



NEWSLETTER

July 2026

Dear Guild Members

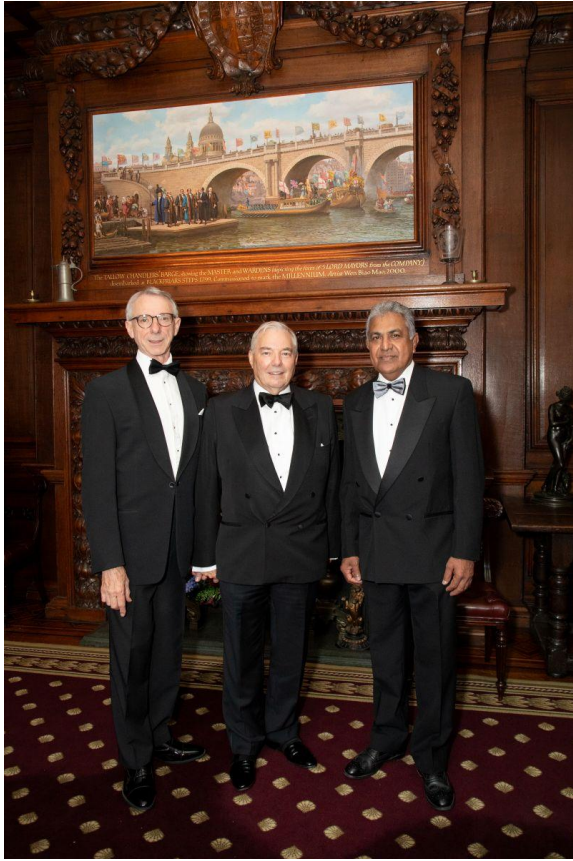
STOP PRESS – 5 places available for College of Arms visit Wednesday 22nd July – full details further down.

Since our last Newsletter the Master has been busy representing your Guild inside and outside the City, and has attended several Prize days at the Schools the Guild Charity supports.



Angela Priestley-Gibbins (Past Master of the Lincoln Gild of Freemen), Raj Bansal (Master of the City of Coventry Freemen's Guild), Stephen Osborne (Guild Master) and Bruce Harrison (Master of the Gild of Freemen of the City of York).

On Wednesday, 8th July the Master was pleased to welcome twenty plus new Members to the Guild at Tallow Chandlers' Hall following a meeting of our Court. Those joining gathered in the Parlour, processed into Court, and took part in the Loving Cup Ceremony, after which they were presented with their Warrants of Membership before enjoying celebratory drinks in the Courtyard. Many went on to a Dinner at the splendid Armourers' Hall.



Before the Ceremony



In the Parlour



Passing the Loving Cup



Receiving a Warrant from the Master



Receiving a Warrant from the Master



Celebratory Drinks in Tallow Chandelers' Courtyard



Armourers' Hall



Receiving Line



Pre-Dinner Reception



Let Dinner commence!



New Members take wine with the Master



Telling stories over Dinner



The Masters exchange views



Speaker John Steel delivering his speech

Last month a privileged few attended a Guided Tour of the Old Bailey, thanks to the generosity of Guild Member and Sheriff Robert Hughes-Penney. Whilst the visit was Robert's gift to the Guild, we raised over £700 for his and his wife Elspeth's Prison Walks initiative to help fund the Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund.



Last month also saw the Master's long planned dream of holding a Banquet at Brighton's Royal Pavilion come to fruition, and formed one night of his UK holiday designed to showcase Sussex by the Sea. Apart from guided walks and tours around Brighton and its buildings, Members enjoyed a Garden Party at Preston Manor – reputedly the most haunted house in Britain - and a lunch at Brighton's i360. Sadly, cloud prevented good views, but as always Guild Members made the most of the occasion and remained cheerful.



Court Assistant & Honorary Editor of the Freeman Journal
Steven Morson and Ann Bessey enjoying the Reception in the Kitchen



The Master with Alexandra Loske, Curator of the Royal Pavilion and
the Speaker at the Banquet, and Michael Bedngfield, his Consort, and
High Sheriff of East Sussex



Before the Banquet a Concert was given by the Brighton Gay Men's Chorus



The Concert was held in the splendour of the Music Room and many attendees toe-tapped along to the well-known anthems.



Everyone was photographed in the sumptuous Saloon as they made their way from the Conert to the Banquet



Dinner in the State Banqueting Hall



Where Prinny, as well as the present King, were toasted



The evening concluded with all present joining to sing Sussex by the Sea



Before the Finale, where Andrew Farr became Edith Piaf

Last week the Master arranged a lunch at the East India Club – thank you Adrian Swan – which was also attended by several members of the United Wards Club, the Master being a previous President and an organisation to which Guild member Audrey Tibbles also belonged. The lunch was intended (and did) celebrate Audrey's 100th Birthday, but very sadly she was unable to attend. Lennox Cato of Antiques Road Show fame gave a speech and educated us all on a 16th Century Caribbean chest.

FUTURE EVENTS

College of Arms Visit - Wednesday 22nd July 6pm: with a Private guide and a buffet supper. We have had some cancellations so FIVE places are available – book online via our website as usual ASAP and we'll send full joining instructions. Tickets are £75 each.

Annual Banquet - it's not too early to start thinking about the Guild's Autumn events, and in particular our Annual Banquet, which will once again be held at Mansion House on Friday, 4th December.



GUILD NEWS - RIP

I am sad to convey the news that former Clerk **Colonel Derek Ivy** died peacefully on Wednesday 1st July. The funeral is for family and those invited only. Past Master Terry Nemko will write an obituary for the next Freeman Journal.

Equally sadly, Guild Member **Audrey Tibbles** passed away four days after her 100th birthday on Saturday, 4th July following hospitalisation as a result of a fall. Her funeral will take place on **Monday 3rd August at 11:30am**

St Mary's of Nazareth West Wickham, BR4 0DX

After the Service family only will go on to the Crematorium

The Wake will be held at Langley Golf Club BR3 3XW

CITY NEWS - and other Events

Congratulations to Guild member and former Lord Mayor, **Sir Alastair King DL** whom the King was pleased to appoint as His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London on the retirement of Sir Kenneth Olisa, OBE, on Tuesday, 13th October 2026.

The newly Elected **Sheriffs' Alderman The Hon. Tim Levene**, and **Alderman Prem Goyal CBE** have launched their Chain Appeals. Should any Member wish to support them, please use this link: [City Events | Guild of Freeman](#)

Livery Briefing - to see the latest edition, please click this [Link](#)

Sheriffs' Brazilian Beach Ball – Friday, 18th September - [Link to Sheriffs' Ball](#)

The Phantom of the Opera – Wednesday, 28th October - [link](#)

The Chartered Accountants' Company – City Prostate Charity Website

The Chartered Accountants' Company has created a website to draw attention to a disease which they support and which affects many. Please do take a look at their new website.

<https://www.cityprostatecancerties.com/>

Bistro 365 at Founders' Hall

To book for 2026, use this link: [Bistro 1365 — Founders' Company](#)

This will be the last Newsletter until the Autumn, so Venla and I wish you all a wonderful Summer.

Please note that I will be taking a break later this month and during some of August.

Kate Pink

Clerk to the Guild of Freemen of the City of London