

# *Freemen of England and Wales.*

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**With Compliments.**

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## Presidents Letter

Whilst writing I am reflecting upon the Executive and Court meetings we have just held in Leicester, and what should have been feelings of pleasure and anticipation have been marred in two ways.

Firstly, whilst the difficult business of the constitutional review has been successfully accomplished and harmony within FEW was restored, there are signs already appearing of discord being caused within the organization again from the same old quarter.

This gives me concern over influences towards some officers and I urge members with a genuine concern for the welfare of FEW to consider offering their experience and a small amount of time in some capacity.

Secondly, the attendances at Court Meetings have reduced to the point where I feel an appeal is necessary.

I am aware that the costs of travel become more prohibitive and to ease this burden we aim to set meeting locations to benefit the majority; hence the March meeting in Leicester.

With the exception of Capt. Jim Evans from Berwick-upon-Tweed and Roy Folland from Pembroke (who I must commend for their attendance from a greater distance) no one should have been more than 1.1/2 hours away and yet only one Guild was represented additionally to officers or wardens; and even then only nine Guilds were recorded in attendance.

In an effort to reduce the burden we are discontinuing the June Court meeting; which with the safeguards of the new constitution we find unnecessary; but this does mean that the only venue to carry out business outside the AGM is the March Court which becomes even more important.

So come on members; make an effort to attend the Court. Be involved; have your say, it will be no good moaning about the demise of FEW when it is too late.

FEW exists to help your Guilds when there is a crisis, but it still needs to be kept active and in readiness while all is calm.

Best wishes

Alan Fallows.

# *News from the Guilds.*

## Lincoln.



The City of Lincoln Freemen's Gild believes it is the first Gild to have a 'full house' of female officers, is this true? The photograph shows Betty Proctor (Treasurer) Helen Dolby (Deputy Master) Jenny Connell (Master) and Mary Rose (Secutary). Lincoln even has a lady Mayor, the Gild patron, at the moment.

## Alcester Court Leet.

It has been a full and eventful first half of my year as High Bailiff of Alcester Court Leet and now there is a small lull before the summer madness starts.

The year started in October with the High Sheriff of Warwickshire's Church Service (10th October 2011) which was a fantastic ceremonial event at St Mary's in Warwick attended by the senior members of the county's politicians, judiciary and clergy. We joined the Chairman of Stratford District Council, Eric Payne. On 16th October 2011, we had our Court Leet Town Cry in Alcester High Street announcing the election of the new High Bailiff and Low Bailiff. We only stopped the traffic for a short time! We have supported other local Courts by attending Bromsgrove Court Leet Dinner on 28th October 2011, Bromsgrove Court Leet Autumn Court (3rd November 2011) which was attended by the High & Low Bailiff of Alcester Court Leet accompanied by Mayor of Warwick and Henley Court Leet. In addition, we attended the Warwick Court Leet Elections on 3rd November 2011 followed by Henley Court Leet Elections on 9th November 2011.

Every year we have the High Bailiff's Annual Dinner (18th November 2011) and this year I was extremely happy that Lord Hertford, the Lord of the Manor, was able to attend the Dinner. There are no photos which is a good thing, probably, but it was well supported by the Town and generated a fantastic profit of £1,395.40!

One of Alcester's great events is St Nic's Night (6th December 2011) with its parade through the Town. It was another very special evening for the Town and the Court's stall generated a profit £331.74.

We were happy to support the Croome and West Warwickshire Hunt by serving

the Stirrup Cup on 3rd January 2012. Having followed the Hunt for the last few years, I was happy to support Nick last year with resurrecting of the Stirrup Cup. We continued this year although there were fewer Officers because the Hunt took place on a normal working day.

One of the most important events the Court's Calendar is Court Leet Church Service which took place on 15th January 2012. Traditionally, this is when the new High Bailiff is introduced to the Town. I was happy that Lord Hertford with his family joined me at St Nicholas Church as well as the Chairman of Stratford District Council, Mayor of Alcester, Mayor Stratford, Courts of Bromsgrove, Henley and Warwick. After attending the Service, we all retired to Alcester Town Hall where a good amount food & drink was served.

We have an equally busy time ahead with the major events including the Court's Coffee Morning followed by the Town Criers Competition on 7th April. Then in June we have a 'Best of British' 2 day festival celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Court's annual, traditional Street Market on 3rd & 4th June. The Court will act as a 'guard of honour' when the Olympic Torch travels through Alcester on 1st July. We look forward to it all!

Steve Payne High Bailiff Alcester Court Leet and Court Baron of the Most Honourable Henry Jocelyn Seymour Marquess of Hertford.

### Coventry.

On 24<sup>th</sup> January the sixth annual '**Apprentice of the Year Awards**' dinner was held in St Mary's Guildhall. A capacity audience enjoyed a three course meal and heard our Master, Raj Bansal, outline the achievements of the six finalists from Jaguar Cars, Land-Rover, and Whitefriars Housing Group. Fanfare Trumpets introduced Stephen Mason of Land-Rover as the Judges choice. He collected a £1000 cheque from our Master, and an engraved trophy from our President Keiran Mulhall – the Lord Mayor of Coventry. All finalists received a certificate and £100 cheque, and Mark Watts of Whitefriars received the Endeavour Award for achievement. Gez Halton of local firm Premier Sheet Metal, who won the contract to supply the intricate Olympic torches for the 2012 games, then advised us of the positive impact apprenticeships have had on his company. Our thanks to Enterprise Warden Colin Harris, his committee, and sponsors. A full page report on the event in the local newspaper was excellent publicity for the Guild. Our **Ladies Night** event on Valentine's Day was celebrated with a three course silver service dinner in St Mary's Guildhall. 50+ Guildsmen and their Ladies then heard a talk by Tom Morrison of the Coventry Sports Centre – who acted as personal coach to the Master's Lady Belle Bansal for her entry in the 2004 London Marathon. He contrasted the 'press ups and circuit training' of the 1970's Sports Centre with the current 'Quality of Life' mantra, which includes referrals from Doctors for high blood pressure, diabetes, and rehabilitation programmes for heart attack victims. In response, Mrs Bansal highlighted that Coventry will see some of the first 2012 Olympic competitions, with football at the Ricoh Arena – which will be renamed as the City of Coventry Stadium for the duration of the event.

A **Past Masters Sunday Lunch** was held on 11<sup>th</sup> March at the Coventry & North Warwickshire Cricket Club. This is an annual reunion of senior Past Masters, their ladies or widows, who we tend not to see at our evening events. This year we remembered Phil

Willis, Guild Master during 1969-70, who died last year.

### **Oxford.**

**Oxford Annual Dinner at Balliol College :** This was a dinner with a difference . The Lord Mayor and her consort both arrived on bicycles. Cycling is of course a byword in Oxford but this was the first time for civic guests to appear under pedal power. It was a perishing cold evening. It was during that cold spell before Christmas . Balliol College is situated in Broad Street (formerly the town ditch ! ) and the most perfect Christmas tree was erected in the road beside the college entrance.

The dry chilly evening was soon forgotten as soon as we entered the Fellows Common Room for pre dinner drinks .Soft furnishings and subdued lighting , clinking glasses and everyone relaxed in the expectant company .The college had moved us this year for the drinks, into the adjacent Fellows common room in order that when dinner was ready to be served then we would slip almost immediately into the dining room . The buzz in the room drowned out the young man with the dinner gong but we got the message. The Chairman introduced the guests and fellow freeman ,Brian Barnes ,led us in grace. You would have to say the meal and service was excellent .Splendid crackers snapped and soon everyone was wearing golden crown hats and exchanging jokes found inside the crackers. Flying balloons squealed across the tables narrowly missing the serving staff.

The room itself is absolutely charming with its sculptured ceiling , panelled walls and twinkling silverware. Christmas decorations draped and hung around the dining tables. The Chairman read a letter from Buckingham Palace before proposing a toast to Her Majesty . The Lord Mayor ,Councillor Elize Benjamin , made a good reply without notes and said how much she was enjoying the evening. The Sheriff , Councillor Jean Fooks , also spoke of the close relationship of Council and Freemen and was grateful for the joint Consultative Port Meadow meetings which were proving most useful. Our Chairman spoke over a range of subjects including the various exciting Freemen events which had taken place during the year and not least , the Freemen Apprentice Awards which is attracting more attention and sponsorship with each passing year but still requires your help and assistance in getting the message over to employers and employees alike.

The raffle was wonderfully well supported and through this column ,it is hoped to thank all those who donated such great prizes. Freemen are truly grateful to Balliol College and the Dean , the Revd Douglas Dupree, for our close ongoing relationship in allowing our dinner in such auspicious surroundings .

**Oxford Port Meadow . A mystery resolved ?** Who owns Oxford Port Meadow ? The subject has been debated , questioned and legal advice sought and obtained over many decades. A copy of a very old letter to the City Council has come to the sight of the Freemen Committee. I am convinced it has not seen light of day from council archives for sixty years . It is a letter from the Ministry of Town and Country Planning in St James's Square , London and dated 26<sup>th</sup> August 1949 which determines that the land known as Port Meadow (approx area 350 acres ) has been held by the Council before and since the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1948 . Section 82 applies . The letter is signed on behalf of the Minister .It is quite damning and conclusive evidence of ownership . A map is attached which correctly outlines the said land. The Freemen have had the major difficulty of being an unincorporated body and , as such , incapable of owning a legal estate of land .

There is a saying which is now exposed , which said the City Council held the

Port Meadow in trust for the Freemen . Well , they certainly hold Port meadow . This will come as a surprise to many . The Freemen retain their grazing rights and it would be political suicide for Council to disturb the meadow in any way . Why this letter has been hidden away is a mystery ,especially when the City Council themselves had an investigation into the ownership of Port Meadow led by the eminent Harry Plowman in 1958 .

### **Leicester Gild.**

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January.** The Leicester Gild began the 2012 programme of events with a visit to the Freemason's Masonic Lodge at Devonshire Place.

Don Peacock the guide from the Mason's, was excellent and gave a very interesting and informative talk on the history of the Mason's.

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January.** A commemorative service for Charles, King and Martyr, was held at St. Mary de Castro church in Leicester. Born in 1600 the second son of James the First and on the death of his brother Henry in 1612 he became heir apparent and succeeded to the throne in 1625 where he came up against the increasing power of an antagonistic Parliament. Combined with the religious Puritanism which was prevalent, this made Charles staunch in his resistance of the power of either force in the land. He frequently dismissed sittings of Parliament and tried to enforce high-church Anglican practice on both kingdoms of England and Scotland. Opposition resulted in civil war. After Charles' imprisonment and trial, he was put to death in 1649. Although some see him as a victim of his own pride, his faith and willingness to suffer and die for what he believed in are not in doubt. Fourteen robed Freemen and their wives attended the service.

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February.** A long alley skittles night was held at the Coach and Horses, Field Head, Markfield. Our friends from the Coventry Guild travelled to Markfield to join us for the evening and with thirty eight persons playing we were able to have four teams of nine players to complete against each other over four games. A choice of suppers was served which included, steak pie, sausages, faggots and peas or lasagne all served with chips. A most enjoyable evening was had by all who attended.

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February.** Tony Chettle and Michael Ayres represented the Leicester Gild at Moyra Johnson's Funeral at All Saints Church Pavement, York, the Gild church of the York Freemen. Moyra, a respected former Master of the York Gild, taking up her Freedom in 1981 and was a well known Glider pilot and learnt to fly when she was twenty years old. The Leicester Gild sends our deepest sympathy to her friends and the Freemen of York. (Moyra unfortunately had no immediate family.)

**We would like to take this opportunity to remind you to make a note in your diary that the Leicester Banquet will be held over the weekend of Friday 8<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2012.**

A fish and chip/or chicken supper will be held on Friday Night 8<sup>th</sup> June at Freemen's Holt. The Banquet on Saturday Evening 9<sup>th</sup> June will once again be held at Devonshire Place, London Road.

The Freemen's Church Service on Sunday morning 9<sup>th</sup> June is at the Leicester Cathedral. Due to the serious illness of our Chamberlain Roger Allen please note change of address for booking forms for the Banquet.

**For further information on the weekend and booking forms please contact John Tolton by e-mail [johnhtolton@hotmail.com](mailto:johnhtolton@hotmail.com)**

# *Minutes of the Court Meeting.*

held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2012

in the Community Room, Freemen's Holt, Leicester.

- 1) List of attendees: Derek Austin – Coventry, Michael Ayres — Leicester, Nigel Ayres — Leicester Tony Chettle — Leicester, Howard Crapper — Oxford, Shirley Crapper – Oxford, Eric Critchlow — Leicester, Capt Jim Evans — Berwick-upon-Tweed, Pat Evans — Berwick-upon-Tweed, Alan Fallows — Shrewsbury, Roy Folland — Pembroke, Eileen Forth — York, Hazel Hague — York, Colin Hardcastle — York, David Johnson — Leicester, Ron Leek — Alcester & London, James Manship — Leicester, Brian Mudford — Leicester Eileen Reynolds — Associate Member, Gordon Vandell — London, Stephen White — Great Grimsby
  - a) With the FEW Mace placed ready in front of the assembly, the meeting was called to order by the President, Alan Fallows.
  - b) The President in opening the Court, introduced Brian Mudford, Master of the Gild of Freemen of the City of Leicester, who gave a warm welcome to everyone. Thanking the Master, the President also extended FEW's thanks to Michael Ayres and his team for setting out the room, and to the Leicester ladies for looking after the catering.
- 2) Apologies for absence were received from John Edwards, Warden for the North Midlands; Tom Gibson, Hon Editor, Capt Stephen Healy, Warden for the North; Anne Henderson, Bailiff of Warwick; Ray Mason, Newcastle-under-Lyme; Leslie Morgan, Warden for the North West; Norman Offield, Warden for the East; Alan Shelley, Officer Without Portfolio; and Brian Simpson, Newcastle-under-Lyme.
- 3) The minutes of the previous Court Meeting held on Saturday 1 Ith June 2011 in Church Eaton, Stafford, were approved as a correct record, and were signed by the President.
- 4) Matters Arising:
  - Item 18 (i) In order to further the investigation into the suggestion of an FEW sponsored university prize for work promoting FEW and the Freedom, the name of a suitable contact is required. The Professor of History at NewcastleUniversity was suggested, but a name is needed before Capt Jim Evans – Berwick-upon-Tweed - can pursue the matter. Anyone able to suggest a contact name at Newcastle or at any other university, should contact Capt Evans.
  - Item 18 (ii) The Hon Secretary was reminded to include the subject of FEW officers' expenses on the agenda for this year's AGM.
  - Item 18 (iii) Having discussed the situation of increasingly poor attendances at FEW Courts, the decision has been taken by the Executive to discontinue holding

the June Court each year This was approved by the meeting.

- 5) The President, Alan Fallows, presented his report. A copy is appended. Alan further noted that most guilds were now admitting Lady Freemen.
- 6) Gordon Vardell, Deputy President, presented his report. A copy is appended. Discussion followed about Gordon's concerns over interaction between guilds and falling attendances at guild functions. It was noted that in fact several guilds do currently have successful joint activities, such as Leicester and Coventry. Roy Folland suggested that Freemens' families should be encouraged to become much more involved in guild social events. More guild events involving young people were suggested. Howard Crapper noted that Oxford had already followed this course of action by organising a successful young persons painting exhibition. Noting that many of the problems need firstly to be resolved at guild level, the President requested that ideas for solutions should be forwarded to Gordon, and that FEW would then analyse and disseminate these as useful aids to all guilds via an article to be published in the Journal. Turning to Gordon's other concern regarding the perception of FEW by the general public, it was agreed that serious consideration must be given to meaningful promotion and publicising of FEW.
- 7) Stephen White, in presenting his Vice President's Report, noted that his activities had been centred on the website and the wardens. Derek Austin expressed concern about the timing of Wardens' Meetings, stating that this was a scheduling problem. He suggested that meeting timings on FEW Court days, could successfully be changed to: Executive — 10am to 12 noon; Wardens — 12 noon to 1pm; Lunch Break — 1pm to 2pm; Court — 2pm to 4pm. It was pointed out that this would probably not be suitable for the Executive. He further suggested that a Wardens' Meeting should be incorporated into the AGM Weekend programme, some time before the AGM itself This latter point will be considered by Stephen, who then pointed out that he had already scheduled a Wardens' Meeting from 12 noon to 1pm on 23d June in Shrewsbury. Capt Jim Evans queried the seeming lax updating of the events programme on the website. Stephen replied that as of yesterday evening the website was fully up to date. Derek Austin suggested that perhaps wardens should be responsible for keeping their own area dates up to date. Stephen will liaise with all the wardens to expedite the best way forward.
- 8) Wardens' Reports were then presented as follows:-  
**Warden for the North**, Capt Stephen Healy. In his absence, Stephen's report was read out by the Vice President. A copy is appended  
**Warden for the North East**. Colin Hardcastle presented his report. Copy appended.  
**Warden for the East**, Norman Offield. In his absence, Norman's report was read out by the Vice President. A copy is appended.  
**Warden for Wales**. Roy Folland presented his report. Copy appended. On behalf of FEW, the President thanked Roy and his Pembroke officers for the excellent



AGM Weekend last year, and also for the copies of the DVD produced by Robin for all the delegates. Colin Hardcastle suggested. that FEW might offer financial assistance to Pembroke in the distribution of the AGM DVDs. The President will discuss this issue with Roy outside the meeting.

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

**Warden for the West**. Howard Crapper presented his report. Copy appended

**Warden for the North Midlands**, John Edwards. In his absence, John's report was read out by the Vice President. A copy is appended.

**Warden for the South Midlands**. Derek Austin presented his report. Copy appended.

The Vice President noting that the warden posts for the South East and the South West are still vacant, stated that potential incumbents were under consideration.

- 9) Stephen White presented his Hon Treasurer's Report. He noted that approval had been received from the Charity Commissioners for the end of the FEW financial year to be changed from June to March. The President pointed out that the Executive was looking at a proposal to reduce the number of Journals from four to three per year, thereby making cost savings. If implemented, Journals will be issued in April, July, and October each year.
- 10) Eileen Forth presented her Hon Membership Secretary's Report. Copy appended.
- 11) Alan Fallows presented his Hon Archivist's Report. Copy appended. Alan stated that due to mounting quantities of archives, he would shortly be needing an extra (3rd) filing cabinet. The meeting gave its approval for this. Brian Mudford pointed out that this needs to be fireproof in order to safeguard the records for posterity. Alan stated that one of the two current cabinets may not be fireproof, and the meeting also gave approval for this to be changed. Alan said that of course he would only obtain second hand cabinets, in order to keep costs to a minimum.
- 12) In his absence, Tom Gibson's Hon Editor's Report was read out by Ron. A copy is appended.
- 13) In his absence, Alan Shelley's Officer Without Portfolio's Report was read out by Ron. A copy is appended. The President emphasised the point that the only realistic way to now protect Freemens' rights, is via the Commons Registration Act.
- 14) Any Other Business:-
  - i) The President noted that the recent FEW constitutional review has been approved and accepted by the Charity Commissioners.
  - ii) Following a concern from Past President Alan Robson, the President pointed out that the updating of Harry Ward's book "Freemen in England" had not been dropped completely, but is held in abeyance until all those guilds currently

revising their constitutions following the recent Act, have completed their processes.

iii) Michael Ayres reported that he was currently experiencing difficulty in contacting the Chester Guild due to personnel changes. The President will send an urgent memo to Chester, requesting guarantee of responses to other guilds.

iv) Derek Austin congratulated Hazel Hague and Gordon Vardell for the new method (display boards) of presenting FEW sale items, which prominently put everything on view, thereby generating considerably more sales.

v) Hazel Hague — Master Elect of the York Guild — announced that early bookings for accommodation at this year's AGM were advisable, as the York celebrations commemorating 800 years since the granting of its charter, mean that many more people will be visiting the city at that time.

- 15) As there will be no Court Meeting in June, the next FEW occasion will be the AGM in York — Friday 14<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2012.
- 16) There being no other business, the meeting was closed by the President.

### *Presidents Report.*

The winter months are, by necessity, a quieter time so functions are fewer.

I was, however, pleased to accept an invitation from Durham Freemen to attend their Candlemas Guild Day on 6<sup>th</sup> February where the first ever inauguration of women to the Freedom of the City of Durham took place. Seventeen women and two men were admitted. Of the ladies sixteen were admitted by descent and one by apprenticeship. On 4<sup>th</sup> April I will attend an inauguration ceremony in Oxford and also look forward to supporting functions throughout the summer.

### *Deputy Presidents Report.*

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

The only thing that I would say is that we do need to address the situation of publicity and making ourselves more widely known to the general population. The number of times that Eileen and I have had to correct people when they refer to the Freemen as a posh club or a secret society or never even heard of us is unbelievable.

The other main feeling among all freemen is that everything is becoming too expensive for them. I can certainly see the drop in numbers at the functions that we attend. Is it possible that we could have more Guild interactions? Visits between Guilds etc, social events between Guilds where children could attend or even cadet Freemen with the children. We are non of us getting any younger and it is down to us to stimulate new ideas. Everything is open to suggestion.

### *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 revised Profile of our new Patron – The Right Honourable, the Earl Bathurst – all kindly provided by Alan Shelley.

I have also started to add an Archive Corner comprising back issues of the Journal and Newsletter. The covers of all available copies have been scanned and added with a view to linking through to pdf copies of the contents. The most recent half-dozen or so editions are there to view, since these were held in electronic format by Tom Gibson. Previous copies will have to be scanned, a page at a time, cropped and assembled in order to present a consistent format for viewing. Tom and I will be working together on this project.

I would be grateful to receive more timely 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.

Our most recent topic of conversation was around the holding of *meaningful* Wardens meetings since I had experienced difficulties on the last three occasions to fit them in between the Executive Officer's Meeting, lunch, and the subsequent Court Meeting. The new Constitution places a requirement to hold a minimum of two meetings per year so we are going to investigate holding one at the AGM weekend, when all Warden's would normally be present, and also the possibility of telephone conferencing using *Skype*, or something similar. The June date, which has in recent years been used for an additional Court Meeting offers another opportunity to co-exist with the planned officers meeting, but we are very mindful of some of our colleagues having to travel excessive distances with ever-increasing fuel costs to bear.

The position of Warden for the South East and London remains vacant since the volunteer that we had was unable to attend the AGM. His offer has, therefore, been held in abeyance until such a time that we can meet up to explain and discuss the Warden's Role and Duties with him.

## *Wardens Reports.*

### **Warden for the North: Captain Stephen Healy**

Alnwick: Little to report, except that Colin Hardcastle, Past President of the Association, was apparently recently created an Honorary Freeman of Alnwick, reflecting a long friendship with the Freeman of that Town. The Annual General Meeting of the Freemen of Alnwick is coming up shortly.

Berwick-upon-Tweed: Berwick upon Tweed report that they are still dealing with the "fallout" from the Local Democracy, Economic development and Construction Bill. Definitions within several charities operated by the Freemen have had to be reviewed and amended.

The usual summer outing is being planned, with a show and a trip to see the Pandas at

Edinburgh Zoo on the itinerary.

Durham: The first group of Lady Freemen were admitted at the Candlemas Guild in February 2012, in the presence of the President of the Association. The event was well publicised, with both local and national press interest.

The Chairman of the Durham Freemen, Mr John Heslop, reports the considerable benefits of recently securing the services of a professional press officer, both for events like that described above and for handling responses to less positive matters into which the Freemen's name is drawn.

Likewise, the services of a professional lawyer, who has been able to employ his legal expertise in the defence of the Freemen locally has proved a definite advantage. The transition to a new council which occurred with the reorganisation of local government has proved challenging to the Freemen, bringing as it does a new set of people to deal with, many who are unaware of their role and traditions.

Newcastle upon Tyne: Swearing-in ceremonies continue in the Guildhall but appear to have tailed off a little compared to last year.

The Easter Guild is coming up shortly, followed shortly thereafter by the Annual Church Parade at the Cathedral Church of St. Nicholas.

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

My report on this occasion will be short and limited to the City of York as no other Gild in my area has notified me of any 'news'!

Further, most of my news from the City of York was encompassed in their Masters' report published in Journal 169, but there is still a little to impart!

It is with sadness that I report the death of Mrs Moyra Johnson, a Freeman of York, in her 97th year. Her funeral took place at the Gild Church of All Saints, Pavement, which was full and, indeed, had mourners standing several deep at the back of the Church. Members of the Gild Court formed a guard-of-honour for the coffin which was draped in a Union Flag and escorted by an RAF banner.

The City of York is to be graced by a visit from Her Majesty on April 5<sup>th</sup> when she will be distributing Maundy Money in the Cathedral Church of St. Peter [the Minster].

The Olympic torch is to pass through the City, as in many other places, and a member of the York Gild Court, Brian Hughes, has been selected to carry the Torch for part of its passage through the City. He is hoping the authorities will allow him to wear his Gild robes and insignia on his 'run'.

This year, 2012, is the 800th anniversary of the granting of the first Charter to the City granting York the right to be a self-governing City and to elect a Mayor. Many celebrations are planned and the Gild will be at the forefront of many.

The 2012 FEW AGM planning sub-committee tell me that a booking form will be published in the next Journal and the total cost is likely to be around £120 per person. This excludes accommodation and all bookings will be acknowledged with a hotel guide to 'pick-your-own', ranging from a Presidential park bench to 5 star hotels suitable for secretarial personnel.

Following the York Strays AGM, the new secretary is Mrs June Smith-Parker and [our own] editor Tom Gibson was re-elected as Chairman. Details for the next Gazette will be notified to due course. Until then, any correspondence should be sent to Tom

Gibson at the address in the present Gazette.

On 5th June, a Diamond Jubilee Strawberry Tea is to be held in the Gild hail at Bedern to commemorate the anniversary of the Accession in 1952 and the Coronation of 1953.

And, finally, the City of York Council has at last bowed to the pressure of various members of the Gild and accepted that the 2009 Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act DOES apply to the City of York and is in the process of amending the application forms for admission to the Freedom. The next Freedom Court is likely to be in January 2013 and the Gild membership secretary is expecting to be very busy signing-up new members.

**Warden of 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.

Colchester: 29th September 2011. I attended the first 'Installation of Lady Burgesses'. There were 28 new members including some men who took the oath. The Conservators had decided to call their Freemen and Ladies, reverting to the medieval title Freeburgesses. The Admittance ceremony, the likes that had not been seen for some years, went well. In attendance was the Mayor Ms. Helen Chua, the Town Sergeant with Mace, Head Conservator Mr. Robert Bacon, three other Conservators and Myself, as a guest. The Ceremony was conducted by Mr. Andrew Weavers, the Monitoring Officer. During the ceremony, the 28 new Freeburgesses were sworn in and presented with their Certificates by the Mayor. She then gave a welcome speech which ended the ceremony. The ceremony went without a hitch, and was enjoyed by all who attended. The rest of the New Freeburgesses will be presented with their certificates at a later date, when another Ceremony is organised.

March 8<sup>th</sup> 2012. Ceremony to admit New Freeburgesses to Colchester. Due to the number that were to be admitted as Freeburgesses in the ceremony in September 2011, it was decided to split the number and hold two sessions, because the available room was too small to hold the number comfortably. The Admittance ceremony, again went well. In attendance was the Mayor Ms. Helen Chua, the Town Sergeant with Mace, Head Conservator Mr. Robert Bacon, three other Conservators and Myself, as a guest and speaker. The Ceremony was conducted by Mr. Andrew Weavers, the Monitoring Officer. During the ceremony, there were 16 new Freeburgesses sworn in and presented with their Certificates by the Mayor. She then gave a welcome speech which ended the ceremony. The ceremony went without a hitch, and was enjoyed by all who attended.

A copy of the Booklet – The Freeburgess of Colchester, a copy of which was given to each Freeburgess, I have a copy which is for the FEW.

I have not heard from any of the Guilds yet, but will be in touch with some of them later.

**Warden for Wales: Roy Folland.**

**The Gild of Freemen of Pembroke, Llantrisant and Haverfordwest.**

As Warden for Wales I was invited to, and attended the Gild of Freemen of Haverfordwest AGM weekend which involved the meeting at the County Hall, the Annual Banquet at the

Wolfscastle Hotel, and the Benefactors Service at St. Martin's Church, which was followed by a wine reception in the church hall. Mr. Malcolm Green, having served for 14 years as Master of the Gild has retired that position. The new Master is Mr. Charles Davies, who stated his election to the role of Master of the Gild was the greatest honour of his lifetime. The Annual General meeting was held on 27th October 2011 in the Chamber of the Pembroke Town Council, the proceedings were opened with a welcome from the Master, who also opened the meeting with prayers.

Treasurer's Report:- The treasurer gave an update on the Gild's funds and that of the FEW account.

Election of Officers:- During the election of Officers the Master vacated the Chair which was taken by Mr. Phil Lloyd, it was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that all Offices should be re-elected en bloc. The Master replied on behalf of the Officers, thanking those present for their continued support.

Act of Remembrance:- The Gild was well represented at the Remembrance Service held at the Pembroke Cenotaph, the Master laid a wreath on behalf of the Gild.

Three Ladies, Mother, Daughter and Granddaughter have applied to be enrolled as Freemen of Pembroke and they are awaiting for the arrangements to be made for that to take place.

Following the hosting of the FEW AGM Weekend things have been quite quiet. Robin has been putting together a DVD covering the photographs which were taken over that weekend, and it is hoped that seeing them by our members will bring back very happy memories of that occasion.

A Constitution has been prepared for the Gild of Freemen of Pembroke which will be presented to the Court Meeting on the 15th March 2012 for consultation. If accepted it will be brought before the AGM on the 25th October 2012 to be ratified.

**The setting up of a Gild of Freemen of the City of Swansea.** I have been in contact by email with Mr. David Rosser-Owen, asking whether his endeavours to set up a Gild has been successful, and whether I or our President could be of any help with this in mind. I also asked him for his address so that I could forward the Pembroke Gild's Constitution which he requested I send to him sometime ago, to date I have not received a reply to that email.

**The Gild of Freemen of Llantrisant.** The Applications to be enrolled as Freemen of Llantrisant must be received by the 15th of April 2012, of which there are 9 so far, one being from Australia, it is expected that a further 20 will be received and will be considered on the 11th May 2012 at the meeting of the Court Leet, following which the Annual Dinner will take place, the venue being the Three Saints Hotel, Llantrisant when it is expected that 120 including the applicants and their sponsors who will be present.

**The Gild of Freemen of Haverfordwest.** Haverfordwest Gild of Freemen is currently facing a dilemma over its guardianship of an historic building on the outskirts of the town. Haroldston House is the ruin of a Tudor Mansion which was the home of the town's principal benefactor, Sir John Perrot, who was born there in 1527. The Gild became the

custodians of the ruin with its extensive grounds, which include the vestiges of a terraced garden and a cockpit, through the donation of former Master the late Colonel Jack Higgon. The Gild has commissioned a photometric survey of the site and a comprehensive management plan for the conservation of the ruins by expert consultants with a view to making the buildings safe and turning the site into a public amenity park. But the potential costs are daunting. And now the Gild is looking at alternatives to the inevitable long-term commitment to costly refurbishment and on-going maintenance. It is considering the possibility of offering the historic ruins to CADW, the Welsh ancient monuments agency, or even to a private developer who could achieve the Gild's dream of creating an amenity area with interpretation panels similar to the nearby site of the town's ancient Augustinian Priory, which CADW subjected to a major rescue scheme following 12 years of archaeological investigation. Historians have dismissed the myth that Sir John Perrot, one time Lord Deputy of Ireland, was the illegitimate son of Henry V111, although he closely resembled the Tudor monarch in both appearance and temperament. He died in the Tower of London where he was imprisoned for High Treason by Queen Elizabeth in 1591 and was shortly due for release.

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

The last time I presented my report personally was at Berwick-upon-Tweed, successive Courts held at Great Grimsby, the last conference at Pembroke, and the current one at Leicester have all conspired against me, and once again I must thank our worthy Secretary for officiating on my behalf.

In my last report I intimated that I would be attending various functions, all of which I had been notified, namely:-

24th September — Michaelmas Assize at Altrineham

3'd November — Business Meeting at Hale

24'h November — Lancashire Evening at Hale

26th January — Annual Court at Hale

I duly attended all of these functions; at the Annual Court at Hale two new Freemen were admitted, I duly wrote letters of congratulation, sending particulars of FEW, but have not heard further.

Ascension Day May 17th is noted in my diary for the annual meeting of the Carlisle Hereditary Freemen's Guild.

A totally unrelated issue, is that as a church chorister since November 1935, I was presented with the "Jubilee Medallion" of the Royal School of Church Music by the Bishop of Blackburn, the Rt Rev Nicholas Reade, at a ceremony held in Blackburn Cathedral on Saturday 4th February, and will bring it along to our next conference; incidentally at Evensong at Berwick-upon-Tweed Parish Church, I was invited to robe and join their choir for a service of Book of Common Prayer Evensong, which was certainly a never to be forgotten visit to Berwick.

Much as I have enjoyed my time as Warden for the North West since my appointment in 1999, I feel that the time has now come to retire, as I am now — in May at any rate — in my 84th year, but needless to say, I would give my successor every assistance. At least I will retire the week after I, along with Paul, will have represented our Association for the very first time, at the 2012 Preston Guild; the next one will be in 2032, I wonder if we will be invited for the second time?

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

The Freemen of Oxford are grateful to Leslie Morgan , Warden for the North West, for the donation of a book to the Oxford Archives entitled "Transactions of the Halifax Antiquarian Society" which describes the important link between skilled Halifax builders and masons who came to Oxford to supplement the huge demand for skilled labour to build the magnificent University colleges during the 16th and 17th century. The question of ownership of the ancient Port Meadow in Oxford has been the subject of debate for all my lifetime but a letter from the then Ministry of Town & Country Planning , disclosed by the City Council , in support of their claim of registration last year, rather demonstrates that the City Council have indeed been the owners since at least 1948. The Freemen have grazing and fishing rights on the meadow, which we continue to enjoy. The Chiltem Rail Inquiry has reported and issues raised\_ by fellow freeman , Alison Cobb, has hastened the Inquiry to be reopened . Chiltem Rail hope to spend £130 million to improve rail link between London and Oxford . Their spokesman said that they welcomed the opportunity to demonstrate the lengths they have gone to deal with the issues raised and protect the local environment where the rail line passes the historic Port Meadow.

The Freemen of the City of Oxford held their annual dinner at Balliol College in December . The Lord Mayor and Sheriff were the invited guests . It was a stupendous evening with a superb dinner in the most wonderful fellows dining room . If only the room were larger and we could invite freemen from local guilds but in the mean time, please accept our apologies .

The Freemen of Oxford have close links with the Wolvercote Commoners and join with them in a Port Meadow Consultative Committee with the City Council. These tripartite meetings are proving extremely beneficial to the management of the Port Meadow in these hard times.

I conclude with great news . The former Chairman of the Freemen of Oxford and my predecessor, is to celebrate his 100th Birthday on Friday 30th March. Fred Ingram MBE , is proud to say that he was born , educated and spent his entire working career in Oxford. He has always said his admission to become a Freemen is more important to him than his MBE. Well done Fred.

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

On these occasions I ask myself what I should be reporting, as there has been precious little need for my services this quarter. On the other hand I have now had some communication with all the guilds in my area, but mainly for information rather than anything specific for me to do as warden.

I have had various invitations from Shrewsbury, which regrettably I have been unable to attend, but it is good to see that they have a thriving social programme and seem to be quite efficient in keeping me in the loop. Newcastle under Lyme are very dependent on the faithful few and do not seem to be able to encourage more active input from the many burgesses who come out of the woodwork for the annual pay-out!

Derby Guild has been responsible for a number of individual members joining FEW and I hope that the clarification in the rules for use of FEW regalia has improved their view of the organisation. Bridgnorth Freemen expressed an interest in some joint



activities when I attended their dinner last autumn, but it has yet to materialise. I hope we can arrange a suitable occasion for warden area guilds to meet as I feel we could learn a lot from one-another. For example Stafford would like to know why the Mayor of Bridgnorth expects the freemen to act as her guard, while the Mayor of Stafford does what the council officers tell him, (and they have only just got round to inviting the Freemen's Guild to all Civic occasions).

On the other hand, Stafford Guild members are at last accepting the idea that Robes, Regalia and numbers attending borough events will cause us to be noticed. Indeed, another eleven members have decided to pay the £55 for robes, which will surely have a big impact. The Guild was invited to attend, albeit as spectators, two military parades; one for the Mercian Regiment returning from Afghanistan and the other for members of HMS Collingwood, exercising their rights under their award of Honorary Freedom of the town for the first time in some 30 years. With our robes, blazers and flag on show most of the town council acknowledged us. Even members of the public pointed us out to their friends and tried to read our flag and badges. Stafford freemen will never attain the status of say Berwick or York in their communities, but we are getting there.

Progress has been slow in implementing the changes under the 2010 act, however Stafford Guild has submitted their initial proposals to the borough council legal department, but nothing has happened yet. There have been a number of enquiries about ladies eligibility under the heredity rules, but all I can say is "wait and see". Investigations are in hand to try to regain the responsibility for fishing rights through the town, but there are so many bodies involved it is a complex procedure. As soon as one mentions an 800 year old Royal Charter, officials pass the buck with amazing rapidity.

At present, there are discussions in hand on how we should mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. I wonder if FEW should be having some event, or advising Guilds on the matter. It would do no harm to our image if the national body, or its constituent guilds, could get some recognition in supporting the monarch. I cannot see us making a big splash at the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games, as sadly they do not want to feature any of the historic or traditional activities that England has to offer.

### **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, and the **Alcester Court Leets** in the next Journal, I shall just cover a few of their forthcoming highlights first.

Tickets for the **Coventry Freemen's Guild** banquet on 5<sup>th</sup> May were sold out by last Monday. This is unprecedented. A reserve list for possible cancellations is now open. The Friday night meal at the Days Hotel in Holyhead Road still has some vacancies. Friday tickets, and details of discounted hotel rates for the weekend, are available from George Wilkinson on 024-7646-3203. 'Freemen's Sunday' on 6<sup>th</sup> May will have a robed procession to the Guild Church of Holy Trinity to install the Guild Chaplain, with a sherry reception afterwards in the Council House.

**Leicester Freemen's Gild** banquet weekend will start on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June with a fish & chips supper in this room. The Saturday banquet, as last year, will be at the Devonshire Place banqueting venue on the London Road, and the 9<sup>th</sup> June church service at Leicester Cathedral. Further details from Leicester Gild members here today, or by e-mail from [johntholton@hotmail.com](mailto:johntholton@hotmail.com)

**Warwick Court Leets** next public meeting is scheduled for the 29<sup>th</sup> March in the Jury Street Courthouse.

**Alcester Court Leets** annual Assize, where bread, fish, meat and leather goods are sampled in a traditional ceremony, is scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> May in the High Street. This is also the venue for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations on 4<sup>th</sup> June.

Turning now to the remaining South Midlands Freeman's Guild and Court Leet:

**Northampton Freeman's Guild** welcomed their first lady Freeman at a historic ceremony in their Gothic style Guildhall on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2011. November saw Northampton Freeman joining the civic procession for Remembrance Sunday, and Guild President Phil Ager laid a Freeman's wreath at the Northampton Memorial. The second of the 'Northampton Freeman's Chronicle' newsletters was published last month, and the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Freemans Charity Dinner will be on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May at St George's Hall.

**Henley-in-Arden Court Leet** annual elections were held in the Guildhall on 9<sup>th</sup> November, and the new High Bailiff John Tristram and fellow Guildhall Trustees have now lost their main income stream to maintain the medieval Guildhall, with this month's closure of the Warwickshire County library on the ground floor. Hopefully a new tenant will be found soon.

## *Hon. Membership Secretary Report.*

### Guilds:

Currently we have 40 Guilds on the books with five Guilds in arrears.

### Individual Membership:

The current membership stands at 398. This has dropped since the last report.

### Since September 2011:

We have had 6 individual new members and 1 Associate member.

5 members that we know of have died.

Two members have resigned.

2 have notified change of address.

6 are deletions under rule nine of the constitution.

### Current payments:

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

Currently 23 members are in arrears.

Again I say that some of these arrears did pay by standing order, these have just stopped with no notification and no response to letters, others are not answering letters at all and again this will cause more to be deleted under rule 9 of the constitution.

### The Breakdown:

As ever this will be reported at the September AGM.

## *Archivists Report.*

There have been no calls upon the archives since our last meeting.

I have met this week with Past President, Bill Healey who has furnished several books relating to London Guilds and items of correspondence. I understand that there may be

several more parcels to follow.

Certain files are now becoming overloaded so I will be looking for authorisation to purchase a third filing cabinet to house the archives which I then hope to re-organize in the summer.

### *Hon. Editors Report.*

My apologies for being unable to attend the meeting.

I have received a very good response to the new style cover of the journal introduced for issue 169. The picture will of course change each issue usually reflecting the borough hosting the following Executive meeting, as long as I can source usable pictures. I shall also endeavour to include the Host Gilds badge on the cover where ever possible. My thanks to all who contributed to this issue. My usual reminder to those attending the meeting that copy for issue 170 must reach me by the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March please.

### *Officer Without Portfolio.*

I have been busily employed, behind the scenes, engaging with problems concerning registration and its affect on freemen's property. 'View Points' have been posted on the Website and in the Journal.

With regard to the protection of freemen's property rights over municipal lands, I would respectively remind freemen that in most cases, statutory law has long superseded customary practice.

Back in 1835, following the national reforms, the Municipal Corporations Act instigated the transfer of property, including lands, into the proprietorship of the new councils. Freemen's rights to grazing, fishing, shooting or gathering of fuel, were considered personal property and safeguarded under the Act.

In some towns, arrangements between the proprietor (usually the local authority) and the freemen were governed by a 'town act' passed by Parliament. In most other cases the management has relied upon good discourse between freemen and the proprietor. Following the First and Second World Wars, other responsibilities of repatriation took priority over the upkeep and grazing of such lands. Similarly the agricultural wastelands and commons nationwide were less managed.

In 1958 a Royal Commission was set up to record over 1.5 million acres of agricultural lands that had become vulnerable to development. NB. Such lands are under similar threat today.

It would be true to say, and human nature being as it can be, that freemen (and commoners) over time could have sold unprotected land and distributed the proceeds among themselves "for a quick buck" (like at Huntingdon). The Commissioners introduced the 1965 'Commons Registration Act' in an attempt to protect all such lands\_

In many respects we have benefited from this preservation.

We may again be reminded:

1. that statutory law succeeded customary law and always has precedent;
2. that the 1965 Act required the recording of all such land and rights but possibly does not carry the full weight of registration as when under HM Land Registry Office.

What future for Freemen's property rights? — Progress through harmony.

Freemen with grazing rights etc have, in most cases, been unable to register under IRA 2002 and must rely upon their existing registration as recorded under the 1965 Act. In the current climate it is essential that a good harmonious relationship should exist between freemen and their proprietor, be they a local authority or charitable trust with responsibilities over heritage lands. It is also necessary that freemen be outgoing and seen to provide benefit where possible to their local community. In such accommodating ways we will more surely see the 'Freedom Flourish'.

## *Hon Secretary's Notices.*

### Nominations for Executive Officers 2012 — 2013.

The time has now arrived (ref: AGM 2048 Directive) for nominations to be submitted for officers to serve on the next FEW Executive 2012-2013. All offices are open for nomination this time round, and with the exception of the President who will serve for two years, are each for one year.

Officers to be elected at the 2012 AGM (Saturday 15th September), are:-

President.

Deputy President.

Vice President.

Hon. Secretary.

Hon. Treasurer.

Hon. Membership Secretary.

Hon. Archivist.

Hon. Editor.

Officer Without Portfolio.

Nominations must be submitted to myself (Hon Secretary) **by Saturday 23rd June latest**, in order that they can be published in the July Journal. This will then allow all Member Gilds sufficient time for their frill consideration.

Each nomination must be presented on the correct nomination form as included in this Journal. **This may be photocopied or reproduced as appropriate**, and must be accompanied by the three statements concerning the nominee as detailed on the nomination form.

**Freemen of England and Wales**

**Election of Executive Officers to serve for the year 2012 – 2013**

**NOMINATION FORM**

Any nomination, properly proposed on this form, must be received by the Hon Secretary on or before the closing date of Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2012, in order that it can be published in the July Journal, thereby allowing time for its consideration by Member Gilds before the AGM. This must be accompanied by the following:-

- 1) A statement from the candidate in not more than 150 words, detailing experience within the Freedom validating the candidate's suitability to fulfil the nominated office.
- 2) A short prospectus from the candidate in not more than 50 words, detailing his or her aims in furthering the constitutional objectives of FEW.
- 3) A short statement by the principal proposer in not more than 100 words, supporting the suitability of the candidate to serve FEW in the nominated office.

We the undersigned propose .....

A Freeman of .....

For election to the position of .....

of the Association of Freemen of England and Wales for the period 2012 – 2013

Proposer ..... (sign)

Secunder ..... (sign)

I, ....., declare that if elected, I am willing to serve as

.....

of the Association of Freemen of England and Wales for the period 2012 – 2013

Signed .....

FEW Hon Secretary, Ronald E. Leek, Richmond House, Beech Close,  
Oversley Green, Alcester, Warwickshire, B49 6PP.



# *Freemen of England & Wales.*



An Association of Freemen and Guilds in England and Wales.  
Registered Charity No: 293536

## **AGM 2012 at York**

**Hosted by the Gild of Freemen of the City of York.  
Friday 14<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2012  
at the historic Merchant Adventurers Hall.**

Booking form for functions Only.

Please note Accommodation is not included in prices or bookings, delegates should make their own accommodation arrangements for this weekend. A brochure including details of accommodation in the City will be sent with confirmation of your booking.

**In the 800<sup>th</sup> year since the City gained it's charter of self governance, the Gild of Freemen of the City of York look forward to welcoming you to the:**

**46<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting Of the Association of  
the Freemen of England and Wales  
15<sup>th</sup> September 2012  
at 11 am  
in the Merchant Adventurers Hall,  
Fossgate, York. YO1 9XD  
[www.theyorkcompany.co.uk](http://www.theyorkcompany.co.uk)**

# **Programme of Events.**

**(all events meet at Merchant Adventurers Hall).**

## **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September:**

**5pm Registration opens.**

**6pm Executive meeting.**

**7.30pm Welcome supper.**

**9pm Presentation by the Yorkshire Film Archive.**

**11pm Bar closes.**

## **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September:**

**9am Saturday registration opens.**

**10am Open forum**

**10.30am Tea/Coffee Break**

**10.50am Official robed group photograph in garden.**

**11am AGM of the Freeman of England and Wales. (walking tour of City for guests of delegates).**

**12.30pm Lunch**

**2pm Visits to local attractions (details in welcome pack on registration, any admission fees to be paid on the day).**

**6.30pm Pre-Banquet entertainment (Fanfare Brass)**

**7.45pm Banquet.**

**11Pm Bar closes.**

## **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September:**

**9.30am Delegates gather to robe.**

**10 am Process to the Gild Church, All Saints Pavement accompanied by Army Cadets.**

**11.30am Process from Church.**

**12 Noon. Buffet Lunch**

**1pm Farewell speeches and Baton ceremony.**



# Booking Form.

(A Photocopy of this form is acceptable)

Prices are for functions only, accommodation and breakfast not included. Details of accommodation options in the City will be sent with event booking confirmation, alternatively see <http://www.visit york.org/>

or contact Visit York's accommodation line Monday to Saturday 9am to 5pm on 01904 550099.

Option Details	Price per Person	Number Attending	Total Payment Enclosed.
Friday to Sunday including meals (except breakfast)	£120.00		
Saturday and Sunday only including meals (except breakfast)	£94.00		
Saturday only, including meals (except breakfast)	£76.00		
Saturday only, excluding banquet	£38.00		
Saturday, banquet only.	£48.00		
Saturday only (Tea/Coffee in morning , no other meals)	£10.00		

I am a Freeman (or associate) of \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name and Name of Partner/ Guest(s). \_\_\_\_\_

Full address and contact number: \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose my payment of £ \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ p in full payment.  
(Cheques made payable to "The Gild of Freemen of the City of York").  
Please note any special dietary requirements: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send completed form with full payment to:

**FEW York 2012. Mrs. M. Eland. 6 Marlborough Close, York YO30 5WA.  
All bookings to be received no later than the 14<sup>th</sup> August 2012 please.**



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**Cover picture:** Official portrait of Her Majesty The Queen, taken in the Centre Room, Buckingham Palace, December 2011 © Royal Household/John Swannell.

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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. 171) is the 29/6/12.**

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