



NEWSLETTER

August 2026

Dear Guild Members – a relatively brief Newsletter with information about events that are time sensitive, i.e. it will too late for you to book at the end of September. There is also information on books that may be of interest.

Places available for the Master's Trip to GLASGOW 1st – 3rd October

Places are still available at £450 per person. We'll be staying in the Millenium Hotel on St George Square, in the centre of the City, an outline of the itinerary is below:

Arrive Thursday for a guided tour of the **City Chambers** at 4pm. Free time until we meet in the Hotel foyer and make our way to the **Corinthian Club** for a relatively informal dinner.

Friday: visit the **House of an Art Lover** followed by a tour of the **Trades Hall of Glasgow**. Friday evening is the **Incorporation of the Wrights of Glasgow Deacon's Choosing Dinner** which is held in the Trades Hall – dress is Black Tie or National Dress. On Saturday we learn more of **Charles Rennie MacIntosh** over coffee and cake, after which you are free to depart or to explore Glasgow at your own pace. The Master will be having lunch at the **Barolo Italian Bar** and would be pleased if you wished to join him before he departs for Chester.

If interested, please book via the Members' Area of the website by Monday, 31st August.

Freemen and Guilds of Chester Annual Banquet – Saturday 3rd October

Guild Members and their guests are warmly invited to attend the Chester Guild Annual Banquet.

The Banquet will be held in the Jubilee Suite of the Queen's Hotel, Chester, CH1 3AH. The Hotel is offering a limited number of rooms at preferential rates of £130 single/£143 double including breakfast. Please contact the hotel reservation system directly on 0330 028 3402 and quote ref: ANNUAL 101026 for 3rd October.

The cost of the Banquet which comprises a welcome drink, three course meal and coffee with entertainment from the Chester Town Crier is £55 person. The Lord Mayor of Chester will be in attendance.

In addition to the Banquet on the Saturday evening, the Chester Guild is hoping to organise an informal supper on the evening of Friday 2nd. The traditional **Morning Procession and Church Service** at St. Peter's, Watergate Street, CH12LA will take place on Sunday 4th October. 10am gathering at St. Peter's for gowning and processing to the Town Hall and back. 10.30am to 11.30am Church Service with refreshments available afterwards for anyone who wishes to have a light lunch before heading home.

If you would like to apply for places at the Banquet, please click this link to complete the form **before the end of August:** [Chester Banquet 2026 booking form](#)

An invoice will be sent to you in due course, for **settlement two weeks before the Banquet**, to enable final payment to be made to the venue.

Please also indicate if you are interested in joining the Friday evening and/or the Sunday morning to help the Chester Guild make appropriate catering arrangements etc.

If you have queries, please email Dorothy Trussell the President at chesterfreemenandguilds@gmail.com or if necessary, telephone her on: 07557 377 454

For those Guild Members who are also **Liverymen**, below are lunching options following Common Hall to **elect the new Lord Mayor on Tuesday 29th September:**

Cook and Butler: at Guildhall Club, Wax Chandlers, Armourers' Hall and Innholders' Hall: £87.50 person inc. VAT, three courses, wine, port, coffee. [Menu here](#) (price and menu TBC but this was the menu and price of the Sheriff's Election Lunch)

All bookings to be made by emailing cookandbutler@btconnect.com

Founders' Hall: £81 per person (inclusive of wines and VAT)

Sparkling wine Reception/Two Course Lunch/Half a bottle house wine per person
email Eloise Harris office@foundersco.org.uk

Farmers' and Fletchers' Hall: £89 per person (inclusive of wines and VAT)

Two-course Lunch with wines. Book at farmersandfletchers@graysons.com

Butchers' Hall: £86 per person (inclusive of wines and VAT)

Welcome glass of sparkling wine/Three-Course menu and wines. [Book here](#)

Painters' Hall: £85 per person (inclusive of wines and VAT - price TBC but this was the price of the Sheriff's Election Lunch).

Drinks Reception/Three-Course Lunch with wines

Email Helen Granger assistantclerk@painters-hall.co.uk

Stationers' Hall: £85 inc. VAT per person

Drinks Reception/Three-Course Lunch. Email Maria Thomas events@stationers.org

Book by Friday, 18th September or sooner.

An Invitation to the Proms Thanksgiving Service – Sunday 13th September

The City's love of music has a long tradition, of which the annual Promenade Concerts mostly held at the Royal Albert Hall and founded by Sir Henry Wood in 1895, remains a key part of that tradition and is widely recognised as the world's largest classical music festival.

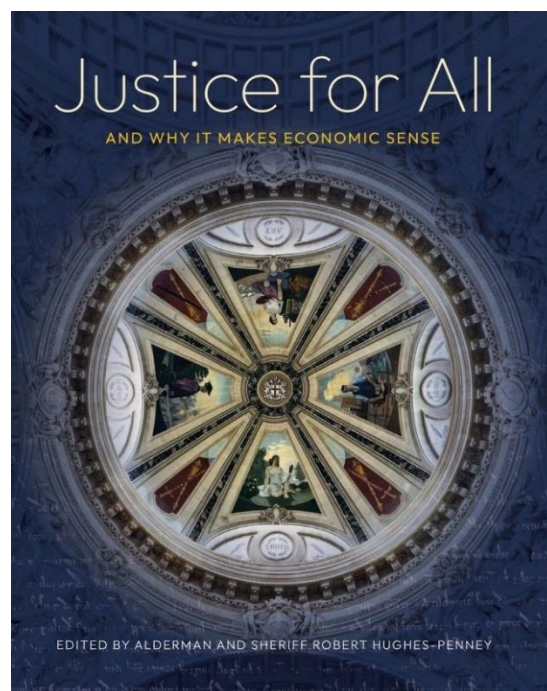
An aspect of that tradition is the End of Proms Thanksgiving service held at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the National Musicians' Church. This service celebrates the contribution of all involved in the Proms, front of house musicians as well as the back office and production teams. It is also broadcast live on BBC Radio.

All members of the Guild are welcome, for further information and to book, use the link below.

[*A Service of Thanksgiving & Celebration for the 2026 BBC Proms \(13-Sep-2026\) · ChurchSuite Events*](#)

Sheriff and Guild Member Robert Hughes-Penney is publishing a book on his Justice for All campaign.

Copies may be ordered here [Justice for All Series Book](#)



By way of background this book brings together the key speeches, debates and research from the Justice for All Series that I hosted at the Old Bailey during my Shrieval year. The series formed part of the joint civic plan developed with the Lady Mayor, Alderwoman Dame Susan Langley DBE, and my fellow Sheriff, Deputy Keith Bottomley, that supports our shared commitment to promoting the rule of law as one of the foundations of a successful society and economy.

Over the course of five events, I brought together judges, policymakers, academics, business leaders, charities, and individuals with lived experience of the justice system to explore a simple but important question: why does justice for all make economic sense?

The discussions were designed to be at the nexus of the law, economy, and society to demonstrate that justice is not merely a matter of principle, important though that is. Fair, accessible and effective justice systems underpin public confidence, support thriving markets, strengthen

communities and contribute to sustainable economic growth. When justice works well, everyone benefits.

This book captures the insights and expertise of many distinguished contributors and reflects the support it has received from leading figures across law, business, and public life. More importantly, it seeks to continue an essential conversation about the role that justice plays in creating prosperity, cohesion, and opportunity.

One of the most encouraging outcomes of the series has been the growing recognition that improving justice outcomes requires collaboration across sectors. I am particularly pleased that the Ministry of Justice, the Impact Economy Collective and the Office for the Impact Economy have agreed to work together through a policy lab to explore how philanthropy, impact investment and business can play a greater role in reducing reoffending and supporting earlier interventions. This is precisely the kind of practical partnership that can help turn ideas into action.

I hope the Guild of Freeman community will enjoy reading the book and find its arguments as thought-provoking as I have. Above all, I hope it encourages further discussion about how we can build a justice system that works effectively for all, and why doing so matters not only for individuals, but for our institutions, our communities and our economy.

Thank you for your friendship, support and continued engagement.

'The Justice for All Series is a very timely work as it champions fairness, inclusion, and the real strengths of our civic institutions. Its narratives enable readers to engage with justice and the values that underpin our communities in a very thoughtful way.'

– The Rt Hon The Lady Mayor Alderwoman Dame Susan Langley DBE

'This insightful book demonstrates that the rule of law – and specifically English and Welsh law – is not only a constitutional principle but also a powerful driver of economic growth and international investment.'

– Lady Chief Justice of England & Wales, The Rt Hon the Baroness Carr of Walton-on-the-Hill

'It has been a privilege to support the Justice for All Series, hosted in the historic Grand Hall of the Central Criminal Court. It has been particularly fitting that these important conversations about the future of justice have taken place in a venue that has embodied those principles for more than a century.'

– Recorder of London, His Honour Judge Mark Lucraft KC

'The Justice for All Series highlights the importance of cross-sector discussions and collaboration when it comes to thinking about the challenges facing the justice system and how we address them. This book serves as a brilliant and important roadmap of how we get there.'

– Andy Slaughter MP, Chair Justice Select Committee

'A masterclass in bringing together people from across our justice system – High Court Judges, politicians and victims, people who have served time in prison, and the incredible individuals that staff every corner of our justice system... I look forward to following what flows from it.'

– Lady Edwina Grosvenor, English Criminologist

'The Justice for All Series has been a most timely and welcome demonstration of the continuing crucial importance of the principles enshrined in Magna Carta.'

– Paul Double CVO, Chair Magna Carta Trust

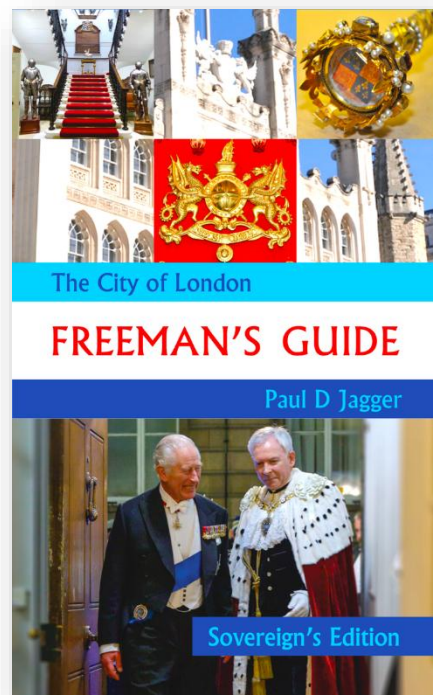
'Justice for All has been a series of vital and compelling conversations around some of the most challenging themes of our times ... These debates, held in the heart of the Old Bailey, could not have been more timely.'

– Julie Etchingham, Broadcaster and Journalist

Another book which may be of interest to all Guild Members and especially, new members:

**The City of London Freeman's Guide
6th or Sovereign's Edition (updated 2025)**

The City of London Freeman's Guide is the definitive concise guide to the Freedom of the City of London as it now is. Each year circa 1,900 people are admitted into the Freedom of the City of London, with more than half being presented by one of the City's Livery Companies. Contrary to widely held belief, the Freedom of the City of London and the Livery Companies remain vital, relevant and active aspects of the City, upholding its traditions and reputation as a global centre of excellence and innovation for so many aspects of commercial and civic life.



Pricing and availability: RRP £22 in 5" x 8" hardback (from Etsy), £9.99 eBook (from Amazon and Apple)

The hardback is available direct from the author at cityandlivery.etsy.com (signed or sealed if you prefer), or from the Guildhall Art Gallery.

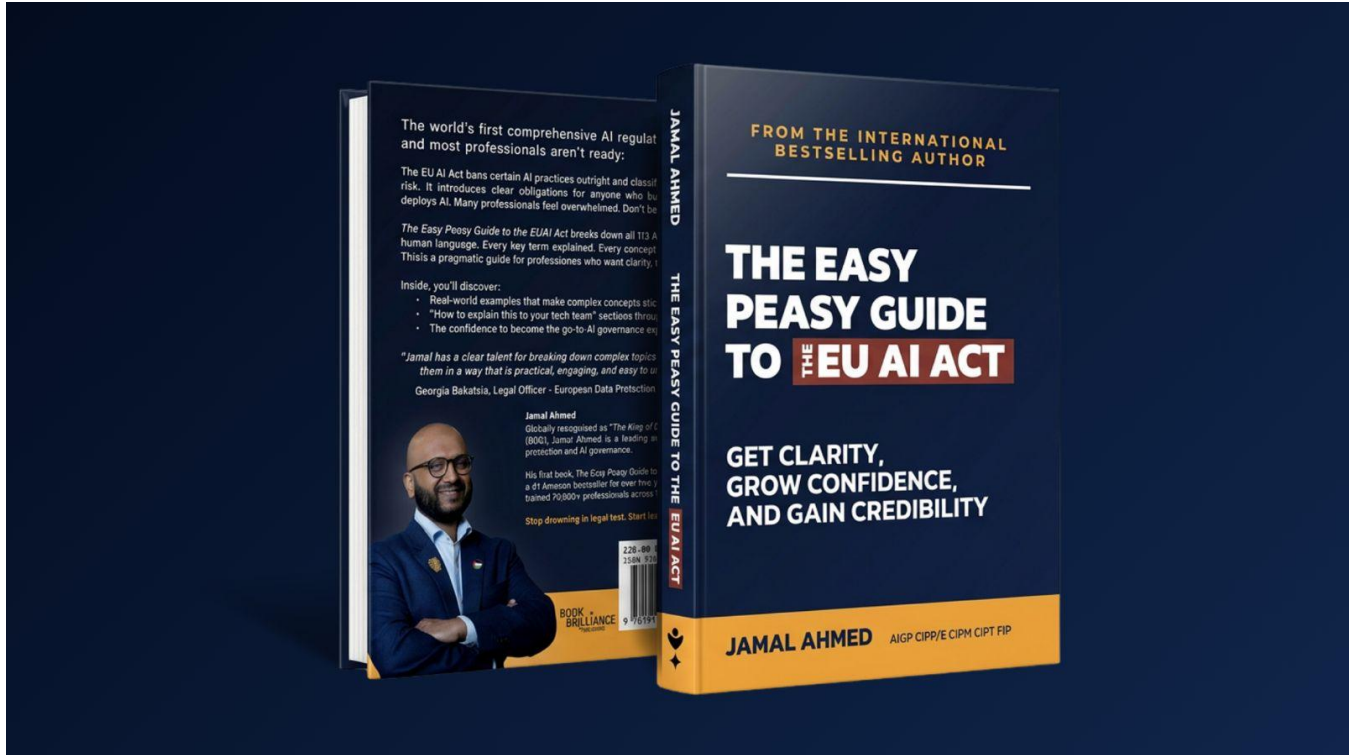
Whether you are a prospective Freeman, a long-standing member of a Livery Company or simply interested in the living history of the City, this guide will be your constant companion in a life-long journey of exploration and discovery in the great and famous City of London.

Finally, another book by another Guild member and a 'must' for those who want to keep up with and on top tech: **The Easy Peasy Guide to the EU AI Act by Jamal Ahmed.**

Jamal's first book *The Easy Peasy Guide to GDPR* became an international bestseller and led to his being dubbed "King of Data Protection" by the BBC. Jamal is now publishing his second book, *The Easy Peasy Guide to the EU AI Act*, on 3 August. It turns the world's first comprehensive AI law into clear, practical guidance for anyone whose work touches AI.

This time Jamal is aiming for the Sunday Times bestseller list, something no privacy professional has achieved before. Look closely at the back cover and you will spot Jamal wearing his Guild of Freeman brooch, a proud nod to the Freedom of the City.

To order a copy use this link and help a fellow Freeman <https://amzn.eu/d/08IU08Yt>



Please note that I am on holiday during August, and look forward to being in touch again when I am back in September.

Kate Pink

Clerk to the Guild of Freeman of the City of London