



# *Freemen of England and Wales.*

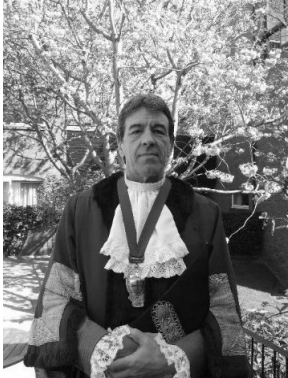


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# President's Letter.



Greetings to all members.

The AGM in Pembroke was a resounding success and a vote of thanks is richly deserved by Roy Folland and the Pembroke Freemen.

We have truly turned the corner now and FEW is back to being the friendly association that we all knew and enjoyed. The seed was sown in Berwick upon Tweed last year where delegates enjoyed a more relaxed and harmonious weekend. This enabled delegates to book this year in the knowledge that everyone had a common purpose of proving that you can mix business and pleasure, and they succeeded.

The over-riding achievement was the unanimous approval of all members voting, to adopt the new constitution. This significant review now protects all members from outside influence over FEW and ensures that all Gilds have a voice in future decisions. Full details are too many to list here but the full constitution is on the FEW website and will be issued to all members upon subscription renewal. Please take the time to study it if you can.

The only drawback of a major review is that we ran out of time for other items such as the new legal panel, but these are still in progress.

As my second year as President commences I want to thank everyone who has supported me over the last year and to ensure you all that I will be working hard to complete the projects in hand.

Best wishes,  
Alan

# Open Forum 2011

Held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2011 prior to the Annual General Meeting  
Items Raised:

1) Referring to the 2010 Open Forum, the President, Alan Fallows stated: i) That in response to the question regarding Norwich raised at that time by Howard Pate, he could report that FEW is on good terms with the Norwich Gild, but that it still refrains from becoming a Member Gild. ii) Approval was given in March 2011 by the Harry Ward family for the words "sons shall" in verse 2 of the FEW Hymn, to be changed to "children", in order to recognise the admission of Lady Freeman. iii) The situation regarding the compulsory purchase of Leicester Gild property has been resolved.

2) John Heslop of Durham in an aside whilst noting that the Durham Gild was late in arranging for the admission of ladies, mentioned that one of its members had privately gone to the press stating his personal disapproval of the admission of ladies. John then asked a question relating to this, requesting advice on whether gilds could enforce a press embargo while determining the appropriate course of action in admitting ladies. The President responded by stating that all gilds must be proactive over such issues, and promote themselves appropriately. He added that we must always be seen to be politically correct in all gild matters. Colin Hardcastle noted that the admission of ladies was covered by Act of Parliament. John Edwards stated that his Stafford Gild also has a member who is anti, and the Stafford intention is to appoint a Press Officer. Stewart Bristow, rather tongue in cheek, added that all the officers of the Lincoln Gild are now ladies, and the Gild is still in good health.

3) Derek Austin referring to the forthcoming increase in Individual Member subscriptions and its financial benefit to FEW, pointed out that FEW is being overcharged 22p by the Post Office for each Journal sent out in its envelope. He qualified this by stating that the Post Office considers that the Journals do not fit through their standard 5mm size checking slot, whereas having checked the thicknesses with a micrometer, he has found that generally they are no more than 3.5mm thick, and even the thicker Journal following last year's AGM was still within the 5mm requirement. He asked whether Journals could be made any thinner. In reply, the President stated that the matter was under review, and that the alternative method for receiving Journals by email in PDF format was now being actively promoted. He encouraged members to take advantage of this, and to contact the Hon Editor with appropriate email addresses. Another option to be considered by the Executive, is to put the Journal on the FEW website.

4) Howard Pate noting that the Municipal Reform Act of 1835 forbade admission to the Freedom by purchase with the exception of the City of London, asked if this was still the case. The President replied in the affirmative, stating that both purchase and gift are still forbidden.

# Minutes of the 45th Annual General Meeting

**of the Association of Freemen of England and Wales.**

**Held on Saturday 17th September 2011, in the Cleddau Bridge Hotel,  
Pembroke Dock.**

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

## List of Attendees:

Peter Ainsworth — Chester; W.J.Allen — London; Geoff Anderson — Ainswick; J.David Appleby — Alnwick; Derek Austin — Coventry; Michael Ayres — Leicester; Jane Bailey — Lincoln; John Barden — London; Stewart Bristow — Lincoln; Tony Chettle — Leicester; Alex Christison — Berwick-upon-Tweed; David Clark — Cardiff; William Cockburn — Berwick-upon-Tweed; Yvonne Cockburn — London; Jenny Connell — Lincoln; Howard Crapper — Oxford; Eric L.Critchlow — Leicester; Charles Davies — Haverfordwest; John Edwards — Stafford; Capt. Jim Evans — Berwick-upon-Tweed; John G.Evans — Haverfordwest; Richard Evans — Haverfordwest; Alm Fallows — Shrewsbury; Val Fallows — Shrewsbury; Robin Folland — Pembroke; Roy Folland — Pembroke; Eileen Forth — York & London; Malcolm Green — Haverfordwest; Hazel Hague — York; M.Hall — Alnwick; Colin Hardcastle — York & London; Capt. Stephen Healy — Newcastle upon Tyne; R.Helstrip — York; Michael W.Herriott — Berwick-upon-Tweed; John Heslop — Durham; Peter Higgon — Haverfordwest; Graeme Knox — Alnwick; Ron Leek — Alcester & London; Paul Lucas — Haverfordwest; Ray Mason — Newcastle under-Lyme; Carl Mattison — Alnwick; Jimmy Mattison — Alnwick; T.Mattison — Alnwick; Alan Shelley — Sudbury; Robert Shepherd — Alnwick; Brian Simpson — Newcastle-under-Lyme; Alec Stephenson — York; Beryl Stephenson — York; Amanda Stevenson — Berwick-upon-Tweed; Billy Straughan — Alnwick; John Tolley — Altrincham; Gordon Varndell — London; Stephen White — Grimsby; Wyn Williams — London

With the FEW Mace in position in front of the gathering, the President, Alan Fallows, accompanied by the Mayor of Pembroke, Councillor Aden A.Brinn JP., entered the room and each took their places. The President introduced and greeted the Mayor, who in his response, welcomed the gathering to Pembroke, wishing everyone the most enjoyable weekend. He then formally opened the meeting. The President in reply, thanked Cllr Brinn for his welcome, and as the Mayor had to leave to fulfil another engagement in his busy mayoral schedule, accompanied him from the room.

The Hon Membership Secretary, Eileen Forth, read out the names of those FEW members who had passed away during the previous twelve months. In addition, she made particular reference to those miners who had so tragically died in the very recent pit disaster in the Swansea valley. The gathering stood in silent tribute.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from:

Terry Aubrey, Gloucester, Derek Bellis, Newcastle-under-Lyme; Tom Gibson, Hon Editor: Moyra Johnson, York; Peter Kelly, Hale; Cllr Barbara Morgan, Pembroke; Leslie Morgan, Warden NW; Paul Morgan, London; Denis Nixon, Alnwick; Norman Offield, Warden E; Ant Piddock, Stafford; Michael Pinches, Chester; Bryan Philips, Pembroke; Emma Reid-Chalmers, London; James Shepherd, Alnwick; Ray Spurway, Stafford; Ray Stone, Oxford; Piiick Talbot QC, Hon Counsellor; Mrs Gill Ward, Pembroke; Nicholas Ward, Pembroke; Wayne Warlow, London.

Following a proposal from Bill Allen, seconded by John Edwards, the minutes of the 44th AGM held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2010 in Berwick-upon-Tweed were approved as a true record, and were signed by the President.

Under "Matters Arising" from the minutes, it was noted:- i) That due to the present national financial situation, and with the current COIF investment remaining safe, no action had yet been taken regarding improved investment of FEW funds. ii) The President reported that Capt. Jim Evans had taken on the position of Chairman of the FEW Trustees. iii) FEW regalia prices have been revised, and a new price list is now available. Cuff Links and Tie Pins are being considered as additional items.

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

The Deputy President, Gordon Vamdell presented his report. A copy is appended.

Stephen White, Vice President, presented his report. A copy is appended.

Stephen then introduced each warden in turn. Each presented his report as follows:-

Warden for the North, Capt Stephen Healy. Copy appended.

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

Warden for the North West, Leslie Morgan. In Leslie's absence, his report was read out by the Hon Secretary, Ron Leek. Copy appended.

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

Referring to the admissions issue raised in John's report, the President informed the meeting that Shrewsbury Town Council was now levying a charge of £25 for each admission.

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

Warden for the East, Norman Offield. In Norman's absence, his report was read out by the Hon Secretary. Copy appended.

Warden for the West, Howard Crapper. Copy appended.

Warden for Wales, Roy Folland. Copy appended.

Stephen thanked the wardens for their reports, and further expressed thanks to the Pembroke Gild for organising this splendid weekend for everyone.

Stephen next presented his Hon Treasurer's report. Copy appended. This was fully approved by the meeting, following a proposition by Howard Pate, seconded by Ray Mason.

The Hon Membership Secretary, Eileen Forth, presented her report. Copy appended.

Alan Fallows in his role as Hon Archivist, reported that there had been' no calls on the archives.

The Hon Editor, Tom Gibson's report was presented in his absence by the Hon Secretary. Copy appended.

The Officer Without Portfolio, Alan Shelley, presented his report. Copy appended.

Other than the President and the Immediate past President, each of whom will be serving the second of their two year period in office, there had been only one nomination for each of the other Executive Officer positions, therefore no election was necessary. The Hon Secretary, Ron Leek, read out the list of Executive Officers for 2011— 2012 as follows:-

President — Alan Fallows

Deputy President — Gordon Varndell

Vice President — Stephen White

Immediate Past President — Cohn Hardcastle

Hon Secretary — Ron Leek

Hon Treasurer — Stephen White

Hon Membership Secretary — Eileen Forth

Hon Archivist — Alan Fallows

Hon Editor — Tom Gibson

Officer Without Portfolio — Alan Shelley

Stephen White stated that he was re-appointing all current wardens — listed earlier in these minutes — to continue in office for the next twelve months.

The President then introduced the major item on the agenda — the vote on the revised constitution following its long term review in order to comprehensively clarify and qualify the objectives, membership criteria, and administration of FEW. Before calling for discussion prior to the vote, he re-iterated the fact that if carried in favour of the motion, there would be no disenfranchisement of any existing member. Discussion followed, with Capt Stephen Healy raising the matter of the re-emergence of self administering companies within certain Gilds. Allowing for this, and with minor alterations in wording not affecting the substance of any of the proposed and widely circulated revisions, these were fully approved by the meeting. The vote was then taken, and carried unanimously in favour of the motion. 22 Member Gilds and 29 Individual Members voted in support of the motion, with no votes against. 5316 votes were recorded in total.

Following a proposition from Stewart Bristow, seconded by Ray Mason, the meeting fully approved the FEW Court decision to **increase the membership subscription for Individual Members from £8.00 to £10.00 per annum, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011**. It was noted that actual payment dates may vary due to members having to change their standing orders.

One item only, was recorded under "Any Other Business". This was the offer from the Guild of Freemen of the City of Oxford, to host the 2013 AGM. Howard Crapper was asked to convey FEW's thanks for this kind gesture.

There being no further business, the President declared the AGM closed.

## *President's Report.*

During the year I have been pleased to attend functions at Chester, Durham, Leicester, Northampton and of course Berwick upon Tweed. My thanks to Leicester, Grimsby and Stafford for hosting meetings. I look forward to visiting as many locations as possible over the coming year.

Problems were noted last year over contact with Gilds for subscriptions and journals. Investigations led to the discovery of 27 contact errors. These have now been rectified and I trust will be up-dated as required. We now have e-mail addresses for all but two Gild representatives so we have no excuse for not maintaining prompt feedback, and neither have the representatives.

I am especially pleased with the development of the website. Stephen has the overall site running professionally and now includes a prolific output of papers from Alan Shelley on various aspects of the Freedom; updated to supersede the original papers from Charles Sparrow QC and accurately reflect the current legal position.

The journal has also been modified; costs brought to a satisfactory level and distribution corrected. It is also now available electronically should any Gilds or individual members require additional copies.

The admission of daughters is now active in almost all Gilds and we are confident that we have given correct advice and guidance where needed.

Entries of Freemens Rights under the Land Registration Act must be completed by 2013 and this is still work-in-progress. This will be the primary objective for 2011/12 for both myself and the Officer Without Portfolio. Opinion from Chancery Chambers obtained last year was inconclusive but in effect reinforced legal views that transmutation of pasturage rights to monetary payments effectively negated those rights over the land. A full report should be available next year.

I take this opportunity to thank the executive for their diligence and hard work over the year and commend their re-election.

## Deputy President's 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 and I can only repeat myself. 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. Eileen and myself wish to thank all the Guilds that invite us to their functions and other events, we thoroughly enjoy ourselves and enjoy meeting old and new friends wherever we go. Thank you to all.

## Vice President's Report.

My report, as Vice President, is quite short since my duties can be easily be split into two distinct and concise areas.

The first is the continuing development of the website. New material has been added, in particular the full set of Charles Sparrow Aspects of the Freedom Papers and new papers concerning the current state of the Freemen's Estate nationally, and a Profile of our new Patron – Allen Bathurst, the Lord Apsley – all kindly provided by Allan Shelley.

I would be grateful to receive contributions of details of forthcoming events, either directly from Guilds or through the Wardens, so that the Diary page on the web can be kept informative and up-to-date.

My other duty is to *coordinate* the activities of the Wardens and in this regard I have exchanged communication, by letter, telephone and email, and, in the case of my local warden, had several meetings during the last year.

I have received an offer, a volunteer, for the position of Warden for the South East and London from a new member who had intended to be with us this weekend but unfortunately has suffered a family bereavement. This offer will be held in abeyance until such a time that we can meet up to explain and discuss the Warden's Role and Duties.

## Wardens Reports.

### Warden for the north: Capt. Stephen Healy.

#### **Alnwick:**

The Alnwick Freemen held their Annual General Meeting in April, at which their Committee was re-elected unopposed. Their annual "Riding the Bounds" took place in July. Their Clerk reports three admissions this year, but anticipates a healthy (and



admirable) representation of around ten Freemen at the Pembroke AGM, despite an 8-hour train journey.

### **Berwick-upon-Tweed:**

Berwick upon Tweed has held two ceremonies for admissions this year, with a third due on 27<sup>th</sup> of this month. The 1<sup>st</sup> October will see a special dinner to jointly mark the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Town Hall and the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Berwick-upon-Tweed (Freemen) Act.

The Berwick Freemen have a new holder of the “Oldest Freeman” cane, Mr CE (Eddie) Herriot.

### **Durham:**

The names of the first batch of Ladies to be admitted to the Freemen of the City of Durham were called at the Lammas Guild in August. The second call will be made at the Martinmas Guild in November with their inauguration anticipated at the Candlemas Guild in February 2012. The group of around 20 Ladies includes a large number from a single family and also two ministers, one from the Church of England and the other from the Church of Sweden. Between them, the Ladies cover all three routes of admission to the Durham Freelage, being servitude within the City, servitude to a Freeman but outside the City and the hereditary path.

The Chairman of the Durham Freemen, Mr John Heslop, sounds a cautionary note about press interest and coverage of Freemen’s matters, having recently experienced misinformation in local papers, although I suspect this is of little surprise to many other Guilds.

The Annual Durham Freemen’s Dinner takes place in October.

### **Newcastle upon Tyne:**

Swearing-in ceremonies average one a month in the City of Newcastle, with numbers expanding steadily as further generations gain access. Admissions to individual companies are also taking place.

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

### **Kingston-upon-Hull:**

Following my report of 11/6/11, I visited the archives on 16/6/11 and inspected their Freemans’ Roll. It begins in 1741 but there exists a vast body of paper-work pre-1741. The current Roll is little more than an old style school exercise book and is maintained in alphabetical order. It lists only the name of the person admitted, the date of admission and from whom the Freedom flows. Ladies have been admitted since 1995 and the Freedom can pass down both the male and female lines. There is no guild, nor has there been it appears. I spoke with the Archivist himself and he tells me that it is not known how many Freemen there are nor where they reside but, he says, “most live away from the city”. The last Freedom Court was held in 2010 but it is not known how many candidates were admitted. A laborious count from the Roll revealed that between 1968 and 1999 only 43 Freemen were admitted.

### **Beverley:**

Since my report of 11/6/11, I made contact with the Clerk to the Pasture Masters. There are now some 200+ “Freemen” but there is no guild as such. The Pasture Masters Committee consisting of 11 men and one lady meet monthly. I was invited to attend their meeting on 21st July and addressed them on behalf of FEW. Although I was welcomed by their Chairman and Clerk, I got the impression that they wished to be independent and not keen to attend FEW events despite the 2012 AGM being only ‘down the road’ in York.

### **Great Grimsby:**

On August 4th and 5th, the Mayor of NE Lincolnshire, Cllr Mrs Sue Pickett, presided over two Freedom Courts. A total of 17 male and 32 female candidates were sworn in after the Head of Legal Services, Mrs Liz Conolly, read the Ancient Burgess’s Oath on the first day, the Chairman of the Great Grimsby Enrolled Freemen [Stephen White] read it on day 2. A unique, in my experience, situation in Great Grimsby is that the candidate does not have to attend the Court in person but can send a representative who confirms that the candidate will abide by the terms of the Oath, and as long as the fee of £1.13 (£1-2-6d in real money) is paid, the Freedom certificate is signed and handed over!

### **York:**

The Annual General Meeting of the York Gild was held in Bedern Hall on 24th June. The Right Honourable Lord Mayor, Cllr David Horton *{not the Dibley one}* was installed as President for the coming year. His nominated charities are York against Cancer and MIND. Mr Richard Helstrip was installed as Master and his charity is to be Smiletrain [[www.SmileTrain.org.uk](http://www.SmileTrain.org.uk)]. The outgoing Master presented a cheque for £1,000 to a representative of her charity, Yorkshire Air Ambulance. The retiring clerk, June Smith Parker, was presented with a gift of an inkwell and feather quill pen to mark her valuable service to the Gild.

The northern answer to the Henley Regatta, Yorks’ Model Boat event in Rowntree Park, was held on August 7th and preceded the annual bar-b-q. An enjoyable day was held by all who attended.

The Sheriff of York, and his assistants, held his annual Assize of Ale on August 13th visiting several hostelries to sample the Ale to ensure it was “of a fit and proper quality for the people of the City”. An onerous task but somebody has to do it.

It is anticipated that a Freedom Court will be held during the first week of October presided over by the Lord Mayor and in the presence of the Court of Freemen.

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

I very much regret the absence of Paul and myself attending this years Annual General Meeting, the first time this has happened since I was appointed Warden at Altrincham in 1999. The distance from Morecambe to Pembroke and the length of travelling time by public transport has conspired against us but we know a successful conference will be enjoyed by one and all!!

During July the admissions to the freedom of the City of Lancaster included ladies for the first time but as Lancaster seemingly have no desire to have contact with our Association I only heard of the event the day before!

I have a few appointments in my diary of functions of which I have been advised and these are as follows:-

24th September – Michaelmass Assize at Altrincham

3rd November – Business Meeting at Hale

24th November – Lancashire Evening at Hale

26th January, 2012 – Annual Court at Hale

I note that when I received the list of Association members in 2002 I had 40 members of our Association in my area and over the past nine years this has increased by 50% to the present number of 60, the first time this figure has been reached.

During June Paul and I had a holiday in Oxford and it was a delight meeting up with Shirley and Howard Crapper once again.

Paul and I send our salutations to all our many friends in the Association and trust that you are all as hale and hearty as Paul and I are at the moment even though on 1st January last I entered into my tenth decade.

### **Warden for the North Midlands: John Edwards**

There has been little interaction between guilds in this area recently. Indeed, I am not sure that some see any reason for it. Shrewsbury and Newcastle-U-L keep me informed of events that they think I may wish to attend, but there has been precious little communication from Derby and none at all from Bridgnorth.

The Stafford Guild Council has discussed the proposed constitutional changes and generally agrees with them, but I wait with interest to see if other local guilds have submitted responses to the AGM. The Trustees of the Freeman's Lands meet monthly to ensure that our assets are properly managed. Unfortunately, the trustee role has just become more onerous because the allotments management committee, which took on a lot of day to day administration, has folded due to personality clashes. Stafford has monthly Guild Council Meetings to coordinate the administrative and social aspects of Freeman's activities.

The Guild officers have been working to establish the rules for admission as a Burgess of Stafford. Heredity, to include females, is relatively straightforward, but the admission by servitude has been much more complicated, with the virtual demise of indentured apprenticeships. Setting criteria for levels of competence, whilst trying to maintain the spirit of the recognition of craft skills has been difficult. Sadly, although N.V.Q. level 3, (now QCF Diploma level), is the benchmark, words like "Retail" do not tell us much about the work actually undertaken. We also have to keep the concept of

training being based in Stafford, but with so many school leavers seeing university as the only route forward, that will be a problem. Initial proposals have been prepared for submission to Stafford Borough and we hope to get it right together.

Ten New Freemen were admitted at a recent Freemen's Court, held in the County Council Chamber, (where we held the 2009 FEW AGM). Eight swore the Oath on the evening, but one who is seriously ill and one who is living in the USA were admitted by written confirmation, a new process that had to be invented. All admissions were by Servitude. There has been correspondence from one of the new members about what rights, if any, freemen retain. It is not an easy question, when we have probably lost some, simply by not exercising those rights. We are still trying to get answers from the Environment Agency about fishing rights, but mention of 800 year old Royal Charters seems to throw them.

There was an enjoyable Skittles evening held instead of our summer lunch. I was grateful that someone had contributed chocolates to the raffle prizes, (amongst the collection of alcoholic beverages), because we did not foresee that a Muslim lady, who came as a guest, would win, despite never having played before!

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

As the Coventry & Leicester Gilds events are regularly reported in the Journal, I shall just highlight that **Coventry Freemen's Guild** find that opening their Guild room during last weekend's national Heritage Open Days initiative was an excellent way of raising public awareness of Freemen and Guilds. **Leicester Freemen's Gild** has had a successful second annual banquet, which hopefully will now be a regular fixture in the Midlands calendar.

**Northampton Freemen's Guild** have made significant progress on admitting lady Freemen, and with the revision of the 1988 Act now signed off, have 22<sup>nd</sup> October scheduled for the admission of the first lady Freemen in the Gothic revival style Guildhall, which dates back to 1864.

**Alcester Court Leet** had their Ale tasting ceremony featured on a recent BBC 'Escape to the Country' programme yet to be broadcast. Their annual Officer elections, which have taken place for over 700 years, are scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> October in the Town Hall.

**Henley-in-Arden Court Leet** had their Guildhall Riverside Gardens opened by the Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire recently, after six years of work and fundraising. The Court Leet Town Dinner is planned for 29<sup>th</sup> October, and the annual Court Leet elections and installations are due on 9<sup>th</sup> November.

**Warwick Court Leet** members in robes escorted the Town Mayor, as Lord of the Leet, to the Civic Service held in St Mary's church recently. As this was a combined service with the Warwick Folk Festival, there was a flamboyant sword dance in the church by the Malty Phoenix dancers. A procession back to the Pageant Gardens was followed by more

dancing displays and refreshments. The 457<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Court Leet has been rescheduled to the 3<sup>rd</sup> November in the Jury Street Courthouse.

### **Warden for the East: Norman Offield.**

First of all, please allow me to tender my apologies for non attendance at the Court meeting, and the late notification of my report. The dates have conflicted with some personal events, but I will see you all at the AGM in 2012.

#### **Colchester:**

**2nd August 2011.** This year I was invited again to assist in the Annual ceremony of the Giving when all entitled Colchester Freemen can receive a share in those proceeds, (profits) from the Freemen's assets. This was held in the Mayors Parlour, in the Town Hall, a resplendent building in the centre of Colchester. Those in attendance were, Councillor Helen CHUAH, two of the Conservators, Mr. Bob Bacon (Senior Conservator), Mr. Peter NASON (Conservator), and three others members. The number of Freemen in Colchester who attended the 'Giving' to receive their dues was 42, although there are currently 73 entitled to receive the dues. The Freemen who did not collect on the day have until the end of the month to collect.

**29<sup>th</sup> September 2011.** I have been invited to attend the Ceremony of Granting the Freedom of Colchester to the Ladies and Gentlemen. There will be approx 60 people to be sworn in. I will report on this event in more detail later.

#### **Stamford, Lincolnshire:**

I have spoken to Mr. Norman Scholes the Freemen of Stamford contact, who reports that the Freemen are still in existence. I believe that the actual number is fairly low, and I hope to be seeing him soon. His grandson has been made a freeman, so is carrying on the duties.

#### **Norwich Freemen.**

I have spoken to Mr. Malcolm Quinton, the Freemen of Norwich representative, and I hope to be able to attend a Mayoral Ceremony in Norwich during October. I will report on this event in more detail later.

#### **Ipswich Freemen.**

I have spoken to Mr. Paul Carter, the Ipswich representative and asked him to contact me when things have been sorted out, then I will go and visit him.

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

The Freemen in the West continue with their business in the quiet and respectful way which has become tradition.

The Chartered Freemen of Gloucester look forward to their annual dinner on November 12<sup>th</sup> at the Mercers Hall. Before that occasion, the President, Terry Aubrey is to marry his lovely Carol on October 1<sup>st</sup>. It is this momentous event which has kept him from attending today's meeting as plans reach a critical stage. We send our very best wishes for

their future happiness.

In Oxford, the Port Meadow continues to demand the full attention of the Freemen of the City. The Chiltern Rail Inquiry, with its possible impact on the meadow, is yet to report and is long overdue. The delay has been caused by the Inspector suffering serious illness. Oxford City Council, as reported earlier, that within a few weeks of registering ownership of Port Meadow, we now find are trying to shrug off their chosen responsibility as the cuts begin to bite.

The Freemen were called into action to replace Council staff on the Sheriff's secret Roundup in July. Starting at 6am on a mist shrouded meadow; the spread line of walking freemen assisted the horse riding Sheriff in driving the 300 head of cattle to the pound. A Trading Standards Veterinary Surgeon examined the cattle for eye infections before release. It is unlikely that any fines for unauthorised grazing were imposed. A situation which must be rectified. The Sheriff did however; provide a handsome breakfast for all the helpers following the roundup.

The Freemen of Oxford accompanied the Sheriff on a walking inspection of Port Meadow in June. Unfortunately, the inspection was carried out in a continuous heavy summer downpour. It was a great credit that the traditional game of Aunt Sally was fully played out after the inspection, also in the rain, but this may have been down to the added incentive of free beer supplied by Greene King.

Land given by the Freemen of Oxford in 1956, for a car park at the northern entry to Port Meadow "for the enjoyment of the people of Oxford" has caused controversy as the Council have suggested imposing parking charges. Protests at the site have been recorded by photographs in the press. No discussion or warning has been communicated to the Freemen which is in direct contravention to the Council constitution which demands that all matters regarding Port Meadow must be discussed with the Freemen. Many problems encountered have been caused by council staff leaving office and not passing on responsibilities to those that follow.

The Freemen of Oxford host their prestigious Apprentice Awards evening on Tuesday November 1<sup>st</sup>. All Freemen are welcome to attend. It must be stated that BMW Mini - Oxford Plant, jump at this opportunity and we are very grateful for their magnificent support.

**Warden for Wales: Roy Folland.**

### **The Gild of Freemen of Pembroke**

As one can imagine the Gild has been very busy putting the final touches to the arrangements for the FEW AGM Weekend meeting. An invitation to the Gild was received from the Mayor of Pembroke to attend the Beating of the Retreat Ceremony at Pembroke Castle on Saturday the 2nd of June. The Gild was represented by the Master.

The Court Meeting of the Gild was held on 28th July in the Chamber of the Pembroke Town Council, at which Cllr. Keith Nicholas, former Mayor of the town, was

enrolled as a Burgess of the Gild of Freemen of Pembroke, in recognition of his service he has given to the Town and Community of Pembroke over the years.

### **The Setting up of a Gild in the City of Swansea**

No recent correspondence has been received from Mr. David Rosser-Owen, other than his efforts are continuing to set up a Gild of Freemen of the City of Swansea.

### **The Gild of Freemen of Haverfordwest**

Haverfordwest Gild of Freemen hold their Annual Weekend on Saturday and Sunday October 1st and 2nd when Freemen from all over the country will converge on the town to attend the Annual General Meeting at the County Hall followed by the Annual Reception and Banquet at the Wolfscastle Country Hotel.

On Sunday morning the red-gowned Wardens of the Court, accompanied by Civic Leaders, Freemen, Burgesses and other guests, will parade to St. Martin's Church for the traditional Benefactor's Service. The Gild has recently taken delivery of a comprehensive survey and conservation strategy document on Haroldston House on the outskirts of the town; the Tudor Mansion and birth place of one of Haverfordwest's major benefactors, Sir John Perrot. Haroldston was donated to the Gild by its first Master, Colonel J. H. V. Higgon, in the mid-1970's, and the long term plan is to seek grant funding to turn it into a public amenity park. The document outlines the house's history and archaeology and includes recommended measures to conserve the surviving masonry and garden features.

## **Treasurers Report.**

**FREEMEN OF ENGLAND AND WALES**  
Charity Commission Reference Number 293536  
Annual report and Accounts

### **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 – 2010/2011 (TRUSTEES)**

President	- Mr A G Fallows
Deputy President	- Mr G A Varndell (also Data Control Manager)
Vice President	- Mr S P White
Immediate Past President	- Mr C Hardcastle
Honorary Archivist	- Mr A J Fallows
Honorary Journal Editor	- Mr T Gibson
Honorary Membership Secretary	- Ms E Forth
Honorary Secretary	- Mr R E Leek

Honorary Treasurer - Mr S P White  
Officer without Portfolio - Mr A Shelley

Custodian Trustees - Capt J Evans (Chairman)  
- Mr A Robson  
- Vacant position  
- Mr S P White (as Hon Treasurer)

**BANKERS** - NatWest Bank Plc  
39 Grimsby Road  
Cleethorpes  
North East Lincolnshire  
DN35 7GB

**AUDITORS** - Forrester Boyd Chartered Accountants  
26 South Saint Mary's Gate  
Great Grimsby  
North East Lincolnshire  
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 2011.

### **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**

During the year the Association has successfully installed and developed its website. An extensive list of papers have been included within the site. These are accessible to members and the general public and thus provide a solid educational facility explaining the history and development of both the Freedom and the towns in which it played an integral part.

The Land Registration Act continues to provide difficulties for some Gilds in the registration of their rights and the Association works diligently to assist with this matter wherever possible.

The Association has now completed evolving solutions to the vagaries of local Gild Customs in allowing the admission of daughters of Freemen to the Freedom, (under the same terms as sons), as permitted by amendments within the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. Such admissions have now been successfully adopted across England and Wales.

Work progresses towards the re-establishment of admission by apprenticeship where this qualification has lapsed and the Association liaises with all interested parties in this matter.

Officers in general, and especially the President, attend functions both to welcome new members to their Gilds and to give advice regarding the roles of Freemen and the Association.

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 16th September 2011 and signed on their behalf by:

Stephen. P. White  
FEW Honorary Treasurer

Alan. G. Fallows  
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**

The total income has reduced, compared to 2009/10, particularly since we sold no robes in the year. Income from other items have varied, as indicated by the figures.

### **4. Interest Received**

Interest on our COIF Account has increased from 0.5 to 0.671% which is still low but may be regarded as a secure investment.

### **5. Income Tax Recovered**

Gift Aid is claimed on all payments received under the Scheme, including the basic subscription. (Transitional Relief is being received for the last time this year). The compensation from the bank is for the time it took to effect our new mandate.

### **6. Administrative Expenses**

This includes new desktop copier/printer for Hon. Secretary and on-going website hosting costs.

### **7. Purchases**

This is in regard to purchases for stock items for sale.

### **8. Journal**

Four Journals were produced each year (total 136 pages in 2010, 128 pages in 2011). Economies have been made in terms of number distributed but we have had significant increases in printing and postage.

## 9. Annual General Meetings

Costs shown include those directly incurred by FEW and those refunded to Hosts. Those shown for previous AGM's are the final costs, total costs for 2011 not yet known.

## 10. Legal & Regalia Expenses

The only expense was in respect of advice regarding Land Registry issues.

## 11. Court & Officers Meetings

Costs have been higher than those in 2009/10 due to incurring room hire costs.

### MOVEMENT OF DESIGNATED FUNDS - 2009/10 to 2010/11

	2009/10	2010/11
<b>Legal Fund</b>		
Balance brought forward, 1st July	2,727.63	3,050.54
Donations received	276.50	437.00
Tax recovered	40.64	34.25
Addnl Tax recovered re 2008/9	5.77	-
LESS: Costs Incurred	-	-1,474.35
Balance at 31st December	<u>3,050.54</u>	<u>2,047.44</u>
<b>Regalia Fund</b>		
Balance brought forward, 1st July	315.79	709.83
Donations received	353.00	233.20
Tax recovered	36.12	28.25
Addnl Tax recovered re 2008/9	4.92	-
LESS: Purchases made	-	-
Balance at 31st December	<u>709.83</u>	<u>971.28</u>
<b>Regalia Self-Insurance Fund</b>		
Balance brought forward, 1st July	1,658.00	2,128.00
Amount Provided	470.00	600.00
Balance at 31st December	<u>2,128.00</u>	<u>2,728.00</u>
<b>TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>	<u>5,888.37</u>	<u>5,746.72</u>

**INCOME****EXPENDITURE**

<u>2009/10</u>		<u>2010/11</u>
£		£
<b>Note 1</b>		
	<b><u>SUBSCRIPTIONS</u></b>	
3,333.00	Individual	3,021.00
730.00	Guilds	1,840.00
<b>4,063.00</b>		<b>4,861.00</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><u>DONATIONS TO:-</u></b>	
210.00	General Fund	195.00
276.50	Legal Fund	437.00
353.00	Regalia Fund	233.20
<b>839.50</b>		<b>865.20</b>

<b>Note 3</b>		
	<b><u>SALES</u></b>	
350.00	Robes	-
112.50	Ties	100.50
168.50	Members Medallions	107.50
152.00	Robe badges	287.90
182.00	Blazer badges	57.00
16.50	Lapel badges	92.40
-	Wall plaques	25.00
3.00	Stickers	14.50
-	Headsquares	30.00
5.00	Books	15.00
27.00	Christmas Cards	28.50
5.00	Pens	30.00
-	Membership Wallets	15.00
-	Aspects of the Freedom	20.00
-	Membership Certificates	7.50
<b>1,021.50</b>		<b>830.80</b>

<b>Note 4</b>		
	<b><u>INTEREST RECEIVED</u></b>	
299.18	COIF Deposit A/c	304.17
-	NatWest Reserve A/c	0.89
-	Gift Aid Tax Refund	-
-	Compensation from NatWest	200.00
<b>299.18</b>		<b>505.06</b>

<b>Note 5</b>		
	<b><u>INCOME TAX RECOVERED</u></b>	
587.23	Re: Gift Aid Declarations 2009/2010	-
0.00	Re: Gift Aid Declarations 2010/2011	516.13
<b>587.23</b>		<b>516.13</b>
<b>6,810.41</b>	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>7,578.19</b>

<u>2009/10</u>		<u>2010/11</u>
£		£
<b>Note 6</b>		
	<b><u>ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</u></b>	
114.93	Postage	108.50
-	Telephone	-
-	Insurance (provision only)	-
42.00	Archives	3.75
121.33	Stationery	169.31
58.00	Printing/photocopying	174.95
730.55	Website	235.00
338.98	Other	75.90
<b>1,405.79</b>		<b>767.41</b>

<b>Note 7</b>		
	<b><u>PURCHASES</u></b>	
359.34	Robes	-
-	Ties	-
-	Members Medallions	601.89
117.10	Robe Badges	138.00
112.50	Blazer badges	-
261.22	Lapel badges	-
127.42	Wall Plaques	-
-	Pens	-
-	Membership Wallets	-
<b>977.58</b>		<b>739.89</b>

<b>Note 8</b>		
	<b><u>JOURNAL</u></b>	
2,321.98	Production	2,639.00
1,406.21	Postage/distribution	1,385.82
<b>3,728.19</b>		<b>4,024.82</b>

<b>Note 9</b>		
	<b><u>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS</u></b>	
-	2008 - Hale	44.88
771.30	2009 - Stafford	-
218.40	2010 - Berwick upon Tweed	269.04
-	2012 - York	500.00
<b>989.70</b>		<b>813.92</b>

<b>Note 10</b>		
	<b><u>LEGAL &amp; REGALIA EXPENSES</u></b>	
-	Freemen's Rights	1,474.35
-	Wardens Robes	-
<b>-</b>		<b>1,474.35</b>

<b>Note 11</b>		
	<b><u>COURT &amp; OFFICERS' MEETINGS</u></b>	
-	Court Meeting Room Hire	75.00
247.25	Catering - Nett	234.30
9.50	Officers' Meeting Expenses	5.00
-	President's Expenses	-
<b>256.75</b>		<b>314.30</b>
<b>7,358.01</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>8,134.69</b>

**-547.60 SURPLUS FOR YEAR** **-556.50**

**1,186.95** Less transfer to Designated Funds **-141.65**

**-1,734.55 AVAILABLE SURPLUS** **-414.85**

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

	30.6.2010	30.6.2011
<b>Monetary Assets</b>		
<b>GENERAL PURPOSE FUND</b>		
National Westminster Bank - Current A/C	2,142.48	911.91
National Westminster Bank - Reserve A/C	0.00	0.71
COIF Charity Deposit Fund	46,000.00	46,000.00
	<u>48,142.48</u>	<u>46,912.62</u>
<b>DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>		
National Westminster Bank - Current A/C	1,888.37	246.72
National Westminster Bank - Reserve A/C	0.00	1,500.00
COIF Charity Deposit Fund	4,000.00	4,000.00
	<u>5,888.37</u>	<u>5,746.72</u>
<b>DEBTORS / CREDITORS</b>		
Amounts owed to FEW at 30th June	589.47	846.77
LESS: Amounts owed by FEW at 30th June	-1,050.77	-448.18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>53,569.55</u>	<u>53,057.93</u>
<b>Other Assets</b>		
Stocks of resale items (cost, not realisable value)	1,758.41	1,894.56
Officers' regalia (insured value)	9,393.00	12,020.00
Other Assets	918.00	947.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>12,069.41</u>	<u>14,861.56</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>65,638.96</u>	<u>67,919.49</u>

**Liabilities**

**Short Term**

At 30th June 2011, 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 2011, the Officers of the Association have not made any long term commitments.

## *Hon. Membership Secretary's Report.*

Guilts

Currently we have 40 Guilts on the books with five Guilts in Arrears

Individual Membership

The current membership stands at 402. This has steadied out since the last report

Since September 2010

We have had 16 individual new members Seven member that we know of have died

Twelve members have resigned

One has notified change of address

Eleven are deletions under rule nine of the Constitution

Current payments

Late payments, again I have to say reminders are being sent out constantly It is worth noting that some of these arrears did pay by standing order, these have just stopped with no notification and no response to letters.

## The Breakdown

34 members are in arrears. The breakdown of these are

April 2011 to April 2012 (14 members) (5 of these paid by standing order) Sept 2010 to Sept 2011 (8 members) (4 of these paid by standing order) Sept 2009 to Sept 2010 ----

Sept 2010 to Sept 2011 (3 members) (1 paid by Standing order)

April 2010 to April 2011 and April 2011 to April 2012 (8 members) (5 paid by standing order)

April 2009 to April 2010 --- April 2010 to April 2011 and April 2011 to April 2012 (1 member) (paid by standing order)

Some of these will get a final letter notifying them of rule 9 of the Constitution and if no response is forthcoming then they will be deleted.

It would seem as though 14 of these members at least will be deleted this year

## *Hon. Editors report.*

My apologies for being unable to attend both the executive and AGM this year, I expect to be able to attend the equivalent meetings in 2012.

The journal continues to be well received, at least from what I hear. In the last issue the President issued an invitation to members to receive the journal electronically, to date I have received only two requests for this service from members. I would suggest that if this is something we wish to do then the President might repeat the request, however I think it would need significantly more people to accept the invitation to make it worth while.

My usual appeal that entries for the journal arrive with me by the date published in the last issue is coupled with a request for brevity with articles for this issue. Last years AGM items filled what is now the total space we have for this issue this year. If necessary I shall hold back items for the next issue, reports on the events of the AGM weekend will be priority for this issue. Also any photographs of the Pembroke weekend would be appreciated in order to chose one for the front cover.

The next issue will also include the annual Gazette and Directory, closing date the same as the journal for any amendments please, although I believe it to be largely updated this year thanks to the Presidents efforts.

I would like to record my thanks to all who have contributed to the Journal during the year, I look forward to seeing any contributions in the forthcoming year. I am pleased to continue to offer my services as editor of the journal for another year, so long as it is still accepted that sadly I am usually unable to attend meetings during the year.

## *Officer without Portfolio's Report.*

This has been an interesting and busy few months for me, returning to the Executive after nearly 18 years. In this role, as Officer without Portfolio, I have been giving much thought to those areas of legislation and government policy that may affect the Freedom and particularly to the protection of Freeman's Property and Status.

My main activities have been in the assessment of registration to protect freemen's lands and ancient rights.

To this end, I have reported my views by posting eighteen papers on the FEW Website, covering various items affecting the Freedom that may be of assistance to any less acquainted freemen. These essays can appear rather excessive as they contain details that are sometimes repeated in order to emphasize points of weaknesses or strengths that may need to be clearly established.

I have also recently put together a profile of our newly adopted patron, Lord Apsley, for publication and inclusion on our FEW Website where it is now available for your information.

Currently, the President and I are reviewing proposals involving the registration of lands at York, Durham and Shrewsbury with the possibility of providing some practical assistance from FEW.

## *Democracy – and the Future of Our Local Countryside'*

*(This subject is complicated by politics, economics and legislation)*

Back in early May, as a footnote to my paper (16) 'Freedom Past and Present' I warned that the somewhat innocuously titled 'Localism' Bill imperils future planning and developments.

In order to economically house a rapidly expanding population, the government has recommended that planning regulations should be relaxed. The Coalition has recognized the need to plan ahead for a new and divergent society.

David Cameron's philosophy of a 'Big Society' for Britain has brought about proposals for two reforming Acts, now in the pipeline. Firstly, the Localism Act that is intended to provide communities with the ability to plan and conduct their own developments. Secondly and closely linked is the 'National Planning Policy Framework' (NPPF) which is the Coalition's move to rewrite and simplify the planning rules. The dangers that such new legislation brings are liable to change forever the nation's landscapes and affect traditions that have been in place for many years. Planning reforms would make it easier to build on previously inaccessible land. Government's legal presumption, in favour of sustainable development will apply "even within the green belt". The National Trust and various eminent protective organizations have campaigned

against the Government's proposals.

There is considerable anxiety in the country over the implications of the draft NPPF and in particular to its "presumption in favour of sustainable development". This has been deepened by exposure of the worrying extent to which the new framework appears to be driven by economic rather than planning considerations, with the interests of developers placed above those of local communities.

Government has been adamant that this is not their intentions although ministers concede that they want fewer restraints placed by the planning system on developers. For decades the planning system has guided development to the places that need it. The system has protected open countryside, prevented sprawl and safeguarded the historic character of our cities, towns and villages.

Ministers are currently pushing through plans to replace more than 1,000 pages of planning regulations in England with just 52 pages in the NPPF. Campaigners have suggested the Government is trying to change the planning system so that it is biased in favour of promoting growth rather than protecting the environment.

Our concern, particularly as Freeman of England and Wales must be that any relaxation of green belt land, or the encouragement to build on open spaces, may lead to compulsory developments over Freeman's lands. This could well be seen as the thin end of the wedge. Not only is our personal property in jeopardy but the national historic places and landscapes are put at risk of undesirable development.

Again, I would respectfully say we must be vigilant and as necessary respond positively.

**Alan Shelley, Officer Without Portfolio, 1 October 2011.**

The above item included by the President as a matter of urgency.

## *New Subscription Rate.*

**It was approved that subscriptions are to be increased from £8 to £10 from the earliest opportunity after 1st October 2011. Donations may be enhanced by giving under Gift Aid so that FEW can reclaim income tax at no cost to the member. Gift Aid and Standing Order forms are available from the Membership Secretary or Treasurer (by post or email) or as downloads from the FEW Website.**

### **The Guild of Bridgnorth Freeman**

Our next event is on Saturday 26th November at The Mill Hotel, Alveley for our annual Banquet. Our after dinner speaker this year will be Mr John Sparry who is a "Black Country raconteur". If anybody is interested on joining us on the evening please contact Tony Head on 01746 780345

**Please note:** Due to space constraints and the importance of reporting on the AGM as fully as possible for all members, not all items submitted to the editor have been included in this issue. Those items omitted will be held over to the next issue (169) unless further instructions from the individuals/ guilds who sent them are received. Our apologies that this was necessary on this occasion.



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

Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Hon. Editor, F.E.W. Court or Executive.

Cover picture: Delegates at the AGM by Mr. Martin Cavaney, photographer of Pembroke.

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

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York.  
YO31 0SZ  
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Tel. No. 01904 423153

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

**Please note the closing date for the editor to receive items for the next issue (No. 168) is the 20/1/12.**

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