

Freemen of England and Wales.



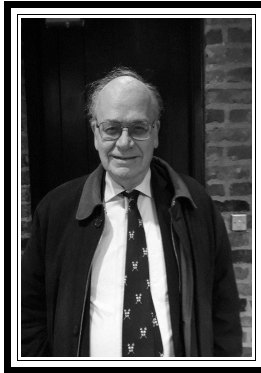
Chartered Freemen



Gloucester

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Presidents' Letter.



The first meeting of the Executive in my time of office took place on 3rd. February. Executive members were requested to put their reports by email in time to allow the Secretary to circulate these. This save a considerable time as Officers only drew attention to any item requiring action. It may be worth considering a similar approach for other meetings. We had also used emails to pre consider a number of items. This also proved successful and it gave us the time to discuss a number of additional items.

The Constitution of FEW requires a number of modifications which have been discussed by your Executive. These shall be put to the Court Meeting in Gloucester on 24th March and then to the AGM in Warwick on 21st to 23rd. September.

The question of communication was raised in the Forum at the AGM. As a first step we have agreed to take a fresh look at the website to enable the information on the site with a view to making it more convenient to find information. We also have a Facebook account. Communications will be considered at a future meeting and any suggestions would be welcomed.

We have held a meeting at the National Archives at Kew in London with a view to proposing a national scheme for cataloguing and eventually digitising archives which relate to the Freedom. As a first step our Archivist is to catalogue the FEW Archives to the recommended system. We will then invite the holders of other archives to bring them in line with this system. Most Local Authorities Archives should be compatible. The project is to make as much information as possible relating to the Freedom to be available to other members and associates. This is intended to facilitate research of the Freedom throughout the country. This complies with the first objective of our Constitution and perhaps will modify the woeful lack of appreciation by the general public of the contribution to our history and development made by freemen.

On the social side I have attended the Durham and Berwick winter functions. I received an invitation to Stafford, but was unable to go but was represented by IPP Ron Leek. I look forward to meeting many of you at coming functions.

I have already mentioned that we shall be looking at a number of important items at our Court Meeting in March. The Court is the living heart of our Association. Although all can attend there is one vote for each constituent Guild. It is vitally important that Guilds are represented and take part in our decision making. I look forward to seeing many of you in Gloucester.

Jim Evans

News From The Guilds.

Alcester :

The annual Court Leet and Court Baron of the Most Honourable Henry Jocelyn Seymour, Marquess of Hertford, took place in the historic Town Hall on 5th October with John Hill officiating as Steward. Visiting Officers from Henley-in-Arden, Warwick, and Bromsgrove Courts Leet, and the FEW Area Warden were in attendance. Six new Jurors took the Oath, and paid the Frankpledge 'penny' Outgoing High Bailiff Ian Whitehead reported on an eventful year, including Central News filming the Assize of Ale, and a new Court Leet Flag being procured. Over £5000 of revenue was distributed to 21 local causes, including defibrillators, Foodbank, and church restoration projects. Incoming High Bailiff Steven Brown and Low Bailiff David Parkes were duly installed, with Steve's 2018 theme of 'Alcester through the Ages' marking the 400th anniversary since the building of the lower storey of the Town Hall's predecessor as a Market Hall.

The annual Court Leet Church Service took place on 15th October, with officers from local Courts Leet and dignitaries, including the High Sheriff in distinctive Court Dress, parading down the High Street to St Nicholas. After the service the Marquis and High Bailiff reviewed the Parade march past from the elevated church green.

The annual Court Leet Dinner on 17th November had Lord Digby Jones as speaker. From Captain of Industry to Government Minister, this is a man to command your attention!

Berwick-Upon-Tweed

The Berwick Guild has had a very good year. We had a social evening in the Spring followed by the Riding of the Bounds of Berwick on the traditional date of 1st. May. In June we welcomed a visit from Durham Guild and were privileged to show them something of our town and some hospitality. We then had a full day out at Beamish to see how things used to be and finally our winter dinner and party 1 December.

There is a major project underway in Berwick to turn our ancient barracks into a cultural hub for the town. The barracks are the oldest stone barracks in England and are in the custody of English Heritage. The total cost will be of the order of £15M. The preliminary stage of architectural drawings and market research has been completed. The Berwick Guild contributed substantially to the cost of this stage.

The official Berwick archives building has been taken over by Northumberland County Council for social services and the archives are housed in a garage although with temperature and humidity control. A major part of these archives are those of the Guild prior to 1835 which must remain in Berwick. It is intended that the archives will be housed in the correct conditions within the Barracks Hub.

The Berwick archives along with many other archives require their cataloguing to be updated. The archivist has applied to the National Archives for a grant to complete this work. The cataloguing system would be in line which was proposed for FEW at their meeting in Kew. This includes all the Guild records prior to 1835. The Guild freedom entries have been digitized already by a team of volunteers and are available on line. It is proposed to carry on this work with the cataloguing of records for the Guild Trust and then the Guild's own records from 1835. In preparing for this works we have found additional boxes containing valuable material in land agents and solicitor's offices. The Guild has also been granted the custody of the Jim Walker collection which consists of

many photographs taken over a 70 year period and also a collection of antique photographic items. The papers and records of our two chairmen who held office for 40 years each are being transferred to the Guild collection. We have an important and vital responsibility to collect and preserve any relevant material. We shall be working in close contact with the FEW Archivist to ensure our work is compatible with the FEW archives. 2019 will be 900 years since the first Sheriff of Berwick was appointed 'Vicecome de Berwic'. This was both a military and judicial office. Modern day offices of Lord Lieutenant and Honorary Sheriffs are descended from this office. It is intended to mark this anniversary in Berwick with a number of functions.

Bridgenorth:

On Friday 20th October Gild of the Bridgnorth Freemen held their 35th Annual Banquet at the Punch Bowl Inn Bridgnorth.



The evening was attended by 85 people including the Mayor and Mayoress councillors Ron and Carol Whittle, Freemen from Bridgnorth Shrewsbury Gloucester London and guests .



After dinner we were entertained by 'Dandy from the Black Country '
A raffle was also held and £500 was raised for The League of Friends of Bridgnorth Hospital.

Chester:

The Annual Banquet was a superb affair, held in the Ballroom of Chester Town Hall on 14th. October 2017.

Our President, David Starbuck Edwards spoke, as did Past President Canon Dennis Kelly. The Lord Mayor of Chester, Councillor Razin Daniels proposed the toast to the Freemen and Guilds.



The following day, Guilds Sunday, the freemen of Chester and their guests, paraded up Watergate Street to the Guilds' Church, St. Peters for Morning Service. Canon Dennis Kelly did sterling duty playing the organ. Rev. Jonathan Philips, Priest in Charge, presided.

Chester Freemen and Guilds give certificates and prizes annually to students in the crafts and arts at West Cheshire College. These awards are highly valued by the students who win them, having been recommended by their tutors for outstanding achievement in their fields.

Each Company of the Guilds gives a handsome certificate, and a cheque for £30, to the chosen student. A Representative of each Company makes the presentation, and individual photographs are taken.

The 2017 Student Awards took place at the magnificent Ellesmere Port campus, in the John Prescott Theatre. Thirteen students received awards. The Vice President of the Guilds, Ian Dutton, made the opening speech, noting that he owed much to his mentors at

his college when in training, and went on to become Deputy Principle of a College. Jashir Dhessi, Principle, spoke, and the vote of thanks was given by Dame Pat Bacon.

The excellent refreshments were laid on by the College catering students.

The Freemen and Guilds wish the prize-winning students well in their chosen careers.

Members of the Guilds Council and Executive Committee met together for an excellent lunch at the Chester Fields pub and restaurant in early December. The food and service were excellent, and they were warmly greeted by the owner, Mark Jarvis, a good friend of the freemen. Some members missed a very pleasant occasion because of the bad weather. Chester freemen sponsored a Christmas tree in the Chapter House of the cathedral during Christmas-tide. A small model of a Guildsman, supplied by freeman Debbie Cox, adorned the tip of the tree.

Coventry:

25th May was the 35th anniversary of the Type 42 Destroyer HMS Coventry sinking during the Falklands War. Coventry Guild was an affiliate of the ship, and Guild Court members and partners attended the anniversary church service at the Guild church of Holy Trinity. Master Tony Archer laid a wreath at the HMS Coventry memorial in the church. Surviving members of the ship's crew were represented by their Chairman, Chris Howe MBE.

On 31st May robed guild court members formed a guard of honour for late member Chris Balder, our PRO, at the Oakley Wood crematorium. An enthusiastic Guild supporter, Chris will be missed.

Some 15 Coventry members and partners supported the Leicester Gild's banquet weekend events over the 2nd - 4th June, at the now familiar banquet venue of Devonshire Place. Their Master later commented that support from non Leicester Freemen was essential to make the event viable.

On 20th June the annual Senior Freemen's Evening was held at the Westwood club, where natter & noggin, and buffet and raffle, was the order of the day.

8th -9th July saw a Guild stall at the annual Godiva Festival in the Memorial Park. This free festival attracted around 179,000 visitors, so Guild members were busy with Freedom and other queries. On 14th July the Guild formally welcomed the new Lord Mayor of Coventry, his Worship Cllr Tony Skipper as Guild President during his term of office. Last years' President Lindsley Harvard received a Guild plaque from immediate Past Master Steve Morson in thanks for his support.

11th August saw the annual Barnacle village hall skittles event, with long alley, bar and table skittles all in action prior to a hot supper and raffle for the Master's charity.

A good turnout on 19th August for Matt Johnson's tour of the Bedworth Almshouses was briefed on the history of this Gothic revival style complex, still in use today. The next day was the Master's Garden Party at the RAFA Club, also celebrating a notable birthday for our Master Tony Archer, whose charity this year is Alzheimer's UK.

The national Heritage Open Days event on 9th & 10th September welcomed nearly 400 visitors to our Guildroom, with a supplementary stand in the Belgrade Theatre foyer on the Saturday, all ably organised by our PRO PM Peter Wilford.

12th October saw the Lord Mayor's Admission Court in the Council House, where 11 candidates were formally admitted to the Freedom of Coventry. Five days later the annual Guild Admission Court saw 15 new members enjoy a buffet and the ceremony of the

Loving Cup.

18th October had a party of Guildsmen travel south to Cardiff, for a tour of the Royal Mint facility. Our thanks to Junior Warden Matt Johnson for his efforts. Remembrance Sunday on 12th November saw our Master join the civic party to lay the Freeman's wreath at the Memorial Park's Centograph service. A civic contingent from Kiel also attended this year.

The Guild's event year concluded with the Christmas Dinner in St Mary's Guildhall, a sell out event, where the Guild's raffle prize draw also took place.

Final news for 2017 was the welcome selection of Coventry as 'City of Culture' for 2021. Forthcoming events in St Mary's Guildhall include the Apprentice of the Year Awards on 23rd January, Ladies Night on 13th February, and the Charity Awards Dinner on 20th March.

Gloucester:

Our Annual Dinner for 2017 took place at Hatherley Manor in Gloucester on November 11th, 2017 where 59 Freeman and Women and their guests attended including the Mayor Steve Morgan and his Consort together with Mr. Dick Sheppard and his wife. Mr. Sheppard was a former Stuntman who worked for the BBC and on a few Bond films he also holds the Guinness world record for the most car crashes and following dinner gave an interesting talk on his life as a stuntman.



Dick Sheppard during his talk.

The Sunday after the annual dinner the Freemen and Women were invited to take part at the wreath laying ceremony at the cenotaph near the park for the first time. On January 4th 2018, 3 new candidates were admitted as Chartered Freemen and Women of the City of Gloucester. The ceremony was held in the Council chamber situated in the North Warehouse at Gloucester Docks and was carried out by the Mayor Steve Morgan assisted by the City Sheriff Paul Toleman. The present Mayor is very supportive of the Freedom and stated it was a very important part of Gloucester's history and a tradition that needs to be preserved and has ensured the Freemen and women are active in all civic events.



The mayoral party, new Freemen and members of the Freeman committee.

Leicester:

Report from the Master of the Leicester Guild of Freemen, Brian Mudford

On 4th May 2017 the retiring Lord Mayor, Councillor Stephen Corral invited the Leicester Guild of Freemen to a reception in the Tea room at the Town Hall to thank us for their help over the past year. I am pleased to say that over 20 persons attended.

As Master of the Guild of Freeman, I was invited to the Annual Council and Election of the Lord Mayor of Leicester on Thursday 11 May 2017 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, followed by a Civic Reception in the City Hall.

I received an invitation from the Bishop of Leicester to attend a Summer Garden Party in the garden of Bishop's Lodge on Saturday 10th June 2017. As we were on holiday at the time, Jeff Lewitt, the Deputy Master, and his wife Christine attended in our place.

I received an invite from the Lord Mayor for the Guild to attend the Civic Service at the

Leicester Cathedral on the 18th June 2017. As we were on holiday at that time, Mick Ayres attended the service to represent the Gild.

The Banquet weekend for the Leicester Gild took place over Friday 2nd June to Sunday 4th June 2017. On the Friday in the Community Centre at the Holt we held a welcome evening supper for our visitors from other Gilds/Guilds followed by a quiz. A delicious hot meat buffet was provided and several people commented on the excellent food and how they enjoyed the quiz.

John Tolton prepared a challenging quiz which resulted in a tie for first place. The winning teams being made up of a mixture of various Gilds/Guilds.

The Banquet was held on the Saturday evening at Devonshire Place in Leicester. The guests at the top table were HM Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire, Jennifer, Lady Gretton, along with the President of the Gild, Councillor Rashmikan Joshi and the Lady Mayoress, and the Senior Archivist at the Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland Record Office, Robin Jenkins and his wife Jess. The Patron of the Gild, Colonel Robert Martin OBE DL and his wife Mrs Janie Martin also attended.

The Annual Freeman's service was held at Leicester Cathedral on the following day, Sunday 4th June. The President of the Eucharist was the Very Reverend David Montieth, Dean of Leicester and Chaplain of the Gild of Freeman. The preacher was the Reverend Canon Karen Rooms, Canon Missioner. The two Lectors were Jennifer, Lady Gretton and the Gild Patron, Colonel Robert Martin OBE DL. The service was attended by the Lord Mayor, who is the President of the Gild, and the Lady Mayoress. Also in attendance were representatives of the Gilds of Freeman of Coventry, Lincoln, London, Oxford and York, and FEW.

The Banquet weekend was organised by a small Sub-committee comprising of Lynn Roffee, Jeff Lewitt and myself, assisted as required by Sue Freeman, Mick Ayres and John Tolton. I've received several letters and e-mails from Guests and visiting Freeman, saying how much they enjoyed the weekend.

The Gild was invited to attend the Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving on Armed Forces Day at Leicester Cathedral on Saturday 24th June. During the service the Cottesmore Military Wives Choir sang "Bring Him Home" and "A Thousand Years". The service was followed by a Parade of Standards, Service Personnel, Veterans and Cadets who marched to the Clock Tower to take the salute from HM Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire, Jennifer, Lady Gretton, who was supported by the Lord Mayor and the Chairman of the County Council.

After the parade the Gild were invited to join the Lord Mayor at the Town Hall to process through the City to join him in the annual Damask Rose Ceremony at O'Neill's public house in Loseby Lane. In 1636 the then Corporation of Leicester stipulated that the Crown and Thistle, now known as O'Neil's, pay an annual rate of four pennies and one Damask rose on the Feast of St. John the Baptist, which is held on 24th June each year. The Lord Mayor has to collect this in person.

The Gild was invited to a special service at the Leicester Cathedral on Monday 31st July 2017 at 6pm to Commemorate the Centenary of the Battle of Passchendaele. Four persons attended to represent the Gild.

The Gild was invited to the City of Coventry Gild Master's Garden Party at the RAFA club in Coventry on Sunday the 20th August. Four persons attended to represent the Gild, it was a most convivial afternoon enjoyed by all.

On Sunday 1st October three Gild members represented the Gild at The County Service for Leicestershire at the Leicester Cathedral. Apart from myself there were Jeff Lewitt and Sue Freeman. Those in attendance included HM Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire, Jennifer, Lady Gretton; Cllr. Rashmikant Joshi, The Right Worshipful The Lord Mayor of Leicester; Mrs Janice Richards CC, the Chairman of the County Council: Mr. Tim Maxted, the High Sheriff of Leicestershire; and Simon Cole, Chief Constable of Leicestershire. The service was lead by The Very Reverend David Monteith, Dean Of Leicester, and the Sermon was given by The Right Reverend Martyn Snow, Bishop of Leicester.

On Saturday evening the 14th October, my wife and I, representing the Gild of Freemen of the City of Leicester, attended the Banquet of the Freemen and Guilds of the City of Chester at the Chester Town Hall. Speeches were presented by the immediate Past President, Canon Dennis Kelly; The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of the City of Chester, Cllr. Razia Daniels; the President, David Starbuck Edwards; and the Master of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London Mr. Peter Allcard.

The Lord Mayor of Leicester invited the Leicester Gild of Freemen to attend the Remembrance Day Service and Parade on Sunday the 12th November 2017 at the War Memorial on Victoria Park. Fourteen Freemen represented the Gild.

The Lord Mayor of Leicester invited the Leicester Gild of Freemen to attend the unveiling of a Victoria Cross Paving Stone in Honour of Captain Robert Gee VC, on Thursday 30 November 2017 at 2pm at the Town Hall. Twelve persons represented the Gild and as Captain Gee was born in Leicester, and was awarded freedom of the city, I was invited as a representative from the Gild of Freeman to join in reading a short passage about his life. The Gild of Freemen were invited to attend "a Service of Welcome" on Saturday 2nd December at the Leicester cathedral for The Right Reverend Dr. Guli Francis-Dehqani as Bishop of Loughborough. I attended the service, representing the Gild.

The annual visit by the Gild to the pantomime at the Little Theatre took place on Friday 15th December. This year the pantomime was Dick Whittington, and 30 persons from the Gild attended. It was enjoyed by all.

The Gild Christmas carol concert was held at St. Andrew's church, Aylestone on Monday 18th December, followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Community Centre at the Holt.

Our Banquet weekend this year will be from Friday 1st June until Sunday 3rd June 2018. The price and location will be the same as previous years. Details can be obtained from Jeff Lewitt on 0116 283 4357 or jeffrey618@btinternet.com

Northampton:

The Northampton Freemen Trustees have continued to represent the Freemen at various civic events during the period, including: Mayor Making; Oak Apple Day; the Mayor's Charity Service; and Remembrance Sunday. Other Freemen's Guilds events at Lincoln, Coventry, York and Altrincham have also been attended. For pictures and more details of Northampton Freemen's activities look for 'Northampton Freemen' on Facebook. Northampton Guild Charity weekend 13th -14th April 2018: with deep regret this year's Charity weekend has had to be cancelled, as a Guild we are already working on the details of the 2019 Charity weekend, and looking forward to hosting our annual event and renewing our friendships with all our regular attendees.

Shrewsbury:

2018 will be a significant year in the history of the Gild as it will see for the first time an Associate Freeman become Chairman of the Gild, subject to ratification by the AGM in April.

A recent change to our constitution allows an Associate Freeman to become one of the officers of the Court; the other officers must be Hereditary Freeman.

Our new chairman will be David Farmer a former Town Councillor for 19 years and he was Mayor of Shrewsbury in 2005. David hails from Montgomery but is totally committed to our town and its traditions. He is currently a member of the Gild Court and prior to that a very active supporter of the Gild.

The current Chairman, Angela Robinson, will become your new President, a position I have held for the last five years. I am confident that both David and Angela will do an excellent job for the Gild.

Gild Events:

March

Saturday 10th: The Mayor of Shrewsbury's "Purple Tie and Tiara Ball". This will be held at the Shrewsbury Town Football Club. Full details from the Mayor's secretary, Carol Pullen, Telephone: 01743 257655 or email: carol.pullen@shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk

April

Saturday 21st: Gild AGM 2.00 p.m. Lord Hill Hotel, followed in the evening by AGM/St George's Day Dinner 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. at the Lord Hill Hotel.

Sunday 22nd: Annual Service 10 a.m. Abbey Church.

For those attending, please be robed under the tower for 9.45 a.m. Spare robes are available.

June

Sunday 10th: Mayor's Sunday Service and Loving Cup Ceremony St, Chad's Church.

All Freemen are invited to attend this service which is preceded by a procession from the Castle to the Church. The traditional Loving Cup Ceremony will follow the service. Spare robes are available.

Saturday 15th

Shropshire Society in London Annual Dinner:

Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, 7.00 for 7.30 pm £50 pp

Coach from Abbey Car Park at 2.00 pm and return about 10.30 if not staying overnight.

There is a special discount rate for staying over for Friday and Saturday nights at the Imperial Hotel, if members wish.

Please contact their secretary Martin Stevens email: martinstevens@btinternet.com

August:

Friday 10th: Afternoon Tea with the Shropshire Society in London in the Members' Tent at the Shrewsbury Flower Show £12.50 pp— details from Martin Stevens, as above.

Saturday 11th: Buffet Supper: Joint function with the Shropshire Society in London at Shrewsbury School 6.30 for 7pm, £25 pp. Watch the fireworks from the school grounds.

September: Late summer Social Evening, Visit to Salop Leisure with light refreshments provided- date and details to be advised.

November:

Sunday 11th: Remembrance Day Parade and Service with Wreath Laying Ceremony and March Past.

December:

Gild Christmas Dinner: Date and Venue to be advised.

We will be arranging other social functions throughout the year and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible.

The Clerk will make every effort to forward details to members in advance of each event and they can also be found on the **Website Address:**

<http://gildoffreemenschrew.wixsite.com/shrewsburyfreemen>

Warwick:

Principal fund raising event the Court Leet Beer, Cider and Music Festival took place on the 21 – 22 July at Warwick Racecourse. Over 85 beers and many ciders were on offer, and profits are generally dedicated to charities within the CV34 Warwick postcode.

Annual Assizes took place on 12th August, with robed Officers assessing food and drink as 'fit for men's bodies'. Certificates and sprigs of evergreen were awarded to those successful establishments..

The next day Leet members assisted in the Warwick Classic Car Show in the Market Place, as next year the Leet will organise this popular event.

The 464th annual meeting of the Court Leet took place in the Jury Street Courthouse on 26th October, with his Worship the Mayor of Warwick officiating as Lord of the Leet, with Officers from other local Courts Leet, the High Sheriff of Warwickshire, and the FEW Area Warden in attendance. Following the formal opening by Leet Steward and Town Clerk Jayne Topham, Juror Oaths and Reports were considered, before the new Bailiff Maureen Sutherland was enrobed and sworn into office. Low Bailiff John Atkinson duly followed. Two new Jurors were then sworn and enrobed before 'Presentments for the good of the Town' were considered. Calendar of events for 2018 were listed and agreed. A new event for 2018 will be a Leet organised Beer Festival to raise restoration funds for the Lord Leycester Hospital for retired service personnel. This timber framed building was the home of the medieval Warwick Guilds until Henry VIII's Reformation. The first Lady Master in the 450 year history of the Hospital was installed in November.

York

As usual the York Gild has been very active in the past months and will be in the next, a few of the highlights are described below.

Starting last April we held our Annual banquet weekend, a music quiz confused some on the Friday evening, Saturday saw the Banquet itself, while Sunday saw us drawing crowds on our way to and from church led by the York Guard and York Waite's who played us through the streets. Later in the month we hosted the Sheriffs army event, a walk round the city wall in medieval costume, showing the city's strength to put of any invader. The right for Yorks' Sheriff to raise an army was given by William the first, an act intended to secure the rebuilt city following the harrying of the north. Although such a procession of the walls would have been impossible until the Victorians built the walkway, the tradition of raising the Army was revived a few years ago and is now a fixture in the Civic Calendar.

June saw Alan Banks installed as Master at our AGM, beginning a new Gild year. He and his wife Jackie taking over from Sylvia and Edward Errington.

As well as social events the Master, along with his counterparts from the other nine city Guilds, presented some of the awards at the Apprentice graduation ceremony. While a

couple of weeks later the Clerk and his counterparts gave a presentation on the Guilds of York to a group called the York Professionals, and yes F.E.W. got a mention in his part of proceedings. The attendees were impressed with the work of all the Guilds.

The solemn duty of laying a wreath at the city cenotaph next to the River Ouse alongside the Lord Mayor and other dignitaries by the master was on a very cold day, rounded off the Autumn.

At one event in the City the attendees were treated to seeing our Master in a skirt, not quite as bad as it sounds as he had volunteered to be the speakers model to be dressed in as a Roman Centurion.



Our usual Christmas activities was followed in January by the annual Harry Ward Memorial Lecture, which was a very interesting talk on the History of Printing in the city. The speaker even included one or two tales of our Masters exploits during his career in the profession, not to mention the occasion a dyslexic colleague managed to confuse an article for “Home and Garden” for one intended for “Penthouse”.

As we move forward, looking once more to our Banquet weekend, with the York Guard intending to join us once more, we hope to be able to also have the public debut of a new Gild banner which is currently being made.

This coming September will see us once again participating in the Waggon Plays, a cycle of the York Mystery Plays, a free theatrical event which will literally roll through the streets of the city. This year their will be the usual performances on two Sundays at four “stations” from College Green, to St Sampsons Square, through St Helens Square, where they will be free to watch, finishing at a ticketed stand in the Museum Gardens. However in addition, for the first time since they were revived on the Waggons, there will also be a mid week performance, in York Market. 2018 also marks 20 years since the Guilds of York began organising the Waggon cycle every four years through the Festival Trust, retaking their medieval heritage.

Profiles..

Lee Hensley – Assistant Hon Secretary.



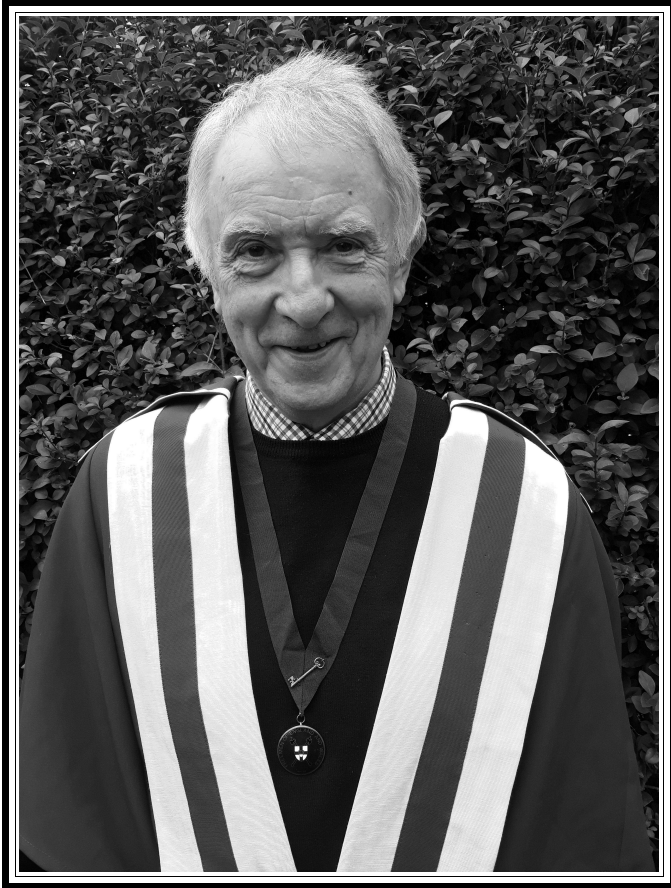
Lee Hensley (Left) and Howard Crapper at a recent dinner in Gloucester

I was born in 1977 in Gloucester where the freedom has been held by the maternal side of the family since the early 1600's. I was educated at St Peters High School before gaining an apprenticeship at Dowty Rotol in 1994, where through many changes and a short but exciting time with the Territorial Army, I still currently work.

I gained the freedom in May 2012 and liking a challenge, quickly took one of the Freeman's places on the Board of trustees of Gloucester Charities Trust. The trust looks after the almshouses, some social care flats and two nursing homes in the city. During my time with the trust I have held the position of Chair of welfare, and have been Chairperson of the whole trust, a position I will hold again next year.

Having been voted President of the Chartered Freemen and Women of Gloucester in 2015, myself and its committee have worked tirelessly to ensure the freedom remains strong in the city, as well as ensuring the bond between Freemen and the City Council remains strong.

Roger Sutton-Warden for the North.



Born a Yorkshireman for my sins, with a 'Viking Spirit', I left the county at eighteen for higher education and hence to seek my fortune on the world's stage. I held a number of rewarding positions through a career spent in Educational Training, Administration and Management; a career in which I experienced some challenging conditions in a variety of environments, both at home and abroad. However, it was as High Bailiff of Henley-in-Arden Court Leet and Court Baron, that I, and I am pleased to record, the Court, joined FEW. It was joining FEW that brought Henley Court together with two of the three other Courts in the area, those of Alcester and Warwick who were already members – it remains a mystery why Bromsgrove Court is not a member of FEW.

Following my years of working in Henley, I returned to my roots in Yorkshire. That was five years ago, and now I divide my time between being a member of the York Guild of Freemen; a member of FEW; as a Rotarian and a course co-ordinator with the U3A (Un. of the Third Age). Further leisure time is spent, watching rugby, working an allotment and playing a poor game of golf!

The Right Honourable Allen Bathurst- Patron.



The Right Honourable Allen Bathurst, formerly Lord Apsley, on the passing of his father 16th October 2011 became the 9th Earl Bathurst. The Earl lives with his wife the Countess Sara, Lady Bathurst, at Cirencester Park, the Bathurst family seat. The Park is a wonderful example of geometric design and is reputed to be the finest example of forest parkland. Within the estate is the famous polo ground, founded in 1894, the oldest playing ground in the United Kingdom.

Popular among the important members of Gloucestershire and Cotswold society, Earl Bathurst is known for his amiable and forthright personality. Hard working, fair minded, and a man of the people with a clear approach to duty and among other things currently an avid supporter of 'Help the Heroes'.

Locally, Lord of Cirencester, serving on several charitable boards, he is a director of the Housing Society and Trustee of the St Lawrence Hospital Trust. As an ambassador of agriculture, his limits are boundless. Undoubtedly his largest commitment is to the efficient running of the large and well organized Bathurst Estate, covering some 15,000 acres of supreme countryside. Earl Bathurst is Director of the Cirencester Housing Society and a governor of the family connected Royal Agricultural College. He is Director of the annual Cotswold Country Fair, past President of the Three Counties Agricultural Society and is President of the Gloucestershire Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, FWAG. His involvement with the National Farmers Union has had far reaching effect. As a conservationist, Earl Bathurst has campaigned to preserve the rural countryside and

various historic buildings. He has done much to encourage sensitive farming methods and has gained awards for his approaches to the improvement and sanctuary of wildlife. Earl Bathurst is a Patron of the Cotswolds Museum Trust and the Countess Lady Bathurst is Patron of the cancer charity LINC and national Vice President of the Royal British Legion's women's section. The Right Honourable Ninth Earl Bathurst will be following his eminent predecessors who have variously held prominent positions of distinction in government, a Lord Chancellor, Solicitor General, military heroes and sporting sponsors, nationally and internationally. The Third Earl Bathurst was Secretary of State for War and Colonies during the Napoleonic Wars and was a great supporter of the Duke of Wellington, or indeed vice versa.

Without doubt, our distinguished Patron is a man of great integrity, probity and responsibility, he has an empathy with all things truly British and is sympathetic with our historical traditions. We can consider ourselves most fortunate to have such an influential and suitable patron in the Right Honourable Earl Bathurst.

Postscript– A very interesting 'Freedom' connection exists within the historical background to a club that still exists today, namely the "Cirencester Society in London". Founded before 1692, the objects of the Society include the apprenticeship of poor Cirencester boys to Freemen of the City of London to take up useful handicraft trades. Of course much has changed, but the Society still continues to give money in support of apprentices going to London from Cirencester. This year they are aiding an apprentice in her training and career as a promising stone mason.

Alan Shelley, October 2011, for the Association of 'Freemen of England and Wales'.

Annual Banquets:

We have been notified of the following:

2018

<u>Date</u>	<u>Guild / Event</u>	<u>Contact</u>
13-15 April	York banquet weekend	Steve Hornby. Hornby.steven@yahoo.co.uk
4-6 May	Coventry banquet weekend	George Wilkinson 024-7646-3203
1-3 June	Leicester banquet weekend	Jeff Lewitt 0116-283-4357

2019

3-5 May	Coventry banquet weekend
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Nominations for FEW Executive Officers 2018 – 2019.

Nominations are requested for FEW Executive Officers to serve for the year 2018-2019. The following positions are open for nomination :- Vice President; Hon Secretary; Hon Treasurer; Hon Membership Secretary; Hon Archivist; Hon Editor; and Officer Without Portfolio. Each nomination must be sent to the Hon Secretary on the correct nomination Form accompanying this notice (photocopies are acceptable), and be accompanied by the appropriate statements as detailed. All nominations must be sent to myself (Hon Secretary) and received by the closing date of 16 May 2018, in order that they can be published in the Summer 2018 Journal.

NOMINATION FORM

Any nomination, properly proposed on this form, must be received by the Hon. Secretary on or before the closing date of May 16th 2018 in order that it can be published in the Summer 2018 Journal, thereby allowing time for its consideration by Member Gilds/Guilds/Societies before the AGM in September. This form must be accompanied by the following: -

1) A statement from the candidate in not more than 150 words, detailing experience within the Freedom validating the candidate's suitability to fulfil the nominated office.

2) A short prospectus from the candidate in not more than 50 words, detailing his or her aims in furthering the constitutional objectives of F.E.W.

3) A short statement by the principal proposer in not more than 100 words, supporting the suitability of the candidate to serve F.E.W. in the nominated office.

The first two accompaniments must be written by the Nominee, then all three are to be attached to the Nomination Form and forwarded together as a set of Nomination Papers.

We, the undersigned propose

a Freeman/Freeburgesses of

for election to the position of

of the Association of Freemen of England and Wales for the period 2018-2019.

Proposer

Seconder

I declare that if elected, I am willing to

serve asof the Freemen of England and Wales for the period 2018-2019.

Signed

Return to: F.E.W. Hon. Secretary, Lee Hensley, 86 Painswick Road, Gloucester, GL4 6PT.

Notice is hereby given to all Guild Representatives, Wardens, and Executive Officers that the next FEW Court Meeting will be held at 2pm on Saturday 24th March 2018 in the Civic Suite, North Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester, GL1 2EP.

AGENDA

1. Attendees to sign Register and be seated.
 - a) Call to Order, Opening of Court, and Welcome.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Minutes of the last Court Meeting held on Saturday 18th March 2017 in the Guildhall, 141/142 High Street, Henley-in-Arden. These minutes were published in Journal 187, Summer 2017.
 - a) Approval of Minutes.
4. Matters Arising, not forming any other part of this Agenda.
5. President's Report.
6. Deputy President's Report.
7. Vice President's Report.
8. Immediate Past President's Report.
9. Warden's Reports.
10. Hon. Treasurer's Report.
11. Hon. Membership Secretary's Report.
12. Hon. Editor's Report.
13. Hon. Archivist's Report.
14. Officer Without Portfolio's Report.
15. Alterations to Constitution.
16. Executive nominations for officers.
17. Meeting with National Archives Officials.
18. Any other Business.
19. Future Court & AGM Venues.
20. Closure of Court.

Directory.

President: James Evans. Makore, Northburn View. Eyemouth. TD14 5BG 01890 750701
captjamesevans@gmail.com

Deputy President: Steve White. 11 Manor Avenue, Great Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire
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Alcester, Warwickshire B49 6PP 01789 762574

Hon. Secretary: See assistant secretary.

Hon. Treasurer: Steve White. (See Deputy President above).

Membership Secretary: Eileen Forth . 88 Whitethorn Close, Huntington, York YO31 9EU
01904 638361 gordon.v.44@outlook.com

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Officer Without Portfolio:

Assistant Officers.

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Front Cover: Gloucester Cathedral:Photograph Courtesy Andrew Croose.

Back Cover: Photograph taken in March 1980. It shows the then President of FEW, Harry Ward, with the present day President of FEW, Jim Evans. The occasion was the visit of Harry to Berwick to make arrangements for Berwick to host their first FEW AGM, Jim being then the Chairman of the Berwick Guild.

Hon. Editor: Tom Gibson, Freeman of York. All correspondence, enquiries as to advertising and circulation (including requests for additional copies) should be addressed to:

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The editor can accept text for publication either electronically (email or on disk) or bold print hard copy to Scan. All submissions preferred in the **Times New Roman font, size 10**. I can also cope with images (I can convert to Black and white if necessary) either as hard copy to scan, electronically by email or on memory card as **JPG** files please. If you require return of hard copies or Memory media an SAE is appreciated, please indicate if this is desired.

Please note the closing date for the editor to receive items for the next issue (No. 190) is the 18/5/18.

If you would like to receive future editions of this journal by email (as a PDF) rather than through the post, please contact the editor with your details.

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