splendours of both houses and their grounds, we also learned about the work of Songbird Survival. More of the trip in next year's Journal.



The Group in Sandringham Gardens

Normally, I wouldn't include an event from another organisation this early on in the Guild newsletter, however time is tight so if this is of interest, book as soon as you can!

The **Guild of Young Freemen** are holding their **Inaugural Reunion Banquet on Friday 25th April** at Stationers' Hall, which is open to all Guild members and especially those who are former members of the Society of Young Freemen or Guild of Young Freemen. [Booking Link](#) Additionally, the **Guild of Young Freemen** are keen to build an accurate record of all former members, if this applies to you, please complete the form at this link. [Database Form](#) Password: YF2024

As those who were able to attend the Master's Installation know, his year got off to a good start and his events continue to be popular: We had a fascinating tour of the restoration work taking place at St Bartholomew's Great Hall, which will reopen to the public this autumn returned to its full splendour, the visit evening concluded with a surprisingly good pub supper.



Donned in safety gear we were able to see the work on the ceiling close up

In February, after a very tasty meal at Cote Brasserie, St Paul's, a group of Guild Members made a very interesting visit to the St Bride Foundation, home to the one of the world's largest collections showing the history of printing, typography, newspaper design and paper-making. The specimens on display were fascinating and gave a unique insight into the development of printed works but also the incredible world of fonts, and how some of the most famous fonts, that we still see used on a daily basis, were drawn and evolved. The group were also shown the mechanical side of printing, particularly in the newspaper industry, and how the mass production and demand for up to date news had an impact on not only the development of the printing machine, but also the composition of the paper itself; how the page was put together to be inked and printed, how the individual letters were grouped and arranged to fit the space on the page, and even how images were created. The printworks in the east end of London were pivotal in the fame of one of the most notorious serial killers in the Victorian era, Jack the Ripper. Overall, the group enjoyed an excellent visit and St Bride Foundation is highly recommended.



An early example of Newspaper printing; the formation of Gill Sans font



The visit to Woolf collection of 18th century Chinese jades was a treat. Unfortunately, for insurance reasons I cannot share photos of any of the many and varied jade objects that we saw and the lunch at the Botanist on Sloane Square was delicious.

In March we had a first visit to the College of Arms, where William Hunt was proud to show off the work he had done on the Master's own Coat of Arms for when he was Sheriff in 2013/14.



Next was an interesting virtual talk on Pirates, Corsairs and Privateers given by Guild member Andrew Johnson. Sadly, only a few people joined the zoom – missing an educational presentation.



Although opened in May 1969 (the two previous Halls having been destroyed by the Great Fire and then the Luftwaffe) Barber Surgeons' new Hall retains an historic atmosphere and proved to be an excellent venue for the Master's second Black Tie dinner. The food was excellent, the speeches by both Her Honour Wendy Joseph KC (Retd) and the Master were intriguing, and the Guild's usual spirit of conviviality and friendship prevailed. Earlier following a meeting of the Guild Court 12 new members were welcomed to the Guild.



The Master welcomes new members



Christine Duthie sips the Loving Cup



Theresa Shortland receives her Warrant of Guild membership



Professor Simon Woldman



Honorary Editor and newly elected to Court, Steven Morson with his partner Ann Bessey enjoying conversation



Members at the pre-dinner reception



Member Brian De Bell with his guest



Jola Krecichwost-Kudzio with her husband Maciej and their guest former Master Plaisterer, Gary Morley



Paster Master Anne Holden with new member Bryn Jones



New member King Man Chui takes wine with the Master



Members David Ratcliffe & Harvey Sillis share a joke



Master Mason Matthew Hampson in conversation with Master Turner Christopher Scott



Angela Waddingham with Master Art Scholar Roy Sully and principal speaker Her Honour Judge Wendy Joseph KC (Retd) exchange views.

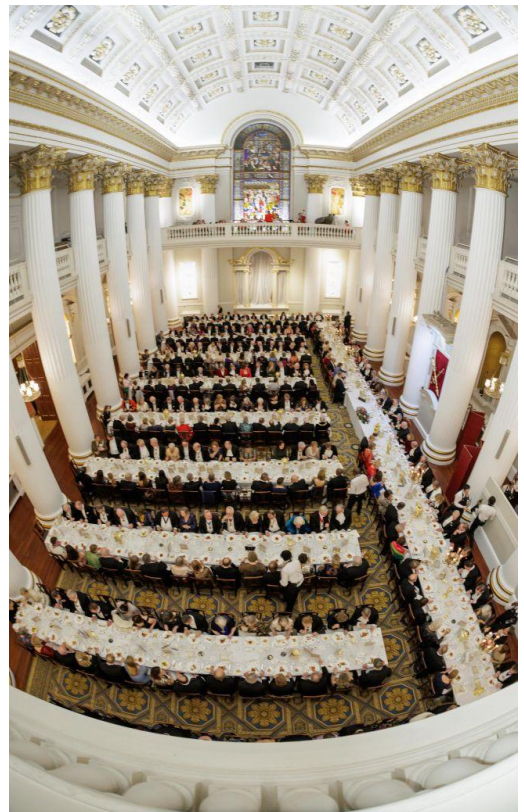


Wendy speaking – the audience were enthralled



The Master speaks

The following evening the Master and Angela attended the annual *Meet the Masters* dinner at Mansion House.



And the following day he, Angela, the Wardens, the Clerk and a group of Guild members attended the United Guilds Service before taking lunch at Pewterers' Hall. The Sermon given by The Very Rev'd Dr Mark Oakley, Dean of Southwark has been highly praised and a transcript will shortly be available on the City section of the Guild website.



Future Events

I mentioned earlier that the Master's events were proving popular, so much so that we can only offer a wait list for the Crick Institute and Clock Museum visits in May. 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.

Places are still available for the guided tour of **Formans' Smokehouse and lunch after the tour on 18th June**, and also for the Master's next black tie dinner being held at [Haberdashers' on 30th June](#).

As mentioned in the last newsletter we plan to hold an auction to raise funds for the Guild charity and are hoping that members may be able to contribute prizes. I've already had offers of 6 bottle case of a 10 year old claret, a voucher to dine at a Mayfair restaurant and the offer of two nights for up to 5 people in a house in the heart of Old Kensington amongst others. Anything you can offer such as tickets to sporting events, dinners at special places (London Clubs perhaps), vouchers for a shop, indeed anything that captures your imagination and which will raise a useful contribution to the Guild charity funds. ***If you are able to offer anything please let the Master or me know. Your gift will be much appreciated.***

Also, if any guild member is able to assist with the valuation of some items, please let me know.

In case some don't know, the Guild charity gives out £ 20,000 - £ 40,000 each year. Mostly funding educational bursaries or prizes to schools with a connection either with the City or with the Guild, allowing some who would otherwise not have the opportunity to learn or the recognition of their learning. Additionally, it supports City charities such as the Lord Mayor's Appeal, the Sheriffs and Recorder Fund, Treloar's, St Paul's Cathedral Foundation and also makes one off grants most recently to

Charlton Academy to allow disabled children to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards Scheme and to Street Storage, a unique charity providing the homeless with storage facilities.

Other than Opera Holland Park and the Master's holiday in the Southern Lake District, **all** other events this year are open for application, though some will go to ballot as they are already oversubscribed. This especially applies to the dinner at the House of Lords, where we have places for 60 and over 100 applications!

A reminder to please email Abbie the Assistant Clerk admin@guild-freemen-london.co.uk asap if you wish to take part in this year's **Sheep Drive** taking place on **Sunday 28th September**. Places are already reaching capacity.

Cart Marking on Saturday 19th July

*Whilst the public can watch this event from designated areas, Carmen and their guests - **The Guild** - benefit from restricted access to covered seating areas in the Yard and the facilities in the Guildhall corridor during the ceremony, followed by a reception and three- course formal lunch with wines in the historic Great Hall.*

Anyone booking before May 28th benefits from reduced price tickets at £120 per adult (£35 for children under 16) later bookings will incur a surcharge of £15 – space allowing.



Cart Marking showcases a unique collection of transport dating from the horse and cart to the latest, cleanest, greenest, and safest in use today. The regulation of carts dates back over 750 years to the early days of the City, with the ceremony of Cart Marking evolving over time. Today brings all that history back to life with a modern twist at this annual event, held each July. You will see handcarts, horses and carts, horse-drawn carriages, steam engines, military vehicles and motorcycles together with historic, vintage and specialist vehicles including the latest, powered by electricity and hydrogen, on display. The vehicles make their way to Guildhall Yard where they are greeted by the Lord Mayor of London, the Masters of not one but two City of London Livery companies and the Keeper of Guildhall Yard, all wearing their official robes and insignia.

As each vehicle is presented for marking, a commentator tells us about its history and relevance today. A 'Cart', in today's terms, is a vehicle used to transport freight or passengers, for hire or reward. Marking is done by branding (or burning) a number, letter, or symbol on to a wooden block which is attached to the 'cart'. This was the earliest form of vehicle licensing, and having paid for your licence, a mark would be burnt onto your wooden cart. This would allow that cart to ply for trade 'for hire or reward' for the forthcoming year, after which a new mark would be branded each year to allow that cart to continue in use. Back then the licence fee would have been five shillings (25p today). What is five shillings compared to £850 road tax for an articulated lorry today? Five shillings is still paid to the City of London today for each vehicle that passes through Guildhall Arch.

Other Guild News

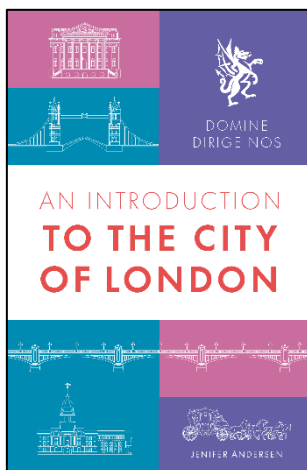
FACEBOOK - Following the announcement that we are back on Facebook, I'm aware that some have struggled to find the page. You must use **The** Guild of Freemen of the City of London and not Guild of etc.

Currently there are a few posts etc..... covering the recent Guild Banquet. The *new* page will be updated regularly and would be very pleased if you would unlike the previous page and "Like" 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 Freemen 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.

Jennifer Andersen, wife of Guild Court Assistant and current Master World Trader, Lars Andersen has written a very interesting and useful Guide to the City and its traditions – it is well worth a read and it's the sort of book you can dip in and out of and refer back to when you need a reminder.



Domine Dirige Nos

An Introduction to the City of London

by Jenifer Andersen

with foreword by Sir William Russell, Lord Mayor 2019-2021

£15 + £3 P&P (£5 will be donated to the Lord Mayor's Appeal)
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A unique introductory visual guide and essential reading for anyone with an interest in the City of London and its traditions. Learn at-a-glance about the history of the Square Mile, geography, wards, people, livery companies and a year in the life of civic London.

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Available at: Daunts Books, 61 Cheapside, EC2V 6AX

OR Email the author at CityOfLondonBook@gmail.com with your name, delivery address and number of copies required. A payment link will be emailed

OR On Etsy <https://www.etsy.com/uk/listing/973414582/an-introduction-to-the-city-of-london>

CITY NEWS and other EVENTS

On **Saturday 10th May Chichester Cathedral will be holding a Service of Thanksgiving to the Livery**. This may be of interest to those of you who live in or close to Chichester. Use this [link](#) for more details.

And a message from Guild member and Lord Mayor, Alastair King:



I hope that you are well and enjoying these slightly longer days now Spring is here. The Lady Mayoress and I have had ample time to get our Mayoralty off the ground and are very excited to share with you the many things we have planned in the upcoming months in aid of The Lord Mayor's Appeal.

The fabulous Dolly Trolley will be the Lady Mayoress for the night at the **Lady Mayoress's Drag Bingo Night** held at the Guildhall on Wednesday 4 June.

On Friday, 27 June I am delighted to be hosting the inaugural **Lord Mayor's Cup football tournament** at the Powerleague pitches in Shoreditch. This event will see teams from all over the City battle it out to win the one of a kind Lord Mayor's Cup.

As if that was not already enough excitement for us, we have decided to take part in this year's **Abseil Challenge** on Friday 4 July. If you are unable to commit to descending with the Lady Mayoress and I, perhaps you would be so kind as to sponsor us by visiting our [JustGiving webpage](#) – even the smallest donation is hugely appreciated.

The Lord Mayor's Appeal continues to transform lives. This year's two inspirational charity partners are Homewards – a programme of The Royal Foundation of The Prince and Princess of Wales and MQ Mental Health Research.

Thank you for your support. Florence and I hope to see you at our upcoming events throughout the year.

With my very best wishes,



**The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor
Alderman Alastair King DL**

For more information and booking visit <https://www.thelordmayorsappeal.org/news-and-events/events-calendar/>

Sticking with the Mayoralty as mentioned in the previous newsletter the **10th "Reflections of the Lord Mayor" Gala** will take place on **Friday 11th July 2025 at 5.00pm in Guildhall**

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>

The Sheriffs' Great Gatsby Ball – [more information here](#)

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

Enjoy this warm spell whilst it lasts and please note that the office will be closed from Monday 14th – Tuesday 22nd April.

Happy Easter

Kate
Clerk to the Guild