



# *Freemen of England and Wales.*



*Journal, issue no. 164: October 2010.*

*Annual Record and Gazette*

*With Compliments.*

ISSN 1749-4095

<http://www.freemen-few.org.uk>

## **Message From The President.**

Dear Members,

The 2010 AGM at Berwick upon Tweed has now been completed. The weekend was a great success. I may be biased but that doesn't alter the facts; Captain Jim Evans and the Berwick Freemens Committee organised the weekend with precision and deserve our whole-hearted congratulations and appreciation. Stafford set the scene last year for a more relaxed and friendly weekend, and Berwick took the baton and excelled in giving us a weekend where I saw only sunshine (Jim must have friends on high) and smiles.

This is what an FEW AGM weekend should be: a place where business is completed in harmony; where argument can be voiced and opinion heard, but where there is no place for aggression and dictat.

As I mentioned in my toast to the Freeman and town of Berwick, there will be tough decisions ahead: the Freedom must be protected, and if FEW is to hold its rightful place it must protect the Freeman and Gilds, recognising that it is their servant, there to help and advise but not to steer; and only to represent when a wholly unanimous action is requested.

The 2011 AGM is in Pembroke and I am confident that Roy Folland and his team will give us a weekend to be proud of, back in the tradition of FEW weekends where freemen from all corners met in high spirits, knowing before they arrived that they would enjoy good company and good humour. Don't miss it!!

The 2012 AGM is still open for a host Gild so if your Gild has not yet been involved why not consider offering. All the help you need with organization can be provided through the FEW Executive and it should not cost anything. Think of the benefit; an AGM weekend on your doorstep and no travelling or hotels!

My appeal for a current e-mail address for every Gild is still ongoing. I will be writing separately but if your Gild is not yet listing an e-mail contact in the journal you risk not receiving vital information quickly. We will be using this method of contact much more in the future to provide you with more information, minimise costs and increase efficiency. Help us to help you by nominating an addressee to distribute to your Gild members.

By the way, if you are an individual member make sure we have your e-mail address too. There will be lots of other Gilds events

that may be local to where you live and we will be happy to send you any information that we have.

I look forward to a busy year, building bridges and making both progress and new friends.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Fallows

### **GRATEFUL THANKS.**

Both the IPP, Colin Hardcastle, and his Lady Consort and Warden for the North East, Emma Reid-Chalmers, would like to thank all those (too numerous to mention individually) who have supported them throughout the past few years.

It is fitting that one is singled out, namely June Smith-Parker, who as Clerk to the Guild of Freemen of the City of York ensured a smooth running year of office for both of us – when Colin was Master – and has further deputised both then and since as Lady Consort on a number of occasions. She has always gone above and beyond the call of duty.

June's unwavering friendship, sense of humour, kindness, hard work and dedication have been and are noted, appreciated and properly acknowledged here. The past few years would have been impossible without her. A BIG thank you June.



Immediate Past President, Colin Hardcastle, is shown an example of his new duties by Jenny of Lincoln. Photograph Courtesy.

## **News from the Guilds.**

### **Leicester.**

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July** After a lapse of fifteen years our Banquet weekend began with a get-together in the Community centre at Freemen's Holt. When we served a cold meat salad along with a variety of drinks. This was followed by Bob Gregory a Blue Badge guide giving a talk and a slide show on places of interest in Leicester. He offered to arrange a tour round Leicester on Saturday morning for those interested.

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July** The Banquet was held at Devonshire Place starting at 7 30pm. 80 persons attended, including Freemen from Coventry, Chester, Lincoln, London, Oxford, Shrewsbury, Warwick and York. The evening went smoothly we had great food and efficient service in lovely surroundings. The loyal toast to "Her Majesty the Queen" was proposed by the Clerk of the Gild, John Tolton. The toast to "The City of Leicester" was proposed by the Patron of the Gild, Colonel Robert Martin OBE, who gave an informative and entertaining speech. This was replied to by the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Robert Wann who then proposed a toast to "The Gild of Freemen of Leicester". This was replied to by the Master of the Gild Brian Mudford who proposed the toast to "Our Guests".

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July** The Annual Freemen's Service was held at St Mary de Castro church at 10.30am. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, the High Sheriff of Leicestershire together with visiting Freemen and Leicester Freemen met in Castle house for robing, before joining the procession to the church. Colonel Robert Martin and the Master of the Gild Brian Mudford read the lessons. After the service refreshments were served in the church.

Following the success of the weekend, our Banquet weekend for 2011 will be held from Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June to Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June. **Please make a note in your diary for 2011**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August** The Gild visited Bristol for the Harbour Festival, our coach departing from Freeman's Holt at 9am. On our arrival in Bristol a Blue Badge Guide boarded the coach to direct our driver around the principal sights of the renowned City. During the tour we were able to leave the coach and view the magnificent sight of the Bristol suspension bridge, over the Avon Gorge. After lunch we had plenty of free time to visit the harbour and view the tall ships and vessels or be entertained by the street performers, before returning to the Holt.

Michael Ayres.



**Left to right: Mrs. Janie Martin, Mrs. Jean Ayres, Mick Ayres and Col. Robert Martin OBE, Patron of the Leicester Gild.**

## Coventry

On 20<sup>th</sup> May our Master, Clerk and ladies were invited to attend the **installation of Lord Mayor** Brian Kelsey in Coventry Cathedral, with his wife Brenda as Lady Mayoress. After a gap of six years we are pleased to have another Coventry Freeman and Guild member as Lord Mayor. It is with great sadness we now learn that last year's Lord Mayor and Guild President, Jack Harrison MBE JP, has terminal cancer. On the 8<sup>th</sup> June the Guild held the annual **Senior Freemen's Evening** at the Coundon Social Club. With some Freemen achieving their Freedom over 60 years ago, there was plenty to reminisce about for the 50+ present before a tasty buffet and raffle in aid of the Master's Charity Appeal.

On 26<sup>th</sup> June Guild Officers and a sizeable contingent from Coventry's affiliated ship HMS Diamond attended a service in the Cathedral for **Armed Forces Day**. With the constant attrition of British Forces in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts it was a timely reminder of the debt society only normally acknowledges on Remembrance Sunday. The subsequent parade passed the Council House, where the Lord Mayor took the salute. This year not only marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Coventry Blitz, but also the 150 anniversary of the Army Cadet Force founding, and their representatives were joined by air and sea cadets to escort the Union Flag and the well drilled and be-medalled squad of standard bearers.

On 28<sup>th</sup> June there was a special **Lord Mayor's Admission Court** for Ian Roach, visiting from Canada. Ian generously gave £70 for the Charity Appeal, besides joining the Guild as a life member. We were pleased to open the Guild Room for Ian and his family.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> July the Guild welcomed the new Lord Mayor as **President of the Guild** at a dinner in the Crypt, together with the Lady Mayoress Brenda Kelsey. To celebrate his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and unique position of having been Coventry Master twice, and also Master of the London Guild, Ray Holl presented three silver bowls for Guild ceremonial use. Our thanks to PM Ray for this generous gift. The next day Court members marched in full robes behind the Guild banner in the

## Godiva Festival Carnival.



The usual hot day conditions and the heavy woollen robes meant we were glad to reach the Memorial Park and the Guild stand. The stand was kept busy over the next two days with queries on the Freedom and the Guild.



In the evening a sizeable party of Coventry members attended the first **Leicester Freemen's Gild banquet** for 15 years at the Devonshire Place Freemasons Hall. After a superb meal, we were also able to take a guided tour of the elaborate Temple Room. A service next day at the Leicester Gild church of St Mary de Castro was preceded by a colourful parade of Freemen from York, Chester, Lincoln and Coventry – a busy weekend indeed, as the Guild stand was still in service

at the Memorial park.

On 10<sup>th</sup> July we had a full complement of 30 aboard the narrow boat 'Coventrian' for our two yearly **excursions on the Coventry Canal Greenway**. This time we started at the Swan Lane wharf built in 1840 to service the adjacent dairy, and travelled north to the Black Bank junction just south of Bedworth. A buffet complemented this very relaxed form of travel. For our forebears 200 years ago this would have been a main transport artery shipping coal to the power station at Electric Wharf, and food products and finished goods to the canal basin in the heart of the city. The coming of the railways from the 1840's marked an irrevocable shift from water to rail, and another scene in Coventry's industrial landscape developed.

On 29<sup>th</sup> August the annual **Master's Charity Walk** saw eight hardy souls trekking from Ansty to Bedworth to almost complete the ongoing 'Coventry Way Walk'. A bright start gave way to steady rain, so after six miles or so the hikers were glad to complete the walk and have a lift to the Red Lion at Corley Moor, to enjoy a well earned leisurely meal with fellow Court members and wives.

***Derek Austin***

## **Henley in Arden Court Leet and Court Baron**

Court Leet Day 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2010.

Saturday. What a glorious day, and such a contrast to last year's wet and windy weather. Saturday was the day the Court had chosen to complete its traditional ale, fish and flesh tasting; butter and bread weighing; brook-looking and the beating of the manorial bounds.

The High Bailiff and the Court Leet, with guests, which included the Bailiffs of Warwick, and Alcester, started the day at 10.00 am from Henley Market Cross. The Town Crier, Gordon Trinder, being on holiday in sunny Scarborough, it fell



to the Low Bailiff, John Rutherford, to ring and read the High Bailiff's proclamation. The procession then set off up the High Street in the direction of Sue Dalby Catering to taste the butter and bread on offer by S.D.C. In front of their shop, Sue had prepared a table of wares demonstrating the 'art of butter making'; butter of real quality was tasted by Butter/Bread Weigher, Fred Dowling.



Next, the procession returned to Beaudesert Lane to check the flow of the River Alne at the bridge. Earlier, Brook-Lookers, Graham Smith and Dawn Leech had entered the waters to walk the Alne as far as the Medical Centre Crossing, so they could report their findings to the High Bailiff. At the same time, the Hayward, Jonathan Dovey was sent on his way up the Mount to survey the manorial bounds; to the north, east, south and west, and to report his findings to the High Bailiff.

On reaching the Medical Centre Bridge, the High Bailiff received the Brook-Lookers' report on the river – clear and free flowing. The report delivered, the final task of the Brook-Lookers was to release an armada of yellow plastic ducks into the river for the start of the Court Leet Charity Duck Race! It turned out to be a most amusing race, because of the slow speed of the current, the ducks at the back of the armada had to be helped a long by the occasional flick of the brook-

looker's rake – more a rake race, then a duck race!

The next stop was Henley High Street, and the Henley Ice Cream Café, where the second of the day's butter and bread weighing, and tasting ceremonies took place. Three further weighings and tastings took place at Somerfield, Henley Bakery and Café 34. Similar weighings and tastings of fish and flesh were also conducted at Sea Spray fisheries and Mills Country Butchers. The Court's elected Master Weigher and Taster, Fred Dowling, in reporting his findings to the High Bailiff, found the weight, taste and quality of wares offered for sale in each of the establishments visited, 'to be of a good standard and of excellent value for money.'

Checking the value and standard of ale offered for sale in the town's taverns was another of the Court responsibilities. The Court's two Ale Tasters, Master Ale-Taster, Andrew Gardner, and his able apprentice, John Tristram, were charged with this 'crème de la crème' of tasks. The first tavern visited was The Nags Head, where landlord, Mike, pulled a pint of Bombardier for our tasters to try. Then it was on to the Three Tuns, where landlady, Kate, drew a pint of Shakespeare County for our tasters. The ale tasters were pleased to report that in each of the establishments visited the ale for sale was 'of good measure and excellent to taste.'

It was during the visit to the Three Tuns tavern that all followers were treated to a spectacular piece of street theatre performed by the Silhill Morris Men – later to be repeated in the Guild Hall Garden. Following the performance by the Morris Men, the procession assembled at the Market Cross, where the officials of the Court reported their day's findings to the High Bailiff. Upon the findings of his Court Officers, the High Bailiff, was able to report that he had award each establishment visited with an official certificate : 'To record that the said premises had this day been visited by the Court, and the wares on offer were tested for quality, fairness and value for money; that the certificate awarded could be displayed in the said premise for the period of one year.'

The official tasks completed, lunch was taken in the

Guild Hall Gardens. It was here in the gardens, that the public could picnic on purchases of tea, coffee, cakes and soft drinks from the refreshment tent run by the ladies of Henley W.I. In the gardens the public could also visit the Riverside Garden Project, where members of the fund raising committee, were on hand to explain the new garden's development.

After lunch, Henley Amateur Dramatic Society entertained the public by performing an extract from Shakespeare's 'Macbeth', first performed by them as part of this year's Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations. This was followed by the second performance of the Silhill Morris Men! The public were treated to three dances; two of West Country origin and a dance of their own composition.

Finally, the High Bailiff, thanked his guests from the other Courts, and all who took part in the day's proceedings, for their support in helping the Court perform its ancient re-enactments of ale, fish and flesh tasting, butter and bread weighing, brook-looking and the beating of the bounds. History is alive in Henley!

Roger Sutton  
High Bailiff

## **Enrolling of Lady Freeman at Pembroke**

An historic ceremony took place in the Council Chamber of Pembroke Town Council on Monday 6th September 2010 when Mrs. Anne Elizabeth Cain of Scotland and Miss. Nancy Deloni Folland of Haverfordwest, were admitted as Freeman of Pembroke. Both have taken advantage of the passing of recent legislation which states that where the son /grandson of a freeman of a city or town may claim to be admitted as a freeman of the city or town, the daughter / grand daughter of a freeman may likewise claim to be so admitted.

In attendance at the ceremony were County Councillor John George (Chairman of Pembrokeshire County Council), Councillor Keith Nicholas (Mayor of Pembroke) and Hugh Colley (Clerk to Pembroke Town Council).

Roy Folland (Master of the Gild of Freemen of Pembroke) welcomed everyone and thanked the Chairman and the Mayor for setting time aside from their busy schedule to attend the ceremony.

Following the making of the Freeman's Declaration pursuant to the custom and statute in force and the signing of the Oath and the Declaration, Councillor George presented framed certificates to the newly admitted Lady Freemen and to offer his congratulations to each. He also expressed pleasure at the presence of the Mayor of Pembroke and the family and friends of the newly admitted Lady Freemen at the historic ceremony.

Councillor Nicholas responded and presented Mrs Cain and Miss Folland with gifts on behalf of Pembroke Town Council. The Master of the Gild closed the ceremony by thanking the Town Clerk, Mr. Hugh Colley for making the arrangements and behalf of the Gild, presented all three officers with ties.



Draft Letter to Local Council re admission of ladies to the Freedom.

Address to Town Clerk / Mayors Secretary (usual point of contact)

Dear .....,

The recent enactment of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill 2009 has made it mandatory for the daughters of freemen to be eligible to apply for admission as freemen under the same terms as would be applicable to sons of freemen. For reference this is covered by Chapter 5, Schedule 27 and 28 of the Act.

To comply with the terms of the Act and local custom here in ..... we must now be prepared to accept applications from the daughters (and grand-daughters) of freemen previously sworn. Once admitted those Lady Freemen would then be eligible to pass on the entitlement to the Freedom to their own sons and daughters.

You will, of course, realise that this change will remove the continuity of surname and may make the validation of lineage a little more complicated. To assist with this we have adopted a pro-forma which we enclose for your attention and hopefully you may decide that this is suitable for your purposes. We would also suggest that it may be prudent to adopt a slight variation to entries in the Burgess Roll whereby each entry is given a numerical reference and shows the pre 2010 family name from which the claim originates. These measures will make future checks easier to follow.

We anticipate that there may be an initial influx of applications but that this will settle down after a year or two. If the Gild can be of any assistance in the implementation of these changes please do not hesitate to contact me further.

Yours sincerely,

.....

Master / Chairman etc to the Gild.

**This was omitted in error from the June Journal (164) and we apologise to Emma for so omitting it:**

**REPORT FOR F.E.W. – JUNE 2010**  
**WARDEN FOR THE NORTH-EAST.**

The annual York Banquet weekend proved to be a great success. The Clerk, June Parker-Smith, having got it down to a fine art, proving particularly adept with the seating plan on the Saturday night. The whole weekend went without a single hitch. So credit where credit is due, for as was also said at the Coventry Banquet it is the Clerk who is the glue who holds it all together .

The Friday night event (held at an original medieval Inn rather than Bedern Hall) was a sell-out. The Inn like so much else in York was definitely built to fit and not to measure, but we proved to be a well-behaved lot and the extremely wonky stairs were not too much of a challenge unlike the traditional Yorkshire portions of food. It was no surprise to find many walking their meal off the next morning, making use of the glorious Spring weather, either in York itself or on the organised trip to the Victorian cemetery before the Banquet on the Saturday night.

As announced in my previous report the great and good did indeed fill the top table, but the whole weekend was well supported by many from around the country. So much so that our President doubling up as Membership Secretary and Past Master for the Gild of Freemen of the City of York, and myself doubling up as President's Consort and Warden for the North East, made way and sat on one of the round tables with, amongst others, the High Bailiff of Henley-in-Arden, Roger, his wife Molly, and Chaplain to the Gild and his wife, as well as a Past Lady Mayor and President of the Gild of Freemen of the City of York. It wasn't just the top table which was distinguished, in fact the whole night was spent in good company, the proof of which was the noise of the chatter.

There was a real buzz about the evening, and it was lovely that so many members of the Master and Consort's family attended.

The flower arrangements were even more beautiful than usual. A giant of a raffle with no less than 74 prizes was organised by Hazel. I had the dubious job of drawing the tickets and can only thank those others who so ably assisted, for without them I think I would still be there! The speeches were not too long or too short. The Archbishop made the point that people are more than statistics. To view humanity in such limited terms missed the best of who we are and who we can be, and in such straightened times as we are in and are facing, we should not forget our individuality and ability to enhance humanity and each others lives by our actions.

The Sunday saw many of us processing from Merchant Adventurers Hall (as Bedern Hall had been double-booked). Many stayed behind to join in and to process back for coffee and cake, or something a little stronger should you require. It should be noted that the weekend was also the occasion of Master Eileen Ford's birthday, and whilst a grand enough occasion for anybody, we all hoped that Gordon, her Consort and our Vice President, treated her and didn't just use the Banquet weekend as an excuse not to bother!

Eileen and Gordon handover on 25<sup>th</sup> June at Bedern Hall at the occasion of the AGM. Both they and their Deputy Master who is also our Editor have had a very busy year, which only goes to show the importance and premier position which the Freeman have in the City of York. The importance of the Freeman was also apparent when I attended (wearing the two hats of President's Consort and Warden for the North East) at Shrewsbury the weekend following York. It was an intimate dinner, and top table was not only graced by the Mayor and Lady Mayoress wearing a chain of office of Welsh gold, but also Teddy in his St George's Day mascot wear. Those of you in the York Gild will remember that

when Colin was Master (for the second time) he presented the Gild with a Teddy Bear in robes who attended dinners in his own right. The York Teddy resides, complete with sheep won at Holt Fleet's garden party, at Bedern Hall. This St George's Teddy holding the flag with three lions formed part of Colin's speech. As usual it was a speech which was more than well received. For those of you not there but perhaps at some point passing through Shrewsbury, the 1000 year old Abbey in which the Sunday morning service was held is well worth a visit.

This was followed by Coventry. For me it is also the Sunday procession and Service at Coventry which is the highlight after the banquet. The Church is not only well-attended but has a really good tradition of choral music. It is the Church in which David Dimbleby recently donned hard hat to ascend up the wall-painting of Doomsday. It stands in stark contrast to the spectacular stained glass at either end. The banquet in the Guildhall the night before is equally wonderful, and this year Derek, our Warden for the Midlands, became Master. It was a pleasure to be there to see him installed.

Regarding the areas which the Vice-President has written to me about, so far I have in previous reports dealt with two of them! There is no further progress regarding new members save that I have made contact with the York Early Music Festival who are involved with the Beverley Festival and the new Medieval Gild's Trail. FEW as a result have the opportunity of further publicity through the internationally accredited York Early Music Festival, and at present they have suggested that we may like to include their brochure with our Journal so our members can see what they are about. I commend this to you all, and have written an article about the Gild Trail and give further information in The Journal. It would raise the profile of FEW considerably.

Thereafter, my year has hit a glitch - all Executive Officers and Wardens have a full copy each of all the relevant



documentation - and means that I will resign as Warden at the AGM at Berwick-upon-Tweed as it is a matter about which I feel very strongly. I have already resigned from the website committee and ask that you note that I am not associated with the content of the website in anyway and have not agreed to or consented in anyway whatsoever with the issues which have given rise to the difficulties concerned. However, I will complete my obligations as President's Consort and also to the Warden's role without causing any prejudice to FEW or York (given their AGM is so near) and present my final report at the AGM.

16.6.10  
ELR-C.

**Letter to Beverly Freeman.  
(See report delivered at AGM for more details).**

From: the Warden for the North East

In adding my congratulations following your admission as a Freeman of Beverley, it gives me great pleasure to invite you to join the organisation of the Freemen of England and Wales.

I enclose a leaflet giving you details of our organisation and also a membership form.

For the current annual cost of £8 we provide a quarterly Journal publication, quarterly Court meetings (held at different venues throughout England and Wales) and an A.G.M. long weekend. We are also in the process of developing our own website.

The A.G.M. is usually held in September and is hosted by a different Guild each year. It provides not only the opportunity to meet Freemen from the whole of England and Wales, but also to explore a town, city or borough from its civic and historical perspective. For example, civic dignitaries normally attend and we often tread in the footsteps of our

forebears having the main banquet in ancient settings. We process and attend the host Guild's Church on the Sunday.

Each A.G.M. is unique as the host Guild make of it what it will (within certain parameters) and participants can attend as much or as little as they choose with payment being structured accordingly. Accommodation is sourced locally by the host Guild.

In these ways we hope, as an umbrella organisation, to bring Freemen together, support the civic aspects of a town, city or borough and continue the tradition of pride in our communities which, by becoming Freemen, our forebears started.

Those who hold various offices/posts within the structure of the organisation are all volunteers and make their £8 annual contribution the same as anyone else. Therefore, it is with grateful thanks that we acknowledge the support of the East Riding Civic Officer at Beverley in addressing and posting or providing our information to you.

We do hope you will join us, from wherever you reside and when you will receive a copy of our Journal, together with contact details for the Warden for your area and also all the Executive Officers.

Kindest Regards,



Emma delivering copies of the above letter and membership application forms for distribution.

**Matters raised at the Open Forum**  
**held on Saturday 11th September 2010**  
**prior to the 44" AGM in Berwick-upon-Tweed.**

1) Howard Crapper (Oxford) noting Alan Fallow's representations on behalf of FEW regarding Land Registration issues, requested a copy of the information held by Alan, on the 1840 Select Committee Report reference Oxford. Alan will provide this.

2) Howard Pate (Chester) asked what progress had been made regarding potential FEW membership by the Norwich Guild. Alan in reply, stated that he had heard via Colchester, that Norman Wield, FEW Warden for the East, was actively pursuing this matter, but no outcome was as yet forthcoming.

3) John Edwards (Stafford) requested that the copies of the DVD of last year's AGM in Stafford, which he had distributed to the representatives of all attending guilds, should be circulated around the individual members of those guilds, as he had heard that in some cases this was not being done.

4) Michael Ayres (Leicester) referring to Freemens' land in Leicester sold specifically for "Civic Purposes", and for which certain compensation had been received, stated that this land was now allocated for totally different purposes. He requested advice on what course of action could now be taken by the Leicester Guild, including registration of the land. He was advised to consult a specialist solicitor. Emma Reid-Chalmers noted that such a person was resident in Leicester, and she would pass details on to Michael. Capt. Jim Evans (Berwick-upon-Tweed) added for the benefit of attending delegates, that everything and anything pertaining to a guild should always be carefully assessed, and everything properly registered.

5) Colin Hardcastle (York) FEW President, noted that with the withdrawal of Malmesbury's offer to host the 2012 AGM, taken

together with the obstacles preventing the original proposals for the AGM to be held in Preston, then FEW was unfortunately back to square one. He therefore requested offers from guilds to host the 2012 AGM.

6) Emma Reid-Chalmers (London) proposed that now that daughters were being accepted as Freeman by guilds, then rewording of the FEW Hymn should be considered to remove the current reference which is only to sons, and to replace it with something more appropriate. It was pointed out that approval for any change would need to be sought from the family of Harry Ward, as had been previously done when certain wording was changed to turn the original FEW Song into the FEW Hymn. This said and done, it was agreed that suggestions for suitable rewording should be submitted for consideration by the Executive.

7) Stephen White (Grimsby) requested comment on how applications for the Freedom are made by daughters in different guilds. Roy Folland (Pembroke) pointed out that confusion would be caused when a married daughter's name entered in the Freemens' Rolls did not match that of her father. Michael Ayres noted that in Leicester, certain Lady Freeman were taking up the Freedom not for any meaningful or participatory reason, but because some other member of their family was already a Freeman. Colin Hardcastle countered this by stating that the Freedom anywhere is a matter of right, not a privilege. Capt. Jim Evans reminded everyone that it was the prerogative of individual guilds to choose to change their rules, or to choose not to change them as they saw fit. However, he emphasised that it should be the duty of any new Lady Freeman to frilly understand exactly what the Freedom is about. Richard Helstrip (York) stated that York City Council will not consider any change of rules because they state that it is impossible to contact each and every Freeman as they are widely scattered, and unknown in many cases. Alan Fallows responded by noting that Section 28 of the Act somewhat covers this eventuality. However, he stated that in order to

resolve such an issue, affected guilds must widely advertise, comprehensively check all records, and then convince their councils that all possible research has been fully carried out.

8) As a final addendum at the close of the Open Forum, Emma Reid-Chalmers presented Colin with a "do it yourself" kit of teabags, as a light hearted rebuff to his long standing amusement of always referring to Jenny of Lincoln as only being a Freeman there, so that she could make the tea for him.

**Minutes of the 44" Annual General Meeting  
of the Association of Freeman of England and Wales  
held on Saturday 11th September 2010, in The Guild Hall,  
Berwick-upon-Tweed.**

Although produced as a meaningful record of the proceedings, these minutes in no way constitute a verbatim transcript of the meeting.

Attendees. W.J.Allen — London Geoff Anderson — Alnwick Michael Ayres — Leicester Jane Bailey — Lincoln Stewart Bristow — Lincoln Tony Chettle — Leicester Alex Christison — Berwick-upon-Tweed Patricia Christison — Berwick-upon-Tweed Wm. Cockburn — Berwick-upon-Tweed Yvonne Cockburn — London Jenny Connell — Lincoln Howard Crapper — Oxford John Edwards — Stafford Maureen Eland — York Capt. J.Evans — Berwick-upon-Tweed D.Fairnall — Berwick-upon-Tweed John Fairnall — Berwick-upon-Tweed Alan Fallows — Shrewsbury Valerie Fallows — Shrewsbury Robin Folland — Pembroke Roy Folland — Pembroke Carole Ford — York Eileen Forth — York & London Hazel Hague — York Mervyn Hall — Alnwick Colin Hardcastle — York Capt. S.C.Healy — Newcastle upon Tyne R.Helstrip — York Michael W.Herriott — Berwick-upon-Tweed John Heslop — Durham Peter Kelly — Hale Ron Leek - Alcester & London Jim Manship — Leicester Ray Mason — Newcastle-under-Lyme Carl Mattison — Alnwick Jimmy Mattison — Alnwick Tommy

Mattison — Alnwick Doris McElwee — Durham Joe McElwee — Durham Alastair Milne Home — Berwick-upon-Tweed Leslie Morgan — London & Hale Paul Morgan — London Denis Nixon — Alnwick Howard B.Pate — Chester Anne Pinches — Chester Michael Pinches — Chester Emma Reid-Chalmers — London Bob Shepherd — Alnwick James Shepherd — Alnwick Brian Simpson — Newcastle-under-Lyme Ray Spurway — Stafford Alec Stephenson — York Beryl Stephenson — York Billy Straughan — Alnwick William R.Taylor — Berwick-upon-Tweed John Tolley — Altrincham Gordon Varndell — London Lynda Weatherley — Berwick-upon-Tweed Alan Webb — Stirling, Scotland Stephen White — Great Grimsby Mignonne Williams — Guest Wyn Williams — London

Following the Call to Order, and with the FEW Mace previously placed in position in front of the gathering, the President, Colin Hardcastle, accompanied by the Worshipful Mayor of Berwick-upon-Tweed, Councillor Jennifer Waterhouse, entered the chamber and each took their places.

The President declared the meeting open, and the FEW Prayer was pronounced by the Hon Secretary, Ron Leek.

The President introduced and formally welcomed the Mayor, who then addressed the gathering, extending a very warm welcome to everyone present, wishing them a most enjoyable time in Berwick-upon-Tweed. Due to another appointment in her busy mayoral schedule, the Mayor was unable to stay for the meeting, but before escorting her from the chamber, the President was delighted to present her with a FEW plaque.

Following the reading by the President, of the names of those members who had passed away during the preceding twelve months, the gathering stood for a moment in silent tribute.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Derek Austin, Coventry; Malcolm Green, Haverfordwest; Tom Gibson, York; Evelyn and David Hudson, Hale; Graham Knox, Alnwick; Norman Offield, London, Mary Pickering, London; Anthony Piddock, Stafford; Ray Stone, Oxford.

The minutes of the 43th AGM held on 5th September 2009 in Stafford, were approved as a true record, and were signed by the President. There were no matters arising.

The President then announced that with the indulgence of the gathering, he would be presenting his report later in the meeting, rather than at this usual point in the proceedings.

The Deputy President, Alan Fallows presented his report. A copy is appended.

The Vice President, Gordon Vandell presented his report. A copy is appended. Gordon then introduced each Warden in turn, who presented their reports as follows:-

- a) Warden for the North, Capt. Stephen Healy. A copy is appended.
- b) Warden for the North East, Emma Reid-Chalmers. A copy is appended.
- c) Warden for the East, Norman Offield. No report was available in Norman's absence, although apparently sent to the Hon Secretary.
- d) Warden for Wales, Roy Folland. A copy is appended.
- e) Warden for the North West, Leslie Morgan. A copy is appended.
- f) Warden for the South West. Position vacant, therefore no report.
- g) Warden for the West, Howard Crapper. A copy is appended.
- h) Warden for the North Midlands, John Edwards. A copy is appended.
- i) Warden for the South Midlands, Derek Austin. In Derek's absence, his report was read out by the Hon Secretary. A copy is appended.
- j) Warden for the South East. Position vacant, therefore no report. Gordon thanked all the Wardens for their sterling work on behalf of FEW.

The Hon Treasurer, Stephen White presented his Annual Report and Accounts. A copy is appended. Stephen reported that the interest from our COIF Account still only

returns a meagre 0.5%. The meeting then discussed as to where a more meaningful return on the £50,000 investment could be found. Following a proposal by Stephen, seconded by Richard Helstrip, it was agreed that Stephen was authorised to look elsewhere for an improved investment, report back to the Executive for final approval, and then proceed with the change of investment. The meeting further agreed to the suggestion from Capt. Jim Evans, that for expediency, it would be better to split the £50,000 between more than one source of income. Answering a query regarding the fact that income from guild subscriptions was significantly reduced, Gordon Varndell noted that although subscription requests and reminders were always sent out on time, certain guilds had reported non receipt of these, and in some cases — he showed an example — these had been returned to FEW as undelivered by Royal Mail, although none of the relevant boxes provided for detailing the reasons for this, had been ticked on the return labels. The meeting agreed that each guild must regularly provide updated details of their authorised representatives for receipt of FEW Journals and correspondence. A note to this effect will be published in the next Journal. Colin further noted that the withdrawal of membership by the Newcastle upon Tyne Stewards Committee, together with many of its individual members, had also considerably contributed to the reduced income. Adoption of the accounts was unanimously agreed by the meeting, following the proposition from Capt. Jim Evans, seconded by, Leslie Morgan.

The Hon Membership Secretary, Eileen Forth presented her report. A copy is appended. Following a query regarding the health of Stuart McArthur, Eileen as FEW Welfare Officer stated that she would send the AGM's best wishes.

The Hon Archivist, Alan Fallows presented his report. A copy is appended. Emma Reid-Chalmers asked about progress on "Harry Ward 2". Alan replied that although the



records provided by Past President Alan Robson were now accessed, the fact that a considerable amount of data was so far out of date, taken together with the changes inevitable due to the advent of the new law regarding daughters, would mean that at least two more years of updating and research would be necessary before any meaningful follow up could be provided to all members on CD.

In his absence, the Hon Editor, Tom Gibson's report was read out by the Hon Secretary. A copy is appended.

Colin then formally installed Alan Fallows as the new President of FEW, firstly robing him, next presenting him with his medallion of office, and then conducting him through the President's Oath. Alan addressed the meeting, thanking everyone for the confidence placed in him, and expressing the pride with which he would undertake to successfully fulfil his tenure of office.

Alan then in turn robed Colin as Immediate Past President, and presented him with his medallion.

At this juncture, Colin now presented his Farewell report, deferred from earlier in the proceedings. A copy is appended

The retiring President's Consort, Emma Reid-Chalmers next presented the new President's Consort, his wife Valerie Fallows, with the President's Consort's Jewel.

The President, Alan Fallows then installed Gordon Vardell as Deputy President, and Stephen White as Vice President. The other Executive Officers were named by the Hon Secretary as:- Hon Secretary, Ronald Leek; Hon Treasurer, Stephen White; Hon Membership Secretary, Eileen Forth; Hon Archivist, Alan Fallows; Hon Editor, Tom Gibson. There having been no nomination for the office of Officer Without Portfolio, the meeting agreed that a pro-tern co-option

was in order to fill the vacant position, which would then be formally ratified at the next FEW Court. It was agreed that Alan Shelley of Sudbury be co-opted following a proposal by the President. In order to clarify why both he and Stephen had accepted nomination for, and were each now holding two officer positions, Alan explained that this was for expediency and continuity, both with the current important Land Registry issues, and more importantly, in stabilising the financial administration of FEW following the Stan Brown debacle.

Stephen, as the new Vice President, stated that with the exception of Emma Reid-Chalmers who was standing down from office, he was pleased to re-appoint all the other wardens. Emma suggested that with his great knowledge of guild affairs and particularly that of those guilds in the North East region, Colin Hardcastle would be an ideal choice to replace her. It was agreed that Stephen will consult with Colin and the Executive.

The Hon Secretary, Ron Leek, requesting approval of new Trustees for FEW, stated that Past President Alan Robson had been approached, and had agreed to take over the Chairmanship of the Trustees following the death of Joe Petty. He stated that Gordon Varndell currently a Trustee would be happy to continue, and that Colin Hardcastle had agreed to become the third Trustee. The President, seconded by John Tolley, proposed that these three nominations be accepted. The meeting gave its approval. The subject of trustees' insurance was then discussed, and Colin agreed to pursue this issue and report back to the next FEW Court in March 2011 for a final decision.

Further to his Hon Treasurer's Report, Stephen notified the meeting that as stocks of FEW regalia and other items for sale were becoming very low, necessitating the placement of further orders with inevitable price increases, and taken together with the current postal charge increases, a review of all prices was now necessary. This will be undertaken by the

Executive, and a new price list will be published in the FEW Journal early in the new year.

Following the Valedictory Prayer pronounced by Colin Hardcastle, the meeting was formally closed by the President.

### **Deputy Presidents Report.**

Duties have been confined to preparations for this AGM during the period. We are advised that Malmesbury no longer feel able to commit to hosting the 2012 AGM so we would urge all members and wardens to approach their local Gilds to see if we can confirm a host.

### **Vice Presidents Report.**

As Vice President I have not had a lot to take on since June 2010. I hear that the Beverley Freemen have had a big influx of new members recently (well in excess of 200) and I have no doubt that our Warden for the North East Emma Chalmers will tell us all about this in her final report as Warden. One thing that did surprise me is that the Beverley Freemen didn't know much about the Freemen of England and Wales and again I am sure that Emma will enlighten us as to why.

Sadly Emma is leaving us and I thank her on behalf of all the members for all the hard work that she has put in as Warden, I know that it has not been easy for her with her normal work load, so once again thank you Emma good luck for the future and I hope it is not the last we shall see of you. We have had one member saying that he does not like getting reminders for payment of subscriptions from the Membership Secretary.

Just to clarify on record it looks as though he is three years in arrears. He says that he has been paying by standing order which he had up to 1997. The bank assures him that the payment has gone through since then and yet there is no record of it. However we do have four payments go through with no indication as to who paid them. I have had a meeting

at the bank and even they cannot tell me who they are from. I have notified the President and the Treasurer but at the moment we have no answers to this one.

As yet no one has come forward to take on the job of Warden for the North East. The Warden for the South East or The South West. If there is anyone out there that is interested you can contact me or any of the Officers of the Court and you will be given a run down as to what the position entails. It is not a hard job, it is an interesting job and you will be given all the help that you require.

This ends the report for the AGM 11th September 2010  
Gordon Varndell Vice President

## **WARDEN FOR THE NORTH**

### **BERWICK-UPON-TWEED:**

Berwick now have 28 ladies sworn in, with another 30 registered and to come in the near future. Interestingly, I asked if this now meant that more ladies would be present at Freeman's functions but was advised that, by tradition, daughters had always been both allowed (and encouraged) to attend many events anyway so, having Ladies around would be new to neither them or the Men.

The fruits of the Berwick Freeman's labours in advance of this AGM weekend are here for us all to see and I would like to add my own congratulations and thanks to their organising committee.

### **DURHAM:**

The City of Durham Freeman have now completed their ballot on the admission of Lady Freeman, run in accordance with the New Bill, the result of which was described as "massively in favour". However, the Freeman have now been advised that this is not sufficient under the prevailing legislation — specifically, the terms enshrined in the Durham City Act. They are currently taking guidance on just what additional requirements must be met at both local and national level in order to proceed. Durham remain hopeful of a positive outcome and are in the meantime already discussing

the necessary protocol for swearing-in the ladies, but the reality of the situation at present indicates it may not be required in the immediate future.

The City of Durham Freeman's Dinner takes place in October and the Freeman wish it to be known that friends and colleagues from other Cities and Boroughs are most welcome to attend.

ALNWICK;

Quite simply Ainwick was reported as "all quiet" over the Summer.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE:

The Lord Mayor's office again kindly supplied updated numbers on Lady Freeman in the City. The total currently stands at 210 already sworn in, with a further 28 whose names have been called, arrangements for which have been made but are not yet been conducted. A list of 120 names to be called at the October Guild is still growing and includes some "second generation" ladies whose hereditary rights are derived from those already sworn-in.

Capt Stephen Healy.

### **WARDEN FOR THE NORTH EAST**

At the AGM of the Gild of Freeman of the City of York on 25t June 2010, Maureen Eland was installed as the new Master. Her family were in attendance, although, sadly her husband of 47 years was not there due to ill health. I am pleased to say that John has fully recovered from both that and subsequent surgery. They were both in attendance at the Leicester banquet which I also attended in my capacity as President's Consort. And both they and the Gild were in spritely and fit as fiddles form following the Gild wagon at the York Mystery Plays along with many Gild members.

The Mystery Plays were held over two weekends in July and were of a very high standard, well attended and receiving much publicity. The Freeman also benefitted from their association with the event not only because their Clerk

was on the committee, but also because they provided all the stewards at the different stopping points. Without the support of the Guild of Freemen of the City of York I was informed by the organisers that the event could not have proceeded as there would not have been enough stewards. Indeed it was not only Freemen of the City but also their friends; for example our President's "harem" was out in force and I was joined by Mary, from London, in selling merchandise and programmes. It was a truly memorable occasion for all the right reasons including good weather!

Coinciding with the Mystery Plays was the York Early Music Festival which is an internationally renowned week of music. They also run the Beverley Early Music Festival which this year also publicised the new, permanent Beverley Town Trail of Medieval Guilds and Crafts. This depicts 35 medieval guilds and trades together with sculptures and works of art over a one day walk, which can also be split up into four walks around the town. It has taken several years to organise and involved the whole local community including 700 school children. I have brought a number of the trail leaflets with me for anyone interested. But my main point of mentioning all this is that it all dovetailed into the Freemen Bill, including the Beverley Bill, and the making of lady Freemen in the town. There has been substantial publicity for all this as can be seen on even a cursory search of the Internet and local press, and we have been able to benefit from it.

I have made contact with not only the organisers of the internationally renowned York Early Music Festival who are liaising with our Editor over publicity, but also the Beverley Civic Officer, Sarah Asquith. She had never heard of us! However, my powers of persuasion must be working as she has agreed to address and mail out, at no additional cost to ourselves, 250 sets of leaflets, membership forms and a generic letter of introduction from the Warden for the North East to all the Freemen of Beverley.

There have been several ceremonies bestowing the Freedom of Beverley already (hence the number of the mail shot), and a further 26 Freemen will be admitted on 9th

September and about 20 on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2010. The picture is of me handing over our box of leaflets as supplied by the Vice-President, but expertly folded and inserted by not only myself but also our President and his brother, Keith! My thanks all round as it would have taken me a full day on my own to assemble it all instead of several hours. I also append a copy of the generic letter for ease of reference and transparency.

My thanks, again, to our President for being a sounding board for the content and adding a couple of pertinent points. I am hopeful that my successor will be invited to attend the Freeman ceremonies at Beverley (we are not as yet) and be able to build on the contacts I have made. In addition, one of the volunteers at Beverley Minster has suggested that we might like to contact them and organise a roof tour of the Minster (the Tower could be 208 steep small steps too far!). Again, something for my successor and possibly when we know how many of the Beverley Freeman have joined our organisation as they have no Guild of their own or organisation. Beverley was the meeting place for all musicians in the North, including Europe, and the Minster has the finest collection of carvings of musicians and their instruments from that time. And this is in addition to the 35 Guilds (excluding Freeman). The organisation the Freeman have for which they can be nominated for election is that of the Pasture Masters, and my successor may succeed with them where I have failed as it appears that they may have newcomers on board with the elections next year, and this may move the politics along from former years.

Not everything is York and Beverley and I am informed by Stephen White (with his Grimsby Freeman hat on as opposed to Treasurer) that the regeneration plans for Freeman Street are moving ahead. He has previously given me a guided tour and it should be, when completed, very impressive. It was of special delight for me to hear that at an additional Mayor's Court in October his wife, Bridget, daughter Emma, sister, son, Matthew and the Lady Mayor will be made Freeman. He tells me that the total new Freeman could be as many as 500 and all due to the Act and being able to admit

Freemen's daughters. As at Beverley, he has been able to capitalise on the publicity surrounding the Act not only in the local press which included a photograph of the Mayor and himself at the Town Hall, but also his dulcet tones have been heard in interview on BBC Radio Humberside.

I hope to have left the position of Warden for the North East in good health which is how I found it when I took over from Eddie Errington. I look forward to hearing of the many new members we should gain from in Beverley and Grimsby. As I hand over not only as Warden but as wearer and keeper of the Consort's Chipping (as I have come to refer to it) I wish my successors as much enjoyment in their respective roles as I have had, and thank you all for your kindness, friendship and consideration to this newcomer in your midst.

Emma Reid-Chalmers.

## **WARDEN FOR WALES.**

**The Gild of Freemen of Pembroke:** At the Court Meeting held on the 25th March the invitation from the Gild had been accepted by Mr. George Lewis, to receive the honour of being initiated as a Burgess of the Gild of Freemen of Pembroke. The Master invited him to take the Oath and sign the Roll of Burgesses. He was then presented with his jewel, lapel badge and tie. This is the only honour that the Gild can bestow upon someone who has served the community with distinction.

Following the normal business the passing of the Local Democracy Economic Development Construction Act 2009 was discussed and as a result, there were two ladies Mrs. Anne Elizabeth Cain of Scotland and

Miss. Nancy Deloni Folland Haverfordwest who took advantage of that Act, and on the 6th September 2010 were admitted as Freemen of Pembroke, the ceremony was held in Pembroke Town Council Chamber. In attendance at the ceremony were Cllr. John George (Chairman of Pembrokeshire County Council), Cllr. Keith Nicholas (Mayor of Pembroke) and Mr. Hugh Colley (Clerk to Pembroke Town



Council). Following the signing of the Oath and the Freeman's Declaration, Councillor George presented framed certificates to the newly admitted Lady Freeman and to offer his congratulations to each. He also expressed pleasure at the presence of the Mayor of Pembroke and the family and friends of the newly admitted Lady Freeman at this historic ceremony.

Councillor Nicholas responded and presented Mrs. Cain and Miss Folland with Gifts on behalf of Pembroke Town Council.

We were all sad to learn of the passing of one of the Gild's members. Cllr. Dillwyn Davies, who was a loyal member and friend. The Master and members of the Gild were in attendance at the funeral service.

**The Setting up of a Gild in Swansea:** I am still corresponding with Mr. David Rosser-Owen and although he now realises that there is a lot of work involved, he is still interested in the setting up of this Gild. Deputy President Alan is now involved and he is willing to be of help as this moves forward.

**The Gild of Freeman of Haverfordwest:**

At the summer evening reception at Haverfordwest Cricket Club in July the Commanding Officer of the 14th Signals Regt at Cawdor Barracks, Brawdy, was made a Burgess of the Gild. It is the custom for the current CO to be honoured thus, and Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Townsend was in the company of the new Vicar Of Haverfordwest, Father Paul Mackness, and the new chairman of Pembrokeshire County Council, Councillor John George. The chairman was enrolled for his term of office, while Father Mackness has succeeded to the Chaplaincy of the Gild of Freeman in succession to Canon Colin Bowen.

Colonel Townsend gave a very interesting talk on the Afghanistan War in which many of his soldiers are serving or have served. He said the war was about driving the terrorist threat out of that country and reducing it in this one.

Countering arguments that the presence of British troops makes the situation worse, he spoke of the difficulties and dangers facing the soldiers in a country having a totally different culture to theirs. There were complex family, tribal, linguistic, political and religious differences and almost non-existent boundaries between Afghanistan and Pakistan as far as the people are concerned. There was also the contrasting terrain of desert, jungle and Hindu Kush, and all these factors put tremendous pressure on the troops, especially the 18 and 19 year olds. "We are up against a different way of looking at life and the world," he said. "The army can only be part of the solution and part of the problem. I am immensely proud of the work my men do, showing tremendous bravery, fortitude and dedication."

On Saturday 2nd October 2010 The Gild will be holding their AGM at 3.00pm in the Chamber of County Hall, Haverfordwest. In the evening the Annual Banquet will be held at the Wolfscastle Country Hotel, Wolfscastle.

On Sunday 3rd October the Benefactors Church Service will be held at St. Martin's of Tours, Haverfordwest at 11.00am. Following the church service a short Reception will be held at St. Martin's Church Hall.

**The Freeman of Llantrisant:** Their AGM will be taking place on 15th of October and they are proud to confirm that the Trust is going well with Freeman claiming the historical rights from all over the world.

## **WARDEN FOR THE NORTH WEST.**

Mr President, Friends.

It was during September 2005 - some five years ago - following upon a report in "The Lancashire Evening Post" indicating that the Honorary freedom of the City of Preston was to be conferred upon Mr Freddy Flintoff that I approached Preston City Council asking whether our Association could be invited to witness this singular event and during January 2Q06 I was very pleased to watch Mr Flintoff receive his Honorary Freedom and invested with his blue robe and ever since then I

have been cultivating an association with Preston City Council and in particular the possibility of our society being involved with the 2012 Preston Guild and as you are all aware on 24th March the President and I visited Preston, we had hopes of holding our Annual General Meeting for 2012 in Preston to coincide with the Guild, sadly, however this has not been found to be a viable proposition even though Preston City Council sympathised in our dilemma.

However, during July I had the greatest possible pleasure in receiving an unexpected letter from Mrs Alison Young, who is the Civic and Ceremonial Officer for Preston City Council and from which I quote the second paragraph of Mrs Young's letter.

"It is a shame that your Association is unable to come to Preston for its AGN, but I do understand the circumstances. However, you and your son would be very welcome as their representatives at Preston Guild 2012. I would suggest that the most appropriate events that you join us for are the Civic Procession to Divine Service at the Minster on 2nd September and also the Guild Court on Monday 3rd September. It would be wonderful if you could wear your robes on both events"

I am really pleased that my cultivation which began some five years ago with Preston City Council has borne fruit and that hopefully our Association will now enjoy a long and happy friendship with the City of Preston and no doubt Paul will still be around to represent our Association for the second time at the Preston Guild 2032. Needless to say Paul and I have already booked our accommodation and I sincerely hope that "Father Time" will not have caught up with me, even though I will then be in my 84th year

The Preston Guild traces its origins to the year 1179 when Henry II granted a Guild Merchant to Preston and the Preston Guild of 2012 will be the 23rd Guild since the decree to hold a celebration every 20 years was made in 1542 and full

details regarding the 2012 Guild can be found on "www.preston.gov.uk/guild2012".

The timing of the Guild week has been the same since the year 1562, the Guild Court must be opened on the Monday after the Feast of the Decollation of St John the Baptist (29th August).

Future dates for my diary are 25th September, the Michealmass Assize of the Barony of Dunham Massey at Altrincham, 21st October the Hale Freemens Business Meeting, 25th November the Lancashire Evening at Hale and finally on 27th January the Annual Hale Freemens Court. Finally, looking through that esteemed. publication "Whittakers Almanack" which has been published continually since 1868 I note that there is a section entitled "Societies and Institutions" and whilst I note that the Halifax Antiquarian Society - of which I have been a member since June 1946 - is listed, the Association of Freemen of England and Wales is not and I would like to suggest that this meeting gives authority for our worthy Secretary, Mr Ron Leek, to write to HM Stationary Office, who are the publishers to enquire whether we too can be included in this respected work of reference.

That Mr President concludes my report.

### **WARDEN FOR THE WEST.**

The Freemen of the City of Oxford continue to admit Freemen at both Spring and Autumn ceremonies. In June , the Freemen enjoyed a walking tour of their City and as always were surprised by the new information found about their home town.

Also in June , the Freeman inspected their Port Meadow and found an illegal boat tied up to their river bank. The Sheriff the City took due notice and action to follow. It was disappointing that no Countryside Ranger, who have day to day responsibilities on the Meadow accompanied the inspection this year and efforts will be made to ensure that this is rectified for next year.

In July, Stuart Davies, a Freemen of the City and

professional concert pianist gave an inspired Piano Recital in aid of the Freemen. It was a most memorable evening with an emphasis on the romantic music of Chopin. This is the two hundred year anniversary of the composers birth and we echo the huge celebration in Poland where Chopin is held a hero. The Annual Freemen Apprentice Awards Evening looms in October and there will be in addition , a Prestige Award to Oxford United Football Club and their Manager for their fantastic efforts at the Wembley Playoff in May when they secured a return to the Football league.

Last week, the Freemen entertained a visit from the Chartered Freemen of Gloucester . The City Sheriff hosted a civic reception and a tour of the Oxford Town Hall before the party toured the centre area of the City and enjoyed lunch at an historic Inn before a guided tour of Jesus College. Gloucester Freemen continue to be frustrated by the postponement of Admission Ceremonies due to the Gloucester City Council moving to new offices in a rather protracted process.

I have assisted The Free Miners the Forest of Dean with an Admission enquiry and I express my thanks to our Vice President for his expert advice in this matter. I would also like to thank the Warden and Freemen of Malmesbury for their kind welcome and helpful discussions over the summer months. My wife and I join many other members of FEW in Leicester for their well earned nine hundred year celebrations in July . A thoroughly enjoyable weekend.  
Howard. Crapper.

## **WARDEN FOR THE NORTH MIDLANDS.**

Now that the Stafford AGM accounts have been submitted and most of the loose ends tied up I am better placed to get my brain round the Warden task. I have written a letter of introduction to the guilds listed in my area and when I receive a list of individual members I will also write to them. The letter sets out what I see as my role in coordination and communication between the guilds in the area. I have asked to be informed of any suitable events where I may meet them. I

propose to use mainly electronic communications, as it is cheap, simple and easily disseminated. There can be few guilds with nobody on the internet by now. If so the Royal Mail will doubtless provide the necessary services.

An open copy of the letter is on the newly created North Midlands section of the Stafford Web Site. In due course this will have its own access as [www.fewnorthmidlands.org.uk](http://www.fewnorthmidlands.org.uk) if this name is approved by the executive. Each of the guilds in the area that have no web site will be asked to supply information about their constitution, history and current activities, so they are represented on the internet via an FEW site.

I can only report on activity concerning the Stafford Guild at present. Stafford Guild council meets monthly and has a regular attendance of about eight members. The Guild is the body dealing with communication, social events, civic participation, etc. We have made representations to the Licensing Committee when it seemed likely that the activities of our home church as well as historic aspects of the town centre could become compromised. Our presence was welcomed, not only by the Church, but by the Chairman of the committee and the applicants. Fortunately the matter was settled amicably, but it is nice to know that Stafford freemen still have some influence in the administration of the borough. Since obtaining our robes we are becoming noticed on Remembrance Parades and Mayor Making ceremonies and have even been moved up from the back of the procession.

The guild has had preliminary discussions with the borough council of the new rules governing the freedom. We have had lively debate on the current definitions relating to Servitude.

There is also a Trust that looks after the interests of the 22 acres of land near the centre of Stafford, which is owned by the Freemen. It is mainly allotment gardens although some development has been undertaken recently to provide a building that can be used for educational and other purposes. Trustees also meet monthly and remain the responsible body, although much of the day to day administration has recently

been devolved to an Allotments Management Committee where the expertise of non-freemen gardeners can be utilised.

There have been problems establishing contacts for Bridgnorth, which I hope to resolve soon. If I get some responses from the other groups, we will hopefully be able to put the North Midlands FEW area back on the map.

John Edwards

### **WARDEN FOR THE SOUTH MIDLANDS.**

As the Coventry and Leicester Gilds, and now the Henley-in-Arden Court Leet events are well reported in the Journal's columns, I shall start with the Northampton Freeman's Guild. As progress with the Northampton Borough Council regarding admission of Lady Freeman was very slow, I am pleased that Deputy President Alan Fallows has been able to forward advice and proformas to advance their case. Turning now to the other Midlands Leets, Warwick Court Leet held an ale tasting event in the town on 23rd June, with support from Alcester and Henley Court Leets. A new microbrewery venue the 'Slaughterhouse Brewery' came in for special mention. A Closed Court meeting was held the next day. The annual Court Meeting is programmed for 28th October in the Jury Street Courthouse. Alcester Court Leet Officers supported the Game Fair event at Ragley Hall, being the seat of the Lord of the manor, and performed an Assize on the Saturday. The brook-walk took place a week later and the Ale Taster's BBQ on the August Bank holiday. A 'Last night of the Proms' supper is scheduled for tonight in the Town Hall, to help raise funds for next year's Town Criers competition. Annual Court meeting is programmed for 7th October in the Town Hall, with Bailiffs and Officer Elections and installations.

Derek Austin.

# Hon Treasurers Report.

## **FREEMEN OF ENGLAND AND WALES**

### **SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION**

The Association was established under a Constitution adopted on 28th September 1985 and amended on 23rd September 1989, 19th September 1992, 21st September 1996 and 17th September 2005. The Association was registered as a Charity, with Registration Number 293536, on 29th January 1986.

### **ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE OFFICERS – 2009/2010 (TRUSTEES)**

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| President                     | - Mr C Hardcastle                             |
| Deputy President              | - Mr A G Fallows                              |
| Vice President                | - Mr G A Varndell (also Data Control Manager) |
| Immediate Past President      | - Position vacant owing to death of incumbent |
| Honorary Archivist            | - Mr A J Fallows                              |
| Honorary Journal Editor       | - Mr T Sharp (Resigned 7th September 2009)    |
| Honorary Journal Editor       | - Mr T Gibson (Co-opted 8th September 2009)   |
| Honorary Membership Secretary | - Mrs E Forth                                 |
| Honorary Secretary            | - Mr R E Leek                                 |
| Honorary Treasurer            | - Mr S P White                                |
| Officer without Portfolio     | - Mrs H J McNaie                              |
| Custodian Trustees            | - Mr J W N Petty (Chairman) (Died June 2010)  |
|                               | - Mr G A Varndell                             |
|                               | - Mr A Robson                                 |

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>BANKERS</b> | - NatWest Bank Plc<br>39 Grimsby Road<br>Cleethorpes<br>North East Lincolnshire<br>DN35 7GB |
|----------------|---|

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>AUDITORS</b> | - Forrester Boyd Chartered Accountants<br>26 South Saint Mary's Gate<br>Great Grimsby<br>North East Lincolnshire<br>DN31 1LW |
|-----------------|--|

### **PRINCIPAL OFFICE**

The Association does not have a Registered Office. All enquiries should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary:

Mr R E Leek  
Richmond House  
3 Beech Close  
Oversley Green  
Alcester  
Warwickshire  
B49 6PP

### **TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACCOUNTS**

Charities law requires the Trustees of the Association to prepare an Account of Receipts and Payments and a Statement of Assets and Liabilities for each financial year. In addition, the Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and to disclose with reasonable accuracy, at any time, the financial position of the Association. They are also responsible



for safeguarding the assets of the charity, and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

#### **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

The Trustees present their report and the accounts for the year ended 30th June 2010.

#### **OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

The objects of the Freemen of England and Wales Association are to advance public education in the freedom and to promote research into the history and legal customs of ancient towns of England and Wales and the legal institution of the freedom, to publish the useful results of such research and, in furtherance of this object, to provide advice and information concerning the legal institution of the freedom within each of those several places in England and Wales, being former boroughs or other places where that institution is to be found.

#### **ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR**

Whilst sadly, but inevitably, the Association loses a number of members each year, the overall trend is upwards. The Hon. Membership Secretary gives details in her report.

The Land Registration Act continues to present some Guilds with difficulties, largely because Ancient Rights are not formalised, but the Association continues to offer what help it can with these matters.

The Association recognises that recent Charities legislation could present some Guilds with difficulties, and continues to engage with the appropriate authority in expressing its views.

The Association is represented at a number of formal and ceremonial functions throughout the Country, and the President particularly welcomes the opportunity to attend those ceremonies where new Freemen are created.

The Association was actively involved with a Parliamentary Bill drafted by the Department of Constitutional Affairs, which became law in January 2010, obliging Guilds to change their local rules of admission thus allowing women into the Freedom where, currently, they are denied. A further section of the Act grants discretionary changes to be made following proper consultation and voting within each relevant Guild or body of Freemen.

Work is also progressing on a new publication about the Freedom in England and Wales, to replace that produced many years ago by the Founder President, the late Harry Ward.

The Wardens of the Association continue to reach out to Guilds within their Warden Areas, and provide a valuable social link between member Guilds seeking outside contact.

#### **FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES AND AFFAIRS**

The attached accounts show the transactions for the year and state of affairs, which the Trustees consider to be sound.

Approved by the Trustees on the 10th September 2010 and signed on their behalf by:



Stephen P. White  
FEW Honorary Treasurer



Colin Hardcastle  
FEW President

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

### 1. Subscriptions

Subscriptions are as they are received in the year, arrears may occur one year and made up the next. The Membership Secretary will report further on this subject.

### 2. Donations to Funds

Any payment received over £8 is applied to the Legal or Regalia Fund as directed.

### 3. Sales

There has been a general improvement in sales compared to 2008/9, particularly with 2 robes being sold, the costs of which are shown under "Purchases".

### 4. Interest Received

Interest on our COIF Account is only paying 0.5% but is regarded as a secure investment. We could transfer to, say, Santander, where we might obtain 2.5%, but I would need a specific resolution minuting authorising such a transfer to be made.

### 5. Income Tax Recovered

Gift Aid is claimed on all payments made under the Gift Aid Scheme, including the basic subscription. An additional amount was paid to us last year under Transitional Relief which had not been allowed in the 2008/9 accounts, so is shown now.

### 6. Administrative Expenses

The biggest item here is for setting up the website, as approved by last years AGM.

### 7. Purchases

This is in regard to purchases for stock items or, in the case of robes, direct sales.

### 8. Journal

Four Journals were produced each year (112 pages 2009, 136 pages 2010). First 3 of 2009/10 cost almost as much as all 4 in 2008/9. Increased amount of colour photographs, especially after AGM's; printing moved from Catford's to Focus4Print.

### 9. Annual General Meetings

Costs shown include those directly incurred by FEW and those refunded to Hosts. That shown for 2009 AGM are the final costs, total costs for 2010 not yet known.

### 10. Legal & Regalia Expenses

There were no Legal or Regalia expenses incurred during the last year.

### 11. Court & Officers Meetings

Costs have been generally lower than those in 2008/9 and contributions towards buffet lunches have been higher.



# Freemen of England & Wales

An Association of Freemen and Guilds in England and Wales

Patron: The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Shannon

## INCOME

| 2008/09   |                                     | 2009/10         |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| £   |                                     | £               |
| <b>Note 1</b>   |                                     |                 |
| <b>SUBSCRIPTIONS</b>  |                                     |                 |
| 3,117.00  | Individual                          | 3,337.00        |
| 1,450.00  | Guilds                              | 706.00          |
| <b>4,567.00</b>   |                                     | <b>4,043.00</b> |
| Annual Subscriptions are taken at £8.00 for each individual and the set level for Guilds. Any donation above this amount is, in the absence of any other instructions split equally between the Legal and Regalia Funds |                                     |                 |
| <b>Note 2</b>   |                                     |                 |
| <b>DONATIONS TO:-</b>   |                                     |                 |
| 193.00  | General Fund                        | 230.00          |
| 290.00  | Legal Fund                          | 276.50          |
| 248.00  | Regalia Fund                        | 353.00          |
| <b>731.00</b>   |                                     | <b>859.50</b>   |
| <b>Note 3</b>   |                                     |                 |
| <b>SALES</b>  |                                     |                 |
| -   | Robes                               | 350.00          |
| 50.00   | Ties                                | 112.50          |
| 73.50   | Members Medallions                  | 168.50          |
| 76.00   | Robe badges                         | 152.00          |
| 28.00   | Blazer badges                       | 182.00          |
| 30.00   | Lapel badges                        | 16.50           |
| 25.00   | Wall plaques                        | -               |
| 2.50  | Stickers                            | 3.00            |
| 12.00   | Headsquares                         | -               |
| 10.00   | Books                               | 5.00            |
| 7.00  | Christmas Cards                     | 27.00           |
| 10.00   | Pens                                | 5.00            |
| 15.00   | Membership Wallets                  | -               |
| -   | Aspects of the Freedom              | -               |
| 2.50  | Membership certificates             | -               |
| <b>341.50</b>   |                                     | <b>1,021.50</b> |
| <b>Note 4</b>   |                                     |                 |
| <b>INTEREST RECEIVED</b>  |                                     |                 |
| 1,743.01  | COIF Deposit A/c                    | 299.18          |
| -   | Gift Aid Tax Refund                 | -               |
| <b>1,743.01</b>   |                                     | <b>299.18</b>   |
| <b>Note 5</b>   |                                     |                 |
| <b>INCOME TAX RECOVERED</b>   |                                     |                 |
| 462.25  | Re: Gift Aid Declarations 2008/2009 | 60.09           |
| 0.00  | Re: Gift Aid Declarations 2009/2010 | 527.14          |
| <b>462.25</b>   |                                     | <b>587.23</b>   |
| <b>7,844.76</b>   | <b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>               | <b>6,810.41</b> |

## EXPENDITURE

| 2008/09                               |                                   | 2009/10           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| £                                     |                                   | £                 |
| <b>Note 6</b>                         |                                   |                   |
| <b>ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</b>        |                                   |                   |
| 64.51                                 | Postage                           | 114.93            |
| -                                     | Telephone                         | -                 |
| -                                     | Insurance (provision only)        | -                 |
| -                                     | Archives                          | 42.00             |
| -                                     | Stationery                        | 121.33            |
| 1,185.31                              | Printing/photocopying             | 58.00             |
| 35.00                                 | Website                           | 730.55            |
| 443.45                                | Other                             | 338.98            |
| <b>1,728.27</b>                       |                                   | <b>1,405.79</b>   |
| <b>Note 7</b>                         |                                   |                   |
| <b>PURCHASES</b>                      |                                   |                   |
| -                                     | Robes                             | 359.34            |
| -                                     | Ties                              | -                 |
| -                                     | Members Medallions                | -                 |
| 123.38                                | Robe Badges                       | 117.10            |
| -                                     | Blazer badges                     | 112.50            |
| -                                     | Lapel badges                      | 261.22            |
| -                                     | Wall Plaques                      | 127.42            |
| -                                     | Pens                              | -                 |
| -                                     | Membership Wallets                | -                 |
| <b>123.38</b>                         |                                   | <b>977.58</b>     |
| <b>Note 8</b>                         |                                   |                   |
| <b>JOURNAL</b>                        |                                   |                   |
| 1,868.54                              | Production                        | 2,321.98          |
| 632.22                                | Postage/distribution              | 1,406.21          |
| <b>2,500.76</b>                       |                                   | <b>3,728.19</b>   |
| <b>Note 9</b>                         |                                   |                   |
| <b>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS</b>        |                                   |                   |
| 524.34                                | 2008                              | -                 |
| -                                     | 2009                              | 771.30            |
| -                                     | 2010                              | 218.40            |
| <b>524.34</b>                         |                                   | <b>989.70</b>     |
| <b>Note 10</b>                        |                                   |                   |
| <b>LEGAL &amp; REGALIA EXPENSES</b>   |                                   |                   |
| 323.80                                | Freemen's Rights                  | -                 |
| 1,536.56                              | Wardens Robes                     | -                 |
| <b>1,860.36</b>                       |                                   | <b>-</b>          |
| <b>Note 11</b>                        |                                   |                   |
| <b>COURT &amp; OFFICERS' MEETINGS</b> |                                   |                   |
| 150.00                                | Court Meeting Room Hire           | -                 |
| 345.50                                | Catering - Nett                   | 247.25            |
| 63.60                                 | Officers' Meeting Expenses        | 9.50              |
| -                                     | President's Expenses              | -                 |
| <b>559.10</b>                         |                                   | <b>266.75</b>     |
| <b>7,296.21</b>                       | <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>          | <b>7,358.01</b>   |
| <b>548.55</b>                         | <b>SURPLUS FOR YEAR</b>           | <b>- 547.60</b>   |
| - 875.10                              | Less transfer to Designated Funds | 1,186.95          |
| <b>1,423.65</b>                       | <b>AVAILABLE SURPLUS</b>          | <b>- 1,734.55</b> |

**MOVEMENT OF DESIGNATED FUNDS - 2008/9 to 2009/10**

|                                    | 2008/09         | 2009/10         |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Legal Fund</b>                  |                 |                 |
| Balance brought forward            | 2,717.05        | 2,727.63        |
| Donations received                 | 290.00          | 276.50          |
| Tax recovered                      | 44.38           | 40.64           |
| Addnl Tax recovered re 2008/9      | -               | 5.77            |
| LESS: Costs Incurred               | - 323.80        | -               |
| Balance at 30 June                 | <u>2,727.63</u> | <u>3,050.54</u> |
| <b>Regalia Fund</b>                |                 |                 |
| Balance brought forward            | 1,566.47        | 315.79          |
| Donations received                 | 248.00          | 353.00          |
| Tax recovered                      | 37.88           | 36.12           |
| Addnl Tax recovered re 2008/9      | -               | 4.92            |
| LESS: Purchases made               | - 1,536.56      | -               |
| Balance at 30 June                 | <u>315.79</u>   | <u>709.83</u>   |
| <b>Regalia Self-Insurance Fund</b> |                 |                 |
| Balance brought forward            | 1,293.00        | 1,658.00        |
| Amount Provided                    | 365.00          | 470.00          |
| Balance at 30 June                 | <u>1,658.00</u> | <u>2,128.00</u> |
| <b>TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>      | <u>4,701.42</u> | <u>5,888.37</u> |

**FREEMEN OF ENGLAND AND WALES**

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES AS AT THE FINANCIAL YEAR END**

|   | 30.6.2009        | 30.6.2010        |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Monetary Assets</b>                              |                  |                  |
| <b>GENERAL PURPOSE FUND</b>                         |                  |                  |
| National Westminster Bank - Current A/C             | 2,868.34         | 2,142.48         |
| COIF Charity Deposit Fund                           | 46,000.00        | 46,000.00        |
|   | <u>48,868.34</u> | <u>48,142.48</u> |
| <b>DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>                             |                  |                  |
| National Westminster Bank - Current A/C             | 701.42           | 1,888.37         |
| COIF Charity Deposit Fund                           | 4,000.00         | 4,000.00         |
|   | <u>4,701.42</u>  | <u>5,888.37</u>  |
| <b>DEBTORS / CREDITORS</b>                          |                  |                  |
| Amounts owed to FEW at 30th June                    | 622.39           | 589.47           |
| LESS: Amounts owed by FEW at 30th June              | -75.00           | -1,050.77        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <u>54,117.15</u> | <u>53,569.55</u> |
| <b>Other Assets</b>                                 |                  |                  |
| Stocks of resale items (cost, not realisable value) | 1,659.82         | 1,758.41         |
| Officers' regalia (insured value)                   | 9,142.00         | 9,393.00         |
| Other Assets  | 895.00           | 918.00           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <u>11,696.82</u> | <u>12,069.41</u> |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                                 | <u>65,813.97</u> | <u>65,638.96</u> |

**Liabilities**

**Short Term**

At 30th June 2010, the only short term commitments were in connection with usual ongoing transactions such as unrepresented cheques and purchase of Regalia.

**Long Term**

At 30th June 2010, the Officers of the Association have not made any long term commitments.

## Honorary Membership Secretary, Report.

### **Guilds**

Currently we have 40 Guilds on the books. I shall not mention the arrears because we have had a lot of problems with the post for some reason this year

### **Individual Membership**

The current membership stands at 419. This a drop of three since the last report

### **Since June 2010**

We have had 3 individual new members and 1 Associate member.

Sadly I have to report that since our June meeting:

Three members have died

one member has resigned due to old age and infirmity and one with no reason given

### **Current payments**

Late payments again I have to say reminders are being sent out constantly. Although I will say we have had a lot of problems with the post this year ie; letters being sent out but never seem to be arriving.

### **The Breakdown**

For members that have not paid subscriptions The actual figures are;-

April 2008 to April 2009 (10 & 1 1) 3 members

April 2009 to April 2010 (11) 2 members

April 2010 to April 2011 12 members

September 2008 to September 2009 (10) 4 members

September 2009 to September 2010 6 members

### **Deletions under rule 9 of the Constitution**

I would recommend the deletion of nine of these members.

The overhaul yearly picture from September 2009 is that we have had;

10 members deceased.

16 full new members

2 new Associate members

5 resignations

6 notified change of address

As a footnote to this I would like to inform all members that Alice has died. (Pictured Below).

For those of you that did not know Alice (retired), she was Stuart McArthur's old and trusted dog.



We have had one member saying that his bank has been paying his subscription for the last three years but we can find no record of it. Gordon the Vice president and Stephen the Treasurer are trying to clear this one up so I shall leave it with them.

This ends the report for the Membership Secretary at the AGM  
Berwick 11th September 2010  
Eileen Forth.

### **ARCHIVISTS REPORT.**

Calls upon the Archives since the last meeting have been limited to two sections.

Firstly, information has been passed via our Warden for Wales, Roy Folland, to a Freeman of Swansea with a view to promoting a Gild in that city. I will give further advise reference constitutional requirements and we remain optimistic that Roy may assist in not only the formation of a new Gild but a new member Gild for FEW.

Secondly, queries are still regularly received regarding the admission of daughters. Advise has been issued to Pembroke, Sudbury, Northampton, Great Grimsby, the Freeminers of the Forest of Dean, Colchester and Durham.

Papers reference Land Registration have been lodged with Chancery Chambers and a reply is imminently expected.

### **HON EDITOR'S REPORT.**

Having volunteered to assist my predecessor with the production of the journal at the last AGM, little did I suspect that even before I had received word of my offer being accepted, that he would, without warning, resign. So it was that I received a telephone call from the President and with minimal arm twisting, and the blessing of my local authority (Donna my wife) I found myself as acting Editor. I have now put together Four issues which, from the feedback, have been well received. The content of the Journal itself is reliant on items sent in to me, which I will usually include as sent, depending on length and space available. Being resident of York it is more convenient for the printers to be local to me rather than in London and so the last two issues have been printed at Focus4Print in that City.

Sadly due to circumstance, whilst I am able and happy to compile and edit the Journal, I am unable to attend many of the court meetings during the year (unfortunately including the AGM this year for which I apologise). As long as this is acceptable I am happy to continue in the post. In the meantime I look forward to receiving articles from the Guilds or individual members for inclusion in the forth coming years editions.

Tom Gibson.



## **PRESIDENT'S FAREWELL SPEECH TO 2010 AGM.**

Fellow Freemen,

Two years ago, at Hale, you did me the greatest honour any Freeman could aspire to - the Presidency of our Association.

However, my election was not met with universal acclamation. A lone female voice was heard to say that the result "was not what we wanted was it". Despite this, I promised to do my best for the association but it has not been easy.

Following the débâcle at Hale between my predecessor and the representative from Newcastle-upon-Tyne, the Newcastle freemen withdrew from membership. Much conciliatory dialogue has taken place but sadly, that dialogue has as yet not proved successful. I live in hope.

Shortly after the Hale AGM, our then treasurer, Stan Brown, went 'walk-about' with our accounts and merchandise items. The association was obliged to engage solicitors and I was required, eventually, to travel to the depths of South Croydon to recover our property. We have not seen hide nor hair of Stan since. We were fortunate to appoint Stephen White in his place as treasurer.

The 2009 AGM at Stafford was a great success for such a small group of Freemen. Our thanks should go again to John, Ant and the Freemen for staging a wonderful week-end.

Without warning or explanation, the day after Stafford our Journal editor, Tony Sharp, resigned and severed all links with FEW. He was replaced by Tom Gibson, Freeman of York, who volunteered albeit with one arm held behind his back to do the job of editor. We were later to learn that Tony may have been involved in legal proceedings not connected to FEW. We have not heard from him since.

The "Beverley Bill", as I shall call it, which incidentally was first discussed in this very room at the 1994 AGM finally received Royal Assent and came into Law. Nevertheless, it is still causing problems for some Guilds as some local authorities are

misinterpreting the provisions. Our archivist is on hand to assist if and when necessary.

The Land Registrations Act is the current issue to face us and we are seeking Counsels' opinion on its provisions. We will keep Guilds informed of any progress.

There have been two tragedies that befell us. The sad deaths of my predecessor, Philip Bowman, and our Chairman of Trustees, Joe Petty. As many of you will know, I was told that I would not be welcome to attend Philips' funeral but I did attend Joes'. Despite the animosity still existing between the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Freeman and ourselves, the Gilds men who attended were pleased to see FEW in attendance.

It has not all been bad news. I have attended all the functions that I was invited to around the Country and have been pleased to do so. It is always pleasant to meet old friends at convivial dinner parties. I did not, however, receive an invitation to visit Alnwick!!

Despite all the set-backs, I have to say a big thank you and pay tribute to the hard work that our Wardens have undertaken in their respective areas. Unfortunately, we are 2 or 3 wardens short and the Vice-President has been unable to recruit replacements. Volunteers please see the vice- president later.

The executive officers have all worked hard in their respective fields, but I must single out our secretary, Ron Leek, for his tireless work often behind the scene and out of the lime-light. I remember Ron saying to me a few days into my Presidency that he was secretary to FEW and not secretary to the President and I had to keep my own diary. Thank you Ron for your help and support.

I must not forget my Consort, Emma, who has accompanied me, in your name, to many of the functions I have attended. Without her my bank balance would be greater than it is but my presidency would have been less enjoyable. Thank you Emma.

I must also thank others. My own Guild of York has been very supportive to both me and FEW and I especially thank their clerk,

June, and the two Masters of Tom and Eileen.

So, today as I join the ranks of the has-beens - them wot 'as been President - and don the mantle both figuratively and literally of Immediate Past President and having been guided to a healthier life-style by Emma, I hope that the sad history of the two previous immediate past presidents does not befall me.

Finally, to you the membership. Please give your support to the incoming President and his executive as they take FEW forward. Mr President, the Association is yours. Maintain it, nurture it and promote it during your Presidency as I tried to do during mine.

Thank you.  
CH. IPP



© The Freemen of England and Wales Journal, Annual Record, Gazette and Guilds Directory (ISSN1749-4095) incorporating the Newsletter (ISSN1465-8755) in continuous series, is distributed four times a year in October, February, April and July and is published by the Freemen of England and Wales (regd Charity 293536) and hereby asserts its copyright. FEWJ 164. <http://www.freemen-few.org.uk> Opinions expressed in the journal are those of the author of the article and not necessarily those of F.E.W, the Court or Executive unless otherwise stated.

AGM Pictures Courtesy Carole Ford of York.

Front Cover: Robed attendees at Berwick upon Tweed.

Overleaf: Top; Getting ready for the photograph on the steps.

Bottom: The Pipes and Drums arrive to lead the Procession.

Hon. Editor: Tom Gibson, Freeman of York. All correspondence, enquiries as to advertising and circulation should be addressed to: Mr. T. Gibson.

Hon. Editor F.E.W Journal.

79 Tang Hall Lane.

York. YO31 0SZ

Email: [thomasg624@aol.com](mailto:thomasg624@aol.com) Tel. No. 01904 423153

I can accept text either electronically (email or on disk) or hard copy to Scan. Hard copy must be good quality print and preferred in the Ariel font size 10 though not essential. 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 CDR as **JPG** files please. If you require return of hard copies an SAE is appreciated, please indicate if this is desired. **Closing date for items for the next issue (No. 165) 20//1/10.**

Registered address of the Freemen of England and Wales Association:  
F.E.W.

Richmond House,  
Beech Close,  
Oversley Green,  
Alcester.  
Warwickshire  
B49 6PP

Printed by.  
Focus 4 Print.  
1James Street  
York  
YO10 3WW

