



NEWSLETTER

May 2026

Dear Guild Members

The Master has been busy representing your Guild in the City as well as strengthening our relationship with the Honourable Company of Freemen of the City of London of North America by attending their Installation in Toronto, held at the prestigious Omni King Edward Hotel.



The British High Commissioner - Rob Tinline; High Sheriff of East Sussex and the Master's Consort - Michael Bedingfield; Master Stephen Osborne; Master of the North America Guild - Helen Field; Christopher Hayward - Renter Warden and Principal Speaker at the event; Roshni Prasad - Director of Capital Investment and Financial Services British Consulate Toronto; and David Vandivier - City Corporation, US Managing Director

And as our Master loves travel, he took advantage of being in Canada to visit some sights:



Guild Master Stephen Osborne shrouded in the mist of Niagara Falls

At the end of April, the Master was pleased to present 14 members with their warrants of membership and to welcome them to the Guild either at the reception or dinner that followed.





Earlier in April the Guild made two special visits, the first to BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, otherwise known as Neasden Temple, followed by a substantial curry and to Arundel. The temple is a truly spiritual place where the spirituality is almost tangible and Arundel is a gem of a town, nestled in the South Downs, with an impressive castle. It was striking that unlike many places these days, independent shops still appear to be thriving. Photography is limited at the Temple.





The Chapel inside the Castle



The Baronial Hall



Guild members in the Hall



Fabulous sleigh

And as is usual a group of Guild members supported the Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch which raised over four hundred thousand for our armed services this year.



This month we have already enjoyed *The Golden Age of Musicals* at Brick Lane Music Hall – well worth attending any of their performances – the converted church décor is incredible and the show was huge fun.



And only yesterday, the Master led a group around Loughborough Bell Foundry – now, the only surviving Bell Foundry in England, one member wrote:

We thoroughly enjoyed our trip to the Taylor's Bell Foundry. it was very interesting and informative, and the guides were excellent and helpful. Not sure what Health & Safety would think of the vats pouring out flames below our viewing gallery as the metal was heated before being poured into the casks buried into the sand, but we all were fascinated by this process which has stood the test of time for over 200 years. We were amazed at the variety of sizes bells can be made to, and how much of the process is hand-crafted.

The meal was excellent and such large portions were served, that we certainly did not need any more food on our return home!

Photographs of the above will be available on the website soon.

FUTURE EVENTS

SHEEP DRIVE – Sunday 27th September

It's not too late to book to exercise your right to drive sheep over Southwark Bridge. However, we need any booking to be made by **Wednesday 18th June**.

Such is the popularity of the Master's Programme that events in June and July are now *waiting list* only, the exception being **Cart Marking** on Saturday, 18th July – to tempt anyone who didn't attend last year when we had a waiting list:



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. You will see handcarts, horses and carts, steam engines, military vehicles and motorcycles together with historic, vintage and specialist vehicles including the latest, powered by electricity and hydrogen, on display.

CITY NEWS - and other Events

Ever wanted to roll a barrel? Now is your opportunity! The Worshipful Company of Coopers are holding their 5th **Annual Cask Race** around Guildhall Yard on **Saturday 4th July**. Please click this [link](#) for full details.

Teams consist of four players and we are looking for members to take part. The cost per member is £50 – please contact the Under Warden and Chairman of the membership committee, Janet Bridden if you would like to be one of the team. She and Court Assistant Paul Williams will be attending the event and promoting the Guild, so you would like to discuss the Guild with potential new members, they would be delighted for you to join them. Again, contact Janet: janetbridden@hotmail.com



THE CITY OF COVENTRY FREEMEN'S GUILD
invites any Guild Member to join them at their
80th Anniversary Dinner to be held on Saturday, 20th June
where a warm welcome will await you.

Venue: St Mary's Guildhall, Coventry

6.30 Reception drinks in the Medieval Kitchen

7pm Banquet

Cost: £48 per person

Dress: Black Tie

Menu: Smoked Salmon Tartare, Melba Toast, Compressed Cucumber, Horse Radish, Creme Fraiche & Pea Shoots // Roasted Chicken Supreme, Potato Gratin, Shredded Leek & Fine Green Bean Panache, Wild Mushrooms & Madeira sauce // Glazed Lemon Tart, Raspberry Gel & Raspberry Ripple Ice Cream. Vegetarian and GF options available for those with dietaries.

Book and pay no later than **Friday, 5th June** by emailing Brian Jackson:

hon.clerk.cocfg@outlook.com

Payment to:

City of Coventry Freeman's Guild

Sort Code:56-00-45

Account Number: 81182813

Ref: BANQ/SURNAME & INITIAL

And if you do have dietaries/allergies, don't forget to advise them along with names as you wish them to appear on place cards.

Don't forget about the excellent **Justice for All** series of events organised by Sheriff Robert Hughes Penney – visit <https://justiceseries.org> for more information. The **final date in the series is 29th June**.

Further information on the following events is available on the **City Events** section of the Guild Website:

Old Bailey Choir Summer Concert – Tuesday, 23rd June

Household Division Musical Spectacular – Wednesday, 8th/Thursday, 9th/Friday, 10th July

Worshipful Company of Distillers' Spirit Tasting – Thursday, 23rd July

Sheriffs' Brazilian Beach Ball – Friday, 18th September

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

And: the Halls listed below are offering lunch following the Election of the Sheriffs on Wednesday, 24th June: the Addresses to the Livery from the candidates Alderman Prem Goyal and Tim Levine can be found on the Guild website's City Events Section.

Farmers' and Fletchers' Hall: £89 incl. VAT per person. Welcome drink and Two-course Lunch
Book by 12th June by emailing farmersandfletchers@graysons.com

Stationers' Hall: £85 incl. VAT per person. Drinks Reception and Three-Course Lunch
Book by 15th June by emailing Maria Thomas events@stationers.org

**Cook and Butler: at Guildhall Club, Wax Chandlers, Armourers Hall and Innholders Hall: £87.50
person incl.** VAT, three courses, wine, port, coffee. [Menu here](#)
All bookings to be made by emailing cookandbutler@btconnect.com

Founders' Hall: £75 incl. VAT per person. A Glass of Crémant on arrival, Hot Smoked Salmon Mille-Feuille, Pink Peppercorn Crème Fraîche, Tarragon Crumb, Watercress Salad // Slow Cooked Rump of Lamb, Spring Onion Potato Cake, Green Beans, Smoked Tomato Concasse // Coffee & Petit Fours
All bookings to be made by emailing Aaliyah McFarlane aaliyah@lifeskitchen.com

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.cityprostatecancer.org/>

Bistro 365 at Founders' Hall

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

Wishing you all the best – and be sure not to melt in this current heatwave; long may it last!

Kate Pink

Clerk to the Guild of Freemen of the City of London