



*Freemen of  
England and Wales.*



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With Compliments.*

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## Presidents Message.



Welcome to your June Journal. My lawn is turning from brown to green so summer must be here.

There are two main items to report at this stage.

Firstly, please pay particular attention to the AGM notice in the centre pages. Due to an error with the hotel room costings the "double" packages were over-prices. The full weekend double that was £417 is now £275 and the Saturday Only Double rate was £249 is now £169. Partial refunds are being issued to those already booked. I am sure you will agree that this now represents good value, so I trust the Pembroke Gild will be well supported.

For those members wishing alternative accommodation arrangements we are advised of the following:-

Travelodge, Pier Road, Pembroke Dock, SA72 6DY Tel. 0871 984 6299  
Windmill Hill Caravan Park, Tel. 01646 68239

Secondly, the constitutional review continues. After debate at the Court meeting further amendments have been made and the new consultation document is on the FEW web-site in addition to being issued to all Gild Representatives. Individual Members will understand that it is logistically impractical to issue the full document to you all so I urge you to visit the website and view the paper there. One point that has caused concern and deserves clarification is this. Any changes to membership criteria or voting rights will NOT be retrospective. The aims of the review are to protect the Association in future. No existing member will be disenfranchised.

### **Why Not Go Green?**

If you are really interested in saving the environment why not switch your paper copy of the journal to e-mail. You could store each issue for reference and read on-line; you could forward copies to other Gild members or family; you could even be naughty and down-load a copy.

Just send an e-mail to the editor registering your interest in switching (or having an additional e-mail copy) and he will pick up your address and send the next issue electronically.

# News From The Gilds.

## Coventry.

On 24<sup>th</sup> March our President as Lord Mayor presided over a **Freemen's Admission Court** in the Council Chamber, where 25 time served indentured apprentices took their Oath of Citizenship, and were admitted to the Freedom. Trades ranged from solicitors to hairdressers, and plumbers to electricians.

On 27<sup>th</sup> March the Master and his lady represented the Guild at the **Lord Mayor's Civic Service** at the Guild church of Holy Trinity. Heads of many local towns joined in the badged and gowned procession, with church collection in aid of the Lord Mayor's charities.

On 29<sup>th</sup> March the **Charity Awards Dinner** was held in St Mary's Guildhall crypt. After a choice of three 'chafer' style hot meals, Paul Shufflebotham, the Chairman of the Coventry Watch Museum Project received a cheque for £1000 from the Guild Master, and gave a resume of progress to renovate three derelict cottages into a museum and typical watch makers' home and workshop. A further eight local charities also received cheques to total £2600 awards for the year. The Guild was also pleased to welcome the Commanding and Naval liaison Officers from Coventry's affiliated ship HMS Diamond to the event.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> April ten Coventry Court members and partners trekked north for the **York Gild Banquet weekend**, comprising: a buffet meal and quiz at Bedern hall on the Friday; a splendid banquet in the Merchant Adventurers Hall on Saturday; and the usual service at the Guild church of All Saints Pavement on the Sunday. Our thanks to York Master Mrs Maureen Eland and her team for their hospitality. It is interesting to reflect that whilst the huge east window of York Minster was designed and constructed during 1405-1408 by the Coventry Glazier John Thornton – and received a bonus for early completion, the current refurbishment is expected to take up to twenty years.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> April the Guild Master welcomed Freemen to the **66<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Coventry Guild**, held in the Council Chamber. The 2011-2012 Master Raj Bansal was duly elected, along with other Court Officers, besides the usual routine business of accounts and reports.

On 28<sup>th</sup> April our President and Lord Mayor held his **Charity Golf Day & Dinner** at the Finham Golf Club. 18 Guildsmen and partners enjoyed the three course dinner and prize auction – which raised significant funds. The 17 Golf teams included those of the Ghurkha Signal Regiment and HMS Diamond, with the local Warwick University Team taking the honours.

On 6<sup>th</sup> May, Coventry's latest affiliated ship, the Type 45 destroyer **HMS Diamond** was commissioned into naval service at Portsmouth, with Lord Mayor Brian Kelsey, and Guild Liaison officer Bob Crane representing the City of Coventry and the Guild respectively. The Cross of Nails, from the HMS Coventry Type 42 Destroyer sunk in the Falklands war

of 1982 was presented to HMS Diamond by Captain Hart-Dyke of HMS Coventry. This cross of medieval roof nails from Coventry's blitzed Cathedral is a symbol of peace & reconciliation, and was retrieved by divers from the wreck of HMS Coventry in Falklands Sound.



The 6-8<sup>th</sup> May was **Coventry's banquet weekend**. On the Friday, guests enjoyed a low price meal and accommodation at the Days Hotel, with a heritage talk by Coventry's Lady Godiva enactor Pru Porretta. The Saturday banquet had representation from the Leicester, Chester, York and London Guilds, and the Alcester and Warwick Court Leets. This was a sell out event, and the new Master Raj Bansal was ceremonially installed into office with a trumpet fanfare. The Sunday service at the Guild church of Holy Trinity was preceded by a gowned procession, and the Rev David Mayhew was installed as Guild Chaplain for the forthcoming year.

On the 13th May our President celebrated his **End of Mayoral year** and HMS Diamond commissioning at the Allesley Hotel, where funds raised during the year were distributed to his nominated charities of Zoe's Place Baby Hospice, the Royal British Legion, and the Coventry Myton Hospice. Guild members were on hand to greet the HMS Diamond contingent.

On 7<sup>th</sup> June, the Guild held its **Senior Freemen's Evening** at the Coundon Social Club, where 60 invited Freemen enjoyed fellowship and an excellent buffet. A raffle raised £130 to kick start the new Master's Charity Appeal.

### Oxford.

**Oxford City Wall.** The Freemen of the City organised a walking tour of the City Wall on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June . The weather was dry and cool . Just right for a hike.

We were joined by Dr Tom Hassal , a local historian and Freeman of Chester no less. It was Tom who had shown our Freemen around the Wall nearly forty years ago . Many things had changed since then including the buildings close to the wall .

The defensive wall had evolved over many centuries . The wall had enabled an entry tax to be collected at the various gates but was mainly to stop the Danes from rampaging through the Town which they did on at least two occasions. The Saxon Castle , had provided the western boundary of the town and the wall was incorporated into the keep

wall at both the north and south .

The North Gate had a prison , called the Bocardo Prison , above the gate . Freemen had their own section (usually imprisoned for debt) where they could hoist up food from family and also lower a purse to plead for financial aid from friends .

It is in New College where the Wall is preserved at its finest . Possibly the best preserved medieval town wall anywhere in the country . The castellated wall is so high you have to crane your neck to see the top. It is also a double wall . The only wall in England with such a feature . This two wall system is found occasionally in France and some how the influence was brought to Oxford. We are indebted to New College for the welcome and unfettered access. It is true to say that most Oxford residents have no idea of the extent of this fabulous wall through their city and it is also true that you have to know where to look .We were so fortunate to have been shown this Oxford secret and retired for tea to celebrate.

### **Durham.**

*Ed's note: The following is from a press release issued by The Durham City Freemen on the 9/5/11.*

Barriers that have excluded women from a city's ancient trade guilds for nearly 700 years are to be finally lifted, it was announced today (Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup>).

Last year members of the City of Durham Freemen overwhelmingly backed proposals to amend criteria that would hand equal rights to women. But the move ran into a potential legal hitch because of restrictions imposed by the Durham City Council Act of 1985.

Now, following months of exchanges between legal experts acting for the 130 freemen and Durham County Council, the freemen have been advised by specialists at the Department for Communities and Local Government that new legislation, which includes the Equality Act of 2010, effectively sets aside the obstacles on membership for women.

The first freemen's guild - of skimmers - is believed to have been established in 1327. However, the first surviving written evidence of the formation of freeman dates back to 1450 when the weavers' guild came into being. Over the next two centuries a further 15 guilds were created – set up primarily to protect trade and maintain standards of workmanship. Today eight guilds survive and enjoy their highest membership levels of modern times.

Guild members, once pivotal in the election of city councillors and the city's first Member of Parliament in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, to this day still enjoy a number of ancient privileges, such as the right to graze livestock (known as herbage) on the Sands area of the city.

Across the centuries qualification for membership in Durham has been limited to men who served a craft apprenticeship in a recognised trade within the city's boundaries or to the son of a freeman or the husband of a daughter of a freeman.

John Heslop, chairman of the freeman's guilds, said: "We are delighted the new criteria will give women the same entitlement as men to access the freedom. "In future we will be happy to examine submissions from the son or daughter of a freeman; from a man or woman who served an apprenticeship within the city's administrative boundaries; or from a man or woman who served an apprenticeship under a city freeman. We are confident this will be a development of great benefit and look forward to receiving nominations. "We are deeply grateful for the help and support received from the trustees, Durham County Council and the Freemen of England and Wales."

Colette Longbottom, the county council's head of legal and democratic services, said: "We very much welcome the freemen's decision to admit women. It has been a lengthy, if not complicated process which we have been actively supporting and assisting with from its inception. We are pleased it has been resolved and are delighted to say our support in the administration of the final admission process will continue."

### Warwick Court Leet



On 14<sup>th</sup> April the Court Leet Bailiff Anne Henderson was pleased to represent Warwick at the Henley-in-Arden Court Leet dinner held in their Guildhall. Since the Warwick Mayor as Lord of the Leet was unavailable, Ale Taster Keith Hinton also attended – and was able to pronounce that the specially bottled Henley Bailiff's bitter was 'fit and wholesome for a man's body': not surprising as it was brewed at Warwick's Slaughterhouse brewery!

On 14<sup>th</sup> May the biennial Town Criers competition was hosted by the Court Leet. After coffee, a colourful procession of Criers paraded through the Market Square's Saturday stalls to the ShireHall and the Lord Leicester Hospital for photographs. After a buffet lunch at the Courthouse, the Criers performed in the historic Castle Street, where the Bailiff, Mayor and other judges assessed volume, diction, clarity, inflexion, and dress. Top Crier was local Nuneaton & Bedworth man Paul Gough, who also took the title in 2007. The local paper carried a good report with photographs, all helping to keep the Court Leet in the public eye. Our thanks to the many Court Leet helpers who made the event possible, and Master of Ceremonies Graham Sutherland, the resident Warwick Town Crier.

Obituary by Elizabeth Higgins.

Roger Higgins Bailiff of the Court. Leet of Warwick 2009-2010. 19 Oct 1933 to 12th June 2011.

Roger was a well-known member of both the Court Leet of Warwick and the Warwick Society, and worked tirelessly on behalf of the town. "Whither Warwick?" was published in the local media and caused a lot of attention. He knew more about the ethics and values of the brook looker, the ale taster and the pavement looker than many a Warwickian had ever considered.

An accountant in industry, ranging from Pfizer to Pirelli to Dunlop, where there are many divisions, and finally to the love of his life the motor industry. He was with Austin Rover, Honda, BMW and then Rover and very proud of the British made cars promising, some time ago, to stop driving when petrol was no longer 4 gallons to the pound. He was still driving up to his time in hospital. He read car magazines endlessly and reference books and drove all around France, map reading before the days of Sat Nav.

We have two sons Gordon and Clive and three grandchildren Micah (6), Emma (3) and Harrison (1) all in New Zealand. Gordon is in Queenstown South Island where he is a designer of street furniture, and the services which go along the side of the road, they have just won a prize in Wanaka. Clive is in Auckland, Director of IT for Yell New Zealand and his wife is Assistant Director of Prisons in that city.

I am a Town and District councillor and currently Deputy Mayor of Warwick

### **Berwick-upon-Tweed.**

Following the Parliamentary Bill of 2009 over 40 ladies have taken up the freedom of Berwick-upon-Tweed. Those living locally will be placed on the roll of Resident Freemen in October, 2011. There may be some interesting times as they will then be eligible to vote on all matters affecting the freedom.

A very successful dinner dance was held in the Guild Hall in November in spite of the bad weather. In April a pie and pea supper was held at which a talk was given on the southern aspect of Berwick. This gave details of the various pictures painted of Berwick from south of the river over the past four hundred years and showing how the sky line has altered. Some of the paintings did show some artistic license.

Porcelain mugs were produced for the Royal Wedding. These show a picture of the couple and the Arms of the Guild of Freemen of Berwick. This has become somewhat of a tradition in Berwick and there are now eight mugs covering coronations and weddings over the past eighty years.

The annual riding of the bounds took place on 2<sup>nd</sup>. May. In 1331 the garrison was commanded to patrol the bounds at regular intervals. The present bounds were laid down in 1438 and have probably ridden since that date. In 1542 it was commanded that the Guild perambulate the bounds at least once per year. In the present time we go round by bus and then have the traditional lunch when we return to Berwick town center.

In June the Guild will go to South Queensferry and take the boat to Inchcome Island. After 1 hour twenty minutes on the Island we shall return to South Queensferry and then go for dinner.

This year is the 250th. anniversary of the building of the Town Hall, which is part of the Freemen's Estate. It is also the 85<sup>th</sup>. anniversary of the 1926 Act which lays down how the Guild and the Estate are at present administered. We are considering how to commemorate these anniversaries.

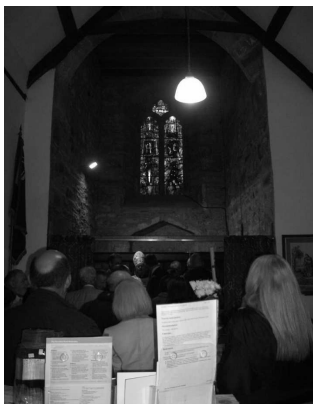
The Guild has produced a booklet giving the history of the Freemen's Estate. The Estate is now administered under the 1926 Act by five Freemen Trustees and by five non Freemen Trustees appointed by the Town Council. While the knowledge of the Estate by the Freemen Trustees is extensive, it was considered that the Non Freemen Trustees had limited knowledge. Thus the booklet has been produced to give them a greater knowledge of the Estate. The booklet has also been issued to all Resident Freemen. The Town Council received £80,000 from the Estate this year, which must be spent in Berwick. New kitchens have been fitted in Freemen's Court, the housing owned by the Freemen. The extensive back courtyard is to be repaved. There is now a very large waiting list for these houses.

By tradition the oldest Resident Freemen holds a gold headed cane. The present cane was presented in 1888 replacing an older cane which had been lost. The 'oldest freemen' may not be the oldest by age as seniority is measured from the time the freedom was conferred. The cane was presented to the latest 'oldest freeman' last month by the Mayor and Chairman of the Guild.

The Guild has purchased scarves to supplement the traditional ties. Both carry the arms of the Guild. While any guild member can purchase a tie or scarf they are presented to new Freemen on taking up the Freedom. It was considered scarves were more suitable for the daughters on taking up the Freedom.

### **Free Miners of the Forest of Dean**

Dedication Service of the New Free Miners Window Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2011 at St Michael's Church in Abenhall, Gloucestershire. Forest of Dean



After weeks of dry weather this special Sunday Service had rain showers throughout the day. Undeterred, the Village Church was full and overflowing for this dedication by the Bishop of Tewkesbury, The Right Reverend John Went.

The Freeminers of the Forest of Dean have ancient connections with St Michael's Church in the lovely village of Abenhall. The hymn singing raised the roof while the first lesson was read by our good friend Jonathan Wright from Clearwell Caves. Jonathan, I was told, had been ninety nine percent responsible for driving this project.

Later in the service, the stained glass artist and designer, Tom Denny explained how he



had visited the area and spoken to the Free miners , which had inspired him in the soul of this wondrous glass window which depicts miners both underground and above ground working in difficult conditions . The Bishop described the honour , glory and merit of the window during the dedication . The shafts of light in the glass illuminate the ochre red scene.

A fabulous Gloucester country cream tea with all manner of sandwiches , scones and cakes was served in the wooden farm barn across the road . The only farm barn I know with a magnificent central chandelier and minstrels gallery . Unforgettable afternoon.

### Leicester Gild

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January. Four Freemen and ladies represented the Gild at a sung Mass at 12 noon in St Mary de Castro Church Leicester, to commemorate the Martyrdom of St Charles King and Martyr.

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February. A long-alley skittles evening held at the Wheatsheaf Inn, Thurcaston. When thirty two Gild members which included ladies and friends enjoyed two games of skittles before sitting down to the normal pub supper of faggots, chips, sausages and mushy peas. After a most enjoyable supper we managed a further two games before starting our journey home.

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February. In the presence of the Lord Mayor Councillor Colin Hall a further fourteen ladies and one gentleman took their oath in the council chamber at Leicester Town. After the ceremony the Lord Mayor invited every one present to a buffet lunch in the Lord Mayor's tea room. Since the legislation was changed, this makes the total of ninety eight ladies have been sworn in as Freemen of Leicester.

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March Four Freemen attended the Crown Court service at St Mary de Castro attended by The Honourable Mr Justice Macur D.B.E., the High Sheriff of Leicestershire Colonel Robert Martin, the Lord Mayor of Leicester and the Chief Constable of Leicestershire and Rutland. After the service the Judge's Procession went to Leicester Castle for the reading of the Letters Patent in the historic Crown Court, continuing a tradition which has lasted there for nearly a thousand years.

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March A Cheese and Wine Supper was held at 7 30pm in the Community Centre. Thirty Two persons attended to listen to the guest speaker Peter Bunney, the famous Leicester Mercury cartoonist, who explained the art in drawing cartoons. After the talk a buffet supper was served, accompanied by wine and soft drinks.

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March An Open Morning held at Freeman's Holt between 10am and noon. Tea and biscuits were served and we had a very relaxed morning chatting with the various visitors, our Chamberlain, Roger Allen was kept busy taking subscriptions and selling Gild products.

Friday to Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> April. Saw fourteen persons representing the Leicester Gild of Freemen at the York Banquet weekend. There was a pre banquet get-together at Bedern Hall on the Friday night, with a buffet supper and drinks. The banquet took place on the

Saturday evening in the Merchant Adventurers Hall, a magnificent building dating back to 1650. On the Sunday morning we met back at Bedern Hall where we robed and processed to All Saints Church for the Freemen's service. After the service we processed back to Bedern Hall for refreshments. We wish to take this opportunity to thank the Freemen of York for their warm well welcome and hospitality over the weekend.

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April The Leicester Gild held there Common Hall meeting in the Council Chamber at Leicester Town Hall, in the presence of the Lord Mayor of Leicester Councillor Colin Hall. After the welcome address by the Lord Mayor, the Master of the Gild Brian Mudford presented the Lord Mayor with a pair of Gild cuff links and a cheque for his charity. During the meeting Brian Mudford was re- elected as Master to represent the Gild for a further twelve months. After the meeting closed we retired to the Lord Mayor's tea room for a buffet supper.

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May The annual St Georges Day service was held at St Mary de Castro church at 7 30pm. (This was due to 23<sup>rd</sup> April being during the Easter church services.) The Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire attended the service, with twelve robed freemen and their ladies joining the congregation, we were pleased to welcome the lady freemen from Warwick and her husband at the service.

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> May Five freemen and three ladies from Leicester attended the Coventry banquet weekend. The weekend began with a three course meal at the Days Hotel, on Friday evening and concluded with a most interesting talk on the history of Coventry and Lady Godiva. The banquet on Saturday evening held in the magnificent Guildhall of St Mary's, after a splendid meal Raj Bansal was installed as the new master of the Coventry Guild. The Freemen's Service on Sunday morning was held at the Holy Trinity Church, Broadgate, with a robed procession from the Council House. After the service we returned to the Council House for a sherry reception. The Leicester Gild would like to take this opportunity to thank the Coventry Guild for their hospitality over the weekend.

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May On the invitation of the freemen of York the freemen Leicester enjoyed a most memorable day's visit to this ancient and historical City. On our arrival in York our coach was met by the freemen of York who escorted our party to Bedern Hall to be greeted by their master Maureen Eland. After an excellent lunch and the welcome speeches, we then exchanged gifts before being taken on a guided tour by a blue badge guide, leaving time to walk round the Shambles, returning to Bedern Hall for tea and cakes before starting our journey home. We wish to thank the freemen of York for their warm welcome and hospitality through, out the day.

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May Five freemen and ladies represented the Gild at the Civic Service for the new Lord Mayor Councillor Robert Wann, also present were The Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, The High Sheriff, The High Bailiff and past Lord Mayor's, the sermon was given by The Right Reverend Tim Stevens, Bishop of Leicester. After the service members of the Civic party were invited to a buffet lunch in the Lord Mayor's tea room at the Town Hall.

# Minutes of the Court Meeting

**held on Saturday 11th June 2011 in the Village Institute, Church Eaton,  
Stafford**

1) The list of attendees: Derek Austin — Coventry, Howard Crapper — Oxford, John Edwards — Stafford, Capt. Jim Evans — Berwick-upon-Tweed, Pat Evans — Berwick-upon-Tweed, Alan Fallows — Shrewsbury, Colin Harcastle — York and London, Ron Leek — Alcester and London, Anthony Piddock — Stafford, Eileen Reynolds — Associate Member, Ray Spurway — Stafford, Richard Williams — Stafford, Stephen White — Grimsby

The President opened the meeting, welcoming everyone present.

2) Apologies for absence were received from Gordon Varndell, Deputy President; Eileen Forth, Hon Membership Secretary; Tom Gibson, Hon Editor; Alan Shelley, Officer Without Portfolio; Leslie Morgan, Warden for the North West; Roy Folland, Warden for Wales; Stephen Healy, Warden for the North; Howard Pate, Chester, Anne Henderson, Warwick; Alf Ely, Stafford; Ray Mason, Newcastle-under-Lyme; Brian Simpson, Newcastle-under-Lyme; Michael Ayres, Leicester, Tony Chettle, Leicester, and Eric Critchlow, Leicester.

3) The minutes of the Court Meeting held on 12th March 2011 in Great Grimsby were approved as a correct record, and signed by the President following a proposal by Derek Austin, seconded by John Edwards.

4) Matters Arising:

Item 4. The President in announcing that Capt. Jim Evans of Berwick-upon-Tweed had accepted the position of Chairman of the FEW Trustees, warmly thanked Capt. Evans on behalf of the membership. The appointment was fully endorsed by the meeting.

Item 7. The Vice President stated that there had been no further progress on the updating of the Wardens' Handbook since the last meeting, noting that this hefty tome has to be re-written by someone — probably himself— in order to make it more readily accessible in an electronic format (which would simplify the production of any future updates), with the aim being for it to be much easier (and far less bulky) for distributing to each warden in the form of a data stick, or some similar means.

5) Alan Fallows presented his President's Report. A copy is appended.

6) In his absence, the report of Gordon Varndell, Deputy President was read out by Ron Leek, Hon Secretary. A copy is appended.

7) Vice President, Stephen White, then presented his report, noting that some of his recent time had been taken up by the marriage of his youngest daughter. He stated that he had

been liaising with Alan Shelley in publishing Alan's papers - mainly concerning land issues — on the FEW website. Noting today's earlier meeting of the wardens, and the one held in Great Grimsby in March, Stephen listed various items which had been discussed, amongst which were timing of meetings; length of reports; publication of guild events; the handbook; stationery; and expenses. Following a suggestion from Capt. Jim Evans, that Wardens' full written reports might be circulated before Court Meetings, thus saving time when they are read out in the meetings, both the President and Vice President explained that it had been agreed with the Wardens, that it was felt necessary that future reports still needed to be read out to the Court, but that these would now be strictly restricted to a maximum length of a written A4 sheet.

8) Warden's Reports were presented as follows:-

Warden for the North. In his absence, Capt. Stephen Healy's report was presented by John Edwards. A copy is appended.

Warden for the North East, Cohn Hardcastle. Copy appended.

Warden for the North West. In his absence, Leslie Morgan's report was presented by Ron Leek. A copy is appended.

Warden for the North Midlands, John Edwards. Copy appended.

Warden for the South Midlands, Derek Austin. Copy appended.

Warden for the East. Norman Offield was not present, and no report was available.

Warden for the West, Howard Crapper. Copy appended.

Warden for Wales. In his absence, Roy Folland's report was presented by Stephen White. A copy is appended. Following Roy's report, the President commented on the apparent anomalies in the costings quoted on this year's AGM Booking Form, stating that these would be corrected before their second publication scheduled for the next Journal. This could mean that in some cases where bookings had already been made, reimbursements might become necessary.

9) Wearing his Hon Treasurer's hat, Stephen White presented the current FEW accounts. A copy is appended. Referring to the costs for production of the Journals, Capt. Jim Evans suggested that where practicable, it would be pertinent to distribute these electronically. It was agreed that this idea will be considered further by the Executive. The President then commented on the considerable number of incorrect addresses on the current Journal distribution list, which added further to the cost problem. He will take the matter up with the Hon Membership Secretary. He further noted, that he had personally already commenced a thorough review into determining the correct recipients for Journals. The website costs were then queried by John Edwards, and were explained by Stephen.

10) In her absence, the Hon Membership Secretary, Eileen Forth's report was presented by Ron Leek. A copy is appended.

11) Alan Fallows presented his Hon Archivist's report. Copy appended.

12) In his absence, the Hon Editor, Tom Gibson's report was presented by Ron. A copy is appended.

13) In his absence, the Officer Without Portfolio, Alan Shelley's report was presented by the President, who mentioned the 16 papers which Alan had prepared, and which were featured on the website. He noted that these had somewhat replaced the well known addresses by Charles Sparrow QC, some of which still remained factual, while others had been overtaken by changes in legislation. He suggested that Charles' papers should now be considered more as historical documents. A copy of the report is appended.

14) The President was pleased to announce that Lord Apsley had accepted the invitation to become the Patron of FEW. The meeting expressed its pleasure and approval.

15) The suggested review and updating of the FEW Constitution generated much discussion on all the proposed changes, including specific comments from Derek Austin, and from Altrincham Court Leet via letter, relating to the status of Court Leet membership of FEW. It was agreed that further discussion is essential before any final conclusions are reached for ratification at a future AGM. However, the following points were generally agreed.-

- 1) There is no intention whatsoever to disenfranchise any current Gild Member.
- 2) All grades of membership entitle the wearing of FEW insignia and regalia if so desired.
- 3) The declared number of a Gild Member block vote must not include the vote of any voting Individual Member who is also a member of that Gild Member.

16) Subscriptions were discussed, and it was agreed that an increase in the Individual Member rate was now appropriate and timely. As a general principle, it was further agreed that subscription increases should not take place any less than two years following a previous increase. On a proposition from the President, seconded by the Immediate Past President, Colin Hardcastle, the meeting agreed that subject to ratification by the AGM in September, and taking effect from 1st October 2011, Individual Member subscriptions will be increased from £8.00 to £10.00 per year.

17) It was determined that as various aspects of the website had already been dealt with during earlier items in the meeting, no further discussion was necessary on the subject today.

18) Any Other Business.

1) Referring to FEW's current healthy financial state, Capt. Jim Evans proposed that the Executive should look into the possibility of funding some form of prize or suchlike, at a university or senior educational establishment, for work relating to the promotion of the Freedom, and the role of FEW. The President agreed to consult with Howard Pate who has some experience in this field.

2) The subject of Officer's out of pocket expenses was raised by John Edwards. It was noted that although not generally claimed, an amount for travelling on FEW business had been agreed some years ago. The Hon Secretary was asked to check this by reference to previous minutes. The meeting then discussed what sort of claims might be eligible,

following which, John Edwards, seconded by Howard Crapper, proposed that all Officer's travelling expenses should be claimable for any legitimate business conducted on behalf of FEW. With the proviso that claiming for attendance at social events was excluded, this was approved by the meeting, and the initial amount (previously discussed and initially agreed earlier, at today's Executive Meeting) was set at 35p per mile for car journeys, or second class rail fare if appropriate, with a maximum meal allowance of £10.00 per day, all factors requiring formal ratification by the AGM.

3) Following discussion, it was agreed that in the light of the extremely poor attendances at today's, and other recent Court Meetings, the frequency of, and venues for all such future meetings, must be urgently reviewed by the Executive.

19) The AGM will take place in Pembroke from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September.

20) The Court was closed by the President.

## Presidents Report

On the social front I am pleased to have been able to attend the York Banquet and the Northampton Dinner and I look forward to the Leicester Banquet. I have to apologize to Coventry for being unable to attend their banquet and for my Deputy who was also committed to attending a York event and unable to represent me.

With regard to the admission of daughters I am pleased to be able to advise that Durham and Northampton have now been able to gain acceptance from their respective councils to admit daughters under the terms of the LDED&C Act 2009 BY BALLOT.

The simplistic addition to the Act of the clause to enforce what was seen by the authors as equality, was not adequate to advance changes where regulation of admission was controlled by Local Act as we had been forewarned. The original clause drafted to permit amendment to rules of admission by ballot of members was, however, proven to be robust enough to cover all queries that have arisen and I now consider the matter closed.

Of course, should any Gild require advice regarding making any rule changes we are able, and happy, to assist and advise accordingly.

This now allows us to concentrate on the problems of Land Registration and Freemens Rights, which we must finalise before the end of 2012. The current situation is unsatisfactory as explained in the papers now on the FEW Website, and we have to decide upon courses of action to follow in both York and Shrewsbury.

## Deputy Presidents Report

Well once again there is not much I can say about the Deputy Presidents role. That means all is going well leaving me with nothing to do.

This leaves me free to attend a lot of functions throughout the land with different Guilds and societies to promote the Association as much as I can where ever I am.

I was asked if I could attend the Banquet of Coventry but unfortunately Eileen and myself had a commitment with the York Gild, so my apologies to the President of FEW and too the Freeman's Guilds of Coventry. I trust a good time was had by all and we wish a good year to the Freeman of Coventry.

This ends the report for the Executive meeting 11th June 2011  
Gordon Varndell

## Warden's Reports.

### **Warden for the North. Capt. Stephen Healy.**

Durham:

The Freeman of Durham are making progress towards the swearing-in of their first Lady Freeman. A resolution to accept ladies, in line with the provisions of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill, was passed by substantial majority in a ballot of all Durham Freeman and is now appended to their Rules. The first calls for ladies will be made in August and the first swearing-in ceremony to include them is expected in February 2012.

Progress is also being made in respect of the Freeman's claim to herbage rights on "the Sands". The wording of a deed of rectification is in the final stages of agreement between the Freeman and Durham Council and will be submitted to the Land Registry in the near future.

Newcastle upon Tyne:

The swearing-in of Lady Freeman continues apace, still necessitating a series of special ceremonies to account for the substantial list of applicants, now extending through several generations.

May was a busy month in the Freeman's calendar with the annual church parade and service at the Cathedral Church of St. Nicholas, the Easter Guild and the Lord Mayor's Parade, in which the Freeman participated.

The annual "Hoppings" fair, held on the city's Town Moor takes place this month and the Stewards Committee of the Freeman of Newcastle upon Tyne have taken a more proactive role in its management and operation than on previous occasions.

Berwick-upon-Tweed:

Berwick upon Tweed likewise continue to steadily increase the numbers of ladies within

their ranks, which again has extended across the generations.

The programme of social events also continues, with a successful river cruise on the River Forth having just taken place.

In October, it is hoped to hold a special dinner to mark the 250th anniversary of the Town Hall, the venue for much of last year's Association of Freemen of England and Wales' AGM.

**Alnwick:**

The Alnwick Freemen have recently held their Annual Guild Meeting but no information has been secured on anything of note. Their "Riding the Bounds" comes up in July.

### **Warden for the North East. Colin Hardcastle.**

The Strays Council of the City of York.

After many years in the making, the Strays Council finally produced a Constitution which was presented and adopted on 11 May 2011. Under the Chairmanship of Mr Tom Gibson and the Secretaryship of Mrs Moyra Johnson it is believed that the Strays Council will continue to promote, preserve and protect the ancient Strays of York for the benefit of Freemen, Citizens and visitors and ensure that they remain as "lungs of the City for generations to come.

The Enrolled Freemen of Great Grimsby

The regeneration programme for the market and area of Freeman Street continues apace. A new skill centre was officially opened within the market by the Mayor of Great Grimsby, Cllr. Mrs. Norma Lincoln, and our own Vice President (as Chairman of the Enrolled Freemen) Stephen White. The Freemen are continuing to work with other agencies in the regeneration programme. All power to their combined elbows!!

Freemen of Beverley and Pasture Masters

Despite the contacts made by my predecessor as Warden, and my own efforts, we have heard nothing from that City or its Freemen. I propose to keep trying.

Freemen of the City of Kingston-upon-Hull

Although there are Freemen listed in the archives of this place, the practise of making Freemen has not been undertaken for many years. There is, therefore, no Gild and the few remaining Freemen are scattered throughout the Country. I propose to visit the archives shortly to obtain a list of existing Freemen.

Freemen of the City of York

It has been a busy period for the York Freemen, culminating in their annual banquet at Merchant Adventurers Hall on 9 April. The following day, the Parade to Church was delayed when it was discovered that one of York's visitors was locked in Bedern Hall after spending too much time at his toilet. Mr. M.A. (a Freeman of L.) - I omit names to protect the embarrassed - was reduced to banging loudly on the door of the Hall to attract attention. He was released by the York Clerk to the amusement of some.



What made it worse was that his colleagues from the City of L., already on parade, has apparently not missed him! OR HAD THEY.....??

On May 21st., representatives of the Leicester Guild were guests of the York Gild and treated to a day out in that City with guided tours led by York Freemen, after a buffet lunch in Bedern Hall. Mr Michael Ayers was presented, on behalf of the Leicester Guild, with apiece timber gleaned from a blackened beam, from The Minster, following the disastrous fire of some years ago together with a certificate of authenticity.

### **Addendum.**

Freemen of Beverley

On 2 June, I visited the archives dept. of East Riding County Council and had produced to me the Freemens` Rolls for the Borough of Beverley in 2 volumes dating from 1765 to date. The last Freedom Court was held on 22/10/10.

According to a head note in a column of volume 1, the methods of obtaining the Freedom were: birth, servitude, gift, purchase, marriage, and other (!). I found three entries only for 'gift' ; Thomas Hull (doctor of medicine) and Joseph Coltman (a cleric) in 1810 and Richard Watt (gentleman and esquire) in 1824. There were (and still are) several by servitude, and a few by purchase, but I found none by `marriage`. No-one could explain how `marriage' could be a ground for the Freedom. And what 'other' meant is open to discussion!

An interesting occupation quoted by a recent Freeman, a Ms Fletcher of London by birth, was "leader of volunteers for Ed. Milliband"

There is no record of the number of Freemen on the Rolls, but it is interesting to note that between 1983 and 2009 there were only 39 Freemen admitted yet in 2010 there were no less than 14 admission Courts when over 150 new Freemen were admitted - the dates are significant perhaps, as most of the 2010 admissions were ladies.

Volume I of the Rolls begins with an extract from the Municipal Corporations Act 1832 which entreats and requires the Borough to open and keep a Roll 'of all Freemen now existing as at 9 September 1835, and they who shall be admitted hereafter". Someone, therefore, had the unenviable task (and the writing proves it) of transcribing all existing Freemen records from 1765 until 1835 from whatever source they came.

I have been invited to attend, as an observer, the next Freedom Court when it is scheduled as there are, currently, some 50 or 60 applicants pending.

### **Warden for the North West. Leslie Morgan.**

I had hoped to come down to Stafford, but when I learnt the Court was being held in Church Eaton, I fear that once again I have been thwarted as I am unable to get along to the venue "under my own steam", and thus it seems I will not be able to attend any of the

FEW functions during 2011, the first year this has happened!!

My only engagement since my last report, was to Carlisle on Ascension Day 2<sup>o</sup>d June, when two ladies were admitted into the Freedom of Carlisle, one is Mrs Edith Bulman, a lovely 93 year old lady who was sworn into the Merchants Guild more than 100 years after her father had been admitted, now I feel that this must be a record and worthy of submitting to "The Guinness Book of Records", another lady was admitted, Dr Susan Hills, and was sworn a member of the Shoemakers Guild at a ceremony held in the Civic Centre, when I handed them details of our Association, and upon my return home wrote to them both letters of congratulation.

Whilst I am unable to get along to Church Eaton, I am representing FEW at the annual Hale Village Fete which is being held today.

### **Warden of the North Midlands, John Edwards.**

I have not done a lot this quarter in visiting other guilds. I have had invitations from Shrewsbury to participate in their social events, but regrettably I have not been available. However it is good that this guild now includes their FEW Warden on their communications list.

Sadly, there has been no such communication with the Bridgnorth Guild, mainly due to difficulty in establishing contact details. Our President has been their nominal contact, but clearly his priorities at the moment tie elsewhere, so I hope the new contact will yield a more successful association.

Similarly, the Derby Guild has not provided much information; however, as the membership secretary has been supplying me with a number of new individual members from the Derby Guild, there is evidently some interest in the activities of FEW. It is of note that the recent new members have all been ladies, so I assume that the recent changes in legislation have been implemented in Derby. More definite information would be desirable.

Newcastle-under-Lyme burgesses seem to be very dependent on a faithful few to run their organisation. The exception was outlined in my last report; namely the annual payout day, when hundreds of burgesses magically appear, collect their dividend and magically disappear. However, talking to many people in the queue for their cheque, it was evident that they have a strong sense of the historical background to their status, even if they do not wish to get directly involved. One wonders what would happen without the sterling work done by Mr Simpson and Mr Mason!

Stafford guild has had a serious look at its communication methods, starting with an attempt to establish exactly how many members they have. A letter reminding past members about subs and encouraging participation in guild activities was sent out, resulting in about 20 members returning to the fold.

One member saw things very differently and wrote that "due to OUR decision to admit women he would be leaving the guild". He said he would support any group established that did not admit women members. (interesting, especially as we have had ladies admitted by servitude in the past.) Equality?

The Stafford guild social programme has been less successful than we would like, with several events being non-viable in terms of numbers supporting them. The quarterly lunches have been better supported and the next one has been converted to a skittles evening with a buffet. Hopefully we shall see if it is just the time of day that brings people out. Our annual dinner has been rather jinxed, with our regular venue pricing itself out of viability and no less than three pubs where a potential alternative event was planned being found with locked doors when council members went to discuss the matter. Is there something people are not telling us? The council did not send us details of this year's Mayor-making, so unfortunately that was another missed opportunity to increase our presence in the town.

Our allotment lands continue to improve and we now have a waiting list. Unfortunately, there are lots of issues that make life difficult for the freemen trustees that they never thought of when agreeing to undertake the task. Complaints from neighbours about smoke, shed fires, water regulations, drug dealing and illegal tipping all add to life's rich pattern, but we continue to manage the land for the benefit of the freemen and for the vast majority of gardeners, hopefully as King John decreed.

I was asked to give an after dinner talk to our local Probus group about freemen in general and Stafford in particular. This was well received and resulted in much interest in the freedom. Perhaps we do not do enough missionary work to publicise our history, traditions, and our activities to the general public.

I was honoured to be asked for advice from the freemen of Swansea about Guild constitutions and hope that they found it practical information. Maybe this could be a useful topic for a Journal article.

Whilst participating in the ancient ceremony of the Lichfield Bower Procession, I realised the extent of the history of guilds in that city. I hope that we may be able to get them associated with FEW, but that will be a long journey.

### **Warden for the South Midlands. Derek Austin.**

As the Coventry and Leicester Gilds, and the Warwick Court Leet events are currently reported in the Journal's columns, I will not duplicate them here.

The Northampton Freemen have published the first edition of 'The Northampton Freemen's Chronicle', a newsletter advising on past and future events, and contact details.

Their recent ballot on admittance of women Freemen showed that 89% of returned papers were in favour of admittance.. The fifth annual charity dinner took place at the usual venue of the Riverside Restaurant at Cogenhoe. Our President and several of the FEW Executive were in attendance for the appetising meal and charity prize auction.

Alcester Court Leet jurors are well served by modern media, with an e-mailed quarterly newsletter from High Bailiff Nick Dearling, and active website [www.alcestercourtleet.co.uk](http://www.alcestercourtleet.co.uk) Their Royal Wedding Street Party took over the High Street, and attracted camera crews from CNN, SKY, and the BBC. May and June events included Assizes of bread, fish, ale and flesh tasting, and also a folk festival.

Henley-in-Arden Court Leet had their Guildhall dinner on 14<sup>th</sup> April, with guests from the Alcester, Southwark, and Warwick Court Leets, and the Coventry Freemen's Guild Master. The specially bottled 'Henley Bailiff's bitter' well complemented the steak pie meal. Retired Yeoman Warder Joe David entertained us with anecdotes from his 20 year service at the Tower of London. Today is Henley Court Leet Day, where beating of the bounds and Assizes are enacted.

### **Warden for the West. Howard Crapper.**

Last Sunday I had the great pleasure to attend the dedication service to the Freeminers window at St Michael's Village church in Abenhall , Forest of Dean , Gloucestershire . The Bishop of Tewkesbury performed the dedication. The stained glass artist explained how the glass encompasses the life of the miners both below and above ground . Jonathan Wright invited me to attend and it was he who was instrumental in driving the project forward. The afternoon concluded with a large country tea.

The Freemen of Oxford learn that the Chiltern Rail Inquiry will not report now until July at the earliest. Chiltern Rail want to upgrade the line for faster trains on the eastern boundary of Port Meadow . Issues relating to access , drainage , endangered flora and animal welfare have all been challenged . In the middle of the three month inquiry ,the Oxford City Council decided to register ownership of the meadow - without any consultation and thus breaking a long agreement to leave well alone.

With the assistance of the Sheriff of the City , the City Council has now amended their constitution to include the Freemen in any plans or discussions relating to Port Meadow . It is with regret that within a few weeks of registering , we now find the City Council trying to shrug off their chosen responsibility as the cuts begin to bite.

Next week the Freemen of Oxford will walk the entire route of the City Wall with the assistance of well known local historian and broadcaster Dr Tom Hassell . Special permission has been granted by New College for unhindered access through their grounds.

The third week of June will see the Warden for the North West , Leslie Morgan arrive in Oxford and I have agreed to meet him and show him the sights.

## **Warden for Wales. Roy Folland.**

The Guild of Freemen of Pembroke– Arrangements are now in place for the FEW Weekend. Now the work begins. The Bank Account has been set up in the name of The Freemen of England & Wales AGM 2011. The bookings for the hotel has been slow, but hopefully will increase from now on, anyone having difficulty with arranging for the extra Sunday night stay at the hotel, please make contact with me on

01437 763821. The special price quoted for the extra night is Single Room £65.00 and for the Double Room £75.00.

Members of the Guild were in attendance at the Service of Remembrance to H.M. Landing Craft Gun (L)s 15 and 16 and H.M.S. Rosemary which was held at Fresh-water West on Monday 25th April. The Master laid the wreath on behalf of the Guild.

The Master of the Guild received an invitation from the Mayor and Mayoress of Pembroke, Councillor Aden Brinn JP & Ms Halyna Davies to attend their Mayor Making Ceremony and Mayoral Luncheon on Saturday 7th May The Town Clerk and his Staff should be congratulated for the excellent arrangements which are made on these occasions. The Master also received an invitation to the 50th Anniversary of FGA Troops at Castlemartin, which was held on Saturday 4th June. Which involved a concert given by the Band of the Prince of Wales Division, following which there was a Civic Reception and Buffet hosted by Pembroke Town Council.

Contact is still on going with Mr. David Rosser-Owen in the setting up of a Guild of Freemen of the City of Swansea, and with the help of our President, I am sure that David will be successful in his efforts with that in mind.

The Guild of Freemen of Haverfordwest-Haverfordwest Guild of Freemen will be given an update at their annual Summer Reception on Friday July 29th on the history of Sir John Perrot, the Tudor knight whose ruined home at Haroldston House, Haverfordwest, is in the Guild's care. Acknowledged authority on Perrot, Dr Roger Turvey of Swansea University, will be addressing the Guild and guests at the event at Haverfordwest Cricket Club when the latest Burgesses will be sworn in. Dr Turvey, who has addressed the Guild on several previous occasions, including a guided tour of the ruined Tudor Mansion a few years ago, will undoubtedly impart new information about Perrot, whose life he has been researching in great detail. The Guild has funded a detailed scientific survey of the mansion and its extensive grounds with the long-term intention of turning it into a public amenity area with interpretive information about Sir John Perrot, a favourite of Elizabeth 1st. Dr Turvey has dismissed the long-standing myth that Perrot was an illegitimate son of Henry VIII, whom he resembled in appearance and character. The ruin possesses some interesting features, including the remains of a cockpit, an avenue of beeches and a vaulted undercroft. Interpretation of the site has had the support of CADW, the Welsh ancient Monuments Agency, while Pembrokeshire College has been involved in conservation measures including sheep grazing of the grassed areas.

## Hon. Membership Secretary Report

Currently we have 40 Guilds on the books. We added The Company of Freemen of Trinity House Newcastle upon Tyne in March of 2011.

### Individual Membership

The current membership stands at 403. Since September 2010

We have had no individual new members 2 members that we know of have died

### Current payments

Late payments, again I have to say reminders are being sent out constantly.

### The Breakdown

This will be given in September at the Pembroke AGM

This ends the report for the Honorary Membership Secretary

Eileen Forth.

## Hon. Archivists Report

Advice has been ongoing regarding admission of daughters to Northampton, Cardiff and Montgomery, all of whom have now successfully completed their arrangements.

I have provided further guidance to Swansea through Roy Folland where they still move towards the formation of a Gild.

## Hon. Editors report.

My apologies for being unable to attend the meeting.

The last issue of the Journal was as far as I know well received, although I received one comment on the wording of one part of the AGM booking form, which I forwarded to the President who dealt with it. I understand an amended form will be sent to me for publication in the next issue.

I have received a number of calls from Wardens and officers re information on the mailing list in the last few months. For clarity I do not hold a copy of the mailing list, but receive labels ready for the envelopes from the membership secretary as they are needed for each issue of the journal, so I am unable to do anything with such enquiries I'm afraid.

Tom Gibson.

## *Officer Without Portfolio*

You may be aware that I have submitted 16 'viewpoint' essays under the general subject heading of 'Freemen's Property and Status' for publication on the FEW Website. This should conclude the subject for the time-being.

I am now considering, under the banner of 'Freedom and Privilege' an initial essay on 'Trade, the Companies and Apprenticeships'. This may discuss past and present practices and in due course cover any remaining subjects of interest to the membership.

With regard to the Patron, I have put together an A4 size explanation of who he is and what he stands for and of course he is well suited to our Association. This is entitled 'Our Patron — Lord Allen Apsley.

To avoid any embarrassment to Lord Apsley I intend talking it over when I see him on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of this month. If he approves, as I feel sure he will, then it can be published on the website accordingly.

In the event that I am absent from the meeting, my apologies, and best wishes to the Executive. Alan Shelley

## *Hon. Secretary's Notices*

1) As no nominations for Executive Officer positions were received by the deadline of June 11th, other than those from the existing team who have each been renominated, no election will be necessary at the forthcoming AGM in Pembroke.

2) The current list of names and addresses of FEW Guild Member representatives, together with the current details of the Master or Chairman of each Guild Member, is now, sadly way out of date. This means that the wrong persons are often receiving the Journals and other important correspondence, which at times leads both to confusion or embarrassment, and further means that those individuals who should be in receipt of these documents, are being left in total ignorance. It is therefore a requirement that each Guild Member must urgently supply the Hon Membership Secretary with the current names, addresses, e-mail addresses, and telephone numbers of their FEW representative (who should also be the holder of the Guild Member's voting card), together with those of their Master or Chairman. Please provide this information, even if no changes are currently necessary. Once appointed, it is the responsibility of each Guild Member representative to provide updated details whenever any changes are made, importantly not forgetting the provision of details of their own successor when personally standing down. Ensuring that contact details are always kept up to date, will greatly facilitate and improve FEW's ability to properly communicate with all its Guild Members.

R.E.Leek.

**45<sup>th</sup> AGM**  
**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2011**  
**AGENDA**

- 1) Attendees to Sign Register and be seated.
- 2) Call to Order, and President's Procession into the AGM.
- 3) Opening of AGM and Welcome.
- 4) Apologies for Absence.
- 5) Minutes of the 44<sup>th</sup> AGM held on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2010 in Berwick-upon-Tweed, and circulated in the Annual Record and Gazette, Journal No 164, October 2010.
  - a) Approval of Minutes.
  - b) Matters Arising, not forming any other part of this agenda.
- 6) President's Report.
- 7) Deputy President's Report.
- 8) Vice President's Report.
- 9) Wardens' Reports.
- 10) Hon Treasurer's Report.
- 11) Hon Membership Secretary's Report.
- 12) Hon Archivist's Report.
- 13) Hon Editor's Report.
- 14) Officer Without Portfolio's Report.
- 15) Executive Officers 2011-2012.
- 16) Wardens 2011-2012.
- 17) Constitutional Review Update.
- 18) Ratification of an increase in Individual Member Annual Subscriptions from £8.00 per annum to £10.00 per annum, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October, as approved on 11<sup>th</sup> June by the FEW Court.
- 19) Any Other Business.
- 20) Closure of Proceedings, and President's Withdrawal Procession.

*And Finally.*





Left to Right: Hon. Editor, Tom Gibson, Mr. Mathew White, Vice President / Hon. Treasurer Stephen White and I.P.P/Warden North East Colin Hardcastle at the début of Flying Scotsman (in the Background) following lengthy restoration at the National Railway Museum, York 28/5/11. Photograph by Mr. Patrick Gibson.

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**Closing date for items for the next issue (No. 168) 26/9/11.**

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