



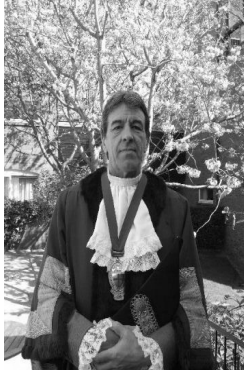
Freemen of England and Wales.

Journal 171. July 2012

With Compliments.
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Presidents Letter.



Dear Members,

Welcome to your July issue of the FEW Journal from sunny Shropshire. It was a good job we weren't banned from using our hose pipes: they came in handy to hold on to and stop us being washed away by the rains. I trust you are enjoying whatever summer you are having and are actively preparing for the forthcoming AGM in York. Final notices should be included in this edition.

After the hectic year up to the Pembroke AGM where we finalised the new constitution and the settlement of queries affecting the admission of ladies to the Freedom; this year has been far more relaxed. In fact it has been so relaxed that our meetings have been somewhat poorly attended. I must admit I launched a small moan into the last journal as a reminder that we must continue to be active and supportive. I do appreciate the effort that many members put in but apathy creeps up on us if we let it.

It is my opinion that in order to prevent this we need something to keep us busy and now that we are relaxed what better time to think about apprenticeship.

It was through apprenticeship over the centuries that the vast majority of new freemen would have been created, and unlike patrimony this is a route to the Freedom which would be politically correct today. In fact it is attracting promotion from government both national and local and we need to be pro-active in keeping good relations with both.

So let me appeal to all Gildsmen to examine your local rules regarding apprenticeship and see if you can modernise those rules to make admission by this route more accessible in light of the severe lack of Freemen in business today.

Remember the enabling clause of the Local Democracy.....Act 2009 can facilitate the re-introduction of admission by apprenticeship if it has lapsed, by use of the ballot procedure.

Any queries, advice needed; or indeed advice you can offer other Gilds please contact me so we can spread the word and hopefully increase both our memberships and profile in the community.

Good luck, best wishes, and I hope to see you in York in September.

Alan Fallows

Constitutional Amendment.

It has been discovered since last years AGM that a small anomaly had been allowed to pass unnoticed within the major constitutional review that was adopted in Pembroke and we feel it is only fair to address it.

In short the wording of the nomination criteria for executive officers prevented the nomination of any freemen from towns or cities where there was no operating Gild within which they could have gained officer experience.

The executive unanimously recognized this inequity of opportunity and have resolved to remedy it with an amendment. To expedite this promptly we are calling a special court meeting to be held immediately before the open forum at this years AGM full details of which are published in this journal under the Hon. Secretary's notices.

I will be writing to all Gild representatives as soon as possible in an effort to encourage all Gilds to exercise their right to vote on the matter. These votes can be made in person at the AGM by the Gilds nominated representative, by post or by e-mail to the Hon. Secretary. The constitution now dictates that to be passed, motions must receive a two-thirds majority made by over 50% of all Gilds so it really does give every Gild the power to make a difference. Please exercise that right given to you and make sure you vote.

Best wishes,
President

"Harry Ward 2"

Members will be aware that it has been a long held ambition to publish an updated version of Harry Ward's seminal tome – Freemen in England. Indeed, Alan Robson, Past President, set about the task of gathering information from as many Guilds as he could in order that this might be achieved. Of course, one of the main drawbacks to such an investment is that as soon as it is published it is likely to be out of date. Certainly, with the effects of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill (HL) still rippling through the realm, it is likely that further changes are still to be made.

Rather than waste the work which Alan carried out, and now that a copy in "Word" has been made available to us through Tony Sharpe, it is intended that this will be added to the FEW Website as time permits. The beauty of this media is that changes may be made relatively easily and the information thus kept up-to-date and relevant. We are most grateful to Alan and Tony for their assistance with this but it will now be **up to the Guilds** to advise of any amendments which need to be made.

"The Guilds, a History" Maurice E Pickering.

Intended to act as a preface, or introduction, to Harry Ward 2, this scholarly work by Maurice represents a culmination of his life's work and interest in the Freedom and was completed not long before he died. The Association now has a copy of the spiral-bound booklet, which runs to some 120 sides of A4, and we hope to link this to the website but this may take a while owing to its' size. Meanwhile, any member may purchase their own copy for £20. These are not held in stock, but will be produced in response to orders received.

News From the Guilds.

Bridgnorth:

On Sunday 22nd April 2012 Bridgnorth Gild of Freemen enrolled their first Ladies into the Gild., 8 Ladies and 11 Gentlemen were enrolled. The Mayor, Town Clerk, President Of F.E.W, Councillors and Freemen all attended.

We enrolled 10 members from the Spickernell family. Jennifer, Jeremy and Kate Rogers, daughter and grandchildren of Mr Harry Foxall our late Knight and past Master of the Gild. Our Knight Mr Jim Head was present to see his daughter Nicola Robbins enrolled. Jennifer Ridley's grandfather Mr Eric Ridley was instrumental in the reforming the Gild in 1982 along with her Father Mr Michael Ridley. Eric was a past Master and Michael was Clerk and a mace bearer. Our present Master Mr Tony Head's daughter Samantha Townsend along with his cousins Elizabeth Stenning, Robert Davies and Thelma Pugh were also enrolled. (See picture on back cover).

Leicester:

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of Roger Allen, our Chamberlain, who passed away after a short illness on Tuesday 27th March 2012. Roger was born and raised in the Charnwood Street area of Leicester and attended Wyggeston Boys Grammar School. On leaving school he was articled to a local firm of chartered accountants for seven years. His hard work and study paid off and he became a chartered accountant, at which point he moved to Peru to work for a mining company. He eventually returned to England in 1984. It did not take long for Roger to make his mark on the Leicester Gild of Freemen; he was elected as Chamberlain in 1985, a post he held until his last breath, which made Roger by far the longest serving officer on the Leicester Court in the same post. Not only did Roger manage the Gild accounts he also organized many events and Gild activities with much enthusiasm. His organizational skills came to the fore in 2007 when he managed the arrangements for the 900th Anniversary weekend and the Freemen of England and Wales AGM, an event which received many plaudits from Freemen up and down the country. Roger will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him. He was a true gentleman who would go out of his way to help people and his presence enriched the lives of many who met him. Our sympathies go out to Pat, his wife, and his children, June and Martin and all his close friends and relations.

Saturday 24th March, We held a cheese and wine evening at Freemen's Holt, preceded by a "Night at the Music Hall". This was ably presented by Felicity Austin who entertained us with a history of the music hall, together with a certain amount of musical participation. After much singing and laughter the food and drinks were much appreciated and a good night was had by all.

Sunday 1st April, An open morning was held at Freemen's Holt when tea, coffee and biscuits were served. Which gave Gild members the opportunity to come along, pay their subscriptions and book for future Gild, Events and outings and have a talk with members of the court.

Wednesday 18th April, Our Common Hall was held in the Council Chamber at the Leicester Town Hall in the presence of the Lord Mayor of Leicester Councillor Robert Wann. Having completed three years in office as Master to the Gild, Brian Mudford retired, and on behalf of the Gild we wish to thank Brian for his hard work and enthusiasm

shown to the Gild during his years in office. John Tolton was elected as the new Master of the Gild, Tony Chettle as Deputy Master, Maurice Hill as Chamberlain and Lynn Roffee as Clerk to the Gild. Congratulations to them all. The meeting closed at 9 00 pm when drinks and sandwiches were served in the Lord Mayors tea room.

Friday 20th April. Eight members of the Leicester Gild travelled to York for the York Gild Banquet weekend. We wish to thank the York Gild for their hospitality over the weekend.

Monday 23rd April. St Mary de Castro again invited the Gild to attend their St. George's Day service, twenty one robed Freemen and their wives were present at the service.

During the service every one of the congregation received a Red Rose. After the service refreshments were served in the church.

Tuesday 24th April. The Gild was again invited to attend the Crown Court service at St Mary de Castro church. When four robed Freemen escorted the High Court Judge into church, then after the service to Leicester Castle for the reading of Letters Patent.

Friday 4th May. Eight members of the Leicester Gild visited the Coventry Guild for their Banquet weekend. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Coventry Guild for a well organized weekend and for the hospitality shown to visiting Guilds.

Sunday 20th May. Our first coach outing of the year arranged by Maurice Hill was a visit to Swindon to the Great Western Railway museum, combined with a visit to the Swindon Designer Outlet, (which pleased the ladies on the coach). Thank you, Maurice for a wonderful days outing.

Friday 8th to Sunday 10th June. The Leicester Gild held our annual Banquet weekend, starting on Friday night with a fish and chip supper held in the community centre at Freemen's Holt. The Banquet on Saturday night was once again at Devonshire Place, after the guests were welcomed by the Master and his Lady, pre-dinner reception drinks were served before the four course Banquet. The Sunday morning church service and parade was at Leicester Cathedral. (See Picture on Back Cover)

Please make a note in your diary for 2013 that the Leicester Banquet will be held over the weekend of Friday 7th June Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th June.

Saturday 23rd June. Four Freemen were invited to attend the Armed Forces Day, service at Leicester Cathedral, following the service the Parade of Standards, Service Personnel and Veterans formed up in High Street behind the pipes and drums of the Seaforth Highlanders. Marching to the saluting dais in Gallowtree Gate where the salute was taken by the Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire supported by the Lord Mayor. After the parade had fallen out we returned to the Cathedral for light refreshments.

Coventry:

Our **Charity Awards dinner** on 27th March was held in St Mary's Guildhall Crypt for distributing charity monies raised during the Masters year. A two course 'chafer' style meal reduced costs for attending charity representatives. The Masters principal charity of Pancreatic Cancer Research received £1500, with seven local charities receiving £250 each, including the: Watch Museum; MS Therapy Centre; Youth Orchestra; Enterprise Club for disabled; Coundon Care Centre; Hereward College; and Phoenix Stitchers.

The **Guild AGM** was held in the Council House Chamber on 18th April, with our Master Raj Bansal presiding. Besides routine reports and nominations, an increase in subscriptions was agreed – the first increase in this millennium.

A **Lord Mayor's Admission Court** on 24th April saw 20 new Freemen admitted

in the Council House Chamber, followed by refreshments in the Hospitality Suite.

The **banquet weekend** Friday night 'get together' on 4th May was again held at the Days Hotel on the Holyhead Road. Visitors from Chester and Leicester, York and London Guilds joined Coventry Guild members for a reasonably priced three course meal of soup, chicken and a choice of sweets. Following the meal, a pictorial quiz challenged the grey matter. The Saturday banquet was sold out in record time this year. Besides the Guild Masters of London & York, Chester & Leicester, the Bailiffs of Warwick, Henley-in-Arden and Alcester Court Leets were present to witness the formal change of Officers with pomp and fanfares. New Master Charlie Platts announced his principal charity as the Exhall Grange Special School, and his invited speaker Sir Peter Rigby outlined his plans for the Baginton airport site, which as the Sir W. G. Armstrong-Whitworth Aircraft Works saw the first all metal Siskin fighter to serve in quantity with the RAF in the 1920's, and later the Flying Wing prototypes in the late 1940's. The Freeman's Sunday event saw the new Master with our President the Lord Mayor Keiran Mulhall leading the robed procession to the Guild church of Holy Trinity, to re-appoint our chaplain the Rev David Mayhew. This church has elements dating back to the Norman era, and held services for the Prior's half of the city in medieval times. Following the service, the procession led by Sword & Mace Freeman in legal wigs replacing the traditional but now fragile hats, marched back to the Council House for a buffet courtesy of our President to conclude a memorable weekend.

On the 11th May our outgoing Master Raj Bansal and his lady represented the Coventry Guild at the annual **Northampton Freeman's Guild Charity Dinner** at a new venue at St George's Hall.

On the 2nd June Coventry's affiliated ship **HMS Diamond** was in the national spotlight as it launched the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations with a 21 gun salute. Guild Master Charlie Platts, and Past Master's Keith Talbot and Bob Crane were on board to show the Guild's strong support for the ship.

Over the 8th -10th June weekend, Coventry Guildsmen supported the **Leicester Gild Banquet Weekend** events, with the Friday supper and quiz event at the Freeman's Holt, the Saturday banquet at the Devonshire Place Masonic Hall, and the Sunday robed procession and Eucharist service at the Cathedral.

On 12th June the annual **Senior Freeman's Evening** at Coundon Social Club saw a good turnout of our seniors, to reminisce and enjoy a hearty buffet and kick-start the Master's Charity Appeal with £150 raised in the raffle. Out thanks to Almoner Duncan Hall for his organisation.

On 22nd June the Guild Court and Past Masters welcomed the new Lord Mayor Tim Sawdon, with a **President's Dinner** in the Crypt. Immediate Past President Keiran Mulhall was presented with a guild plaque to mark his year as President. PM and current Clerk Jim Parry also received a plaque to commemorate his year as Master.

Alcester Court Leet :

It has been another eventful few months for Alcester Court Leet with the build-up to our 2-day 'Best of British' Jubilee Weekend. There were the normal monthly meetings for charities on which I am a trustee plus the planning meetings for all of our events including the 'Best of British' weekend, the arrival of the Olympic Torch plus our own Olympic events in July.

The first of key events since February was the **Bromsgrove Court Leet Games**

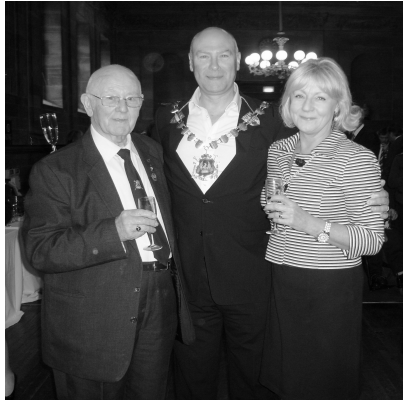
Night (7th Feb 2012). Bromsgrove won last year's Games Night hosted by us and so they organised this year's games. We joined Bromsgrove and Henley Courts but unfortunately, Warwick Court couldn't make the evening. However, there were enough spare people to put in a team for the missing Warwick. It was a wonderful evening and finished with Warwick being the winners! Well done Warwick!!!

On 14th March, we supported a talk given to the **Alcester History Society** by Neil Betteridge, Manorial Documents Project Officer, Warwickshire County Record Office about the history of Court Leets across the country and his work in creating a register of discovered documents. At the talk, I explained what we do as Court Leet Officers today. It was a fascinating talk and I learnt things that I didn't know. There is a launch of the Manorial Documents Register later this year on 17th September at the County Record Office in Warwick, which I have been invited to attend.



Twice a year the Court's Officers Brook Looker organises a **River Clean** in Alcester because the town is at the confluence of two rivers (River Alne & River Arrow) and as a result, the town has a history of flooding. On 25th March, we removed the debris where it collects under a bridge. I'm sure that a Health & Safety Professional would disapprove but we know it helps alleviate the possibility of flooding and we enjoy it as do the children of some of the Officers!

An event I was really looking forward to was the **Alcester Male Voice Choir Annual Concert** (31st March) at the Town Hall in Birmingham. I have been a member of the Choir since 2005 but I have taken a year's sabbatical because of the duties I have as High Bailiff. The Choir were excellent as always and it was a pleasure to sit with our Lord of the Manor, Lord Hertford and enjoy the varied programme delivered by my fellow choristers.



The **High Sherriff of Warwickshire's Drinks Party** was a great event and the High Sherriff, Tim Cox and his wife Penny have become good friends. Here Fiona and I are pictured with Bill Malin a previous High Bailiff of Alcester.

Alcester Court Leet Coffee Morning is a yearly event that we use to raise funds and this year we exceeded all previous totals generating a profit of £509.31.

Although the **Heart of England Town Criers Competition** is not organised by the Court it is something that we look forward to every year and 2012 was no different. There were over 20 Town Criers from around the country that took part and this year two ladies were in the top three!

The **Alcester Court Leet Easter Visits** is not something we publicise but like the Christmas Visits, this is one of the most rewarding events of the year for us. I and the other Court Leet Officers visit the 2 residential care homes in the town and take gifts to the residents. This year I paid for a piano that was donated to one of the homes, Meadow View, so that a local musician could entertain the residents 2 or 3 times a week. We all joined in a 'sing-a-long' of old musical tunes and you could see the positive impact it had on the residents, most of whom suffer from Dementia.

On 17th April, we had the first of our 3 **Ale Tastings!** Members of Bromsgrove, Henley and Warwick Courts joined us on a very pleasant if somewhat boozy evening.

This was followed on 19th April by **Henley in Arden Court Leet Supper** and the **Chevalier Bretvins Annual Court** on 29th April where my Low Bailiff, John Mills became an honorary member of the Bretvins. Both of these were very enjoyable and included drinking quite a lot of alcohol!

The **Alcester Mayor Making Ceremony** took place on 1st May and it was a pleasure to be part of the ceremony because the Mayor, Lennox Cumberbatch is a Past Bailiff as well as convinced me to join the Court Leet.

The Alcester Court Leet carried out the traditional **Assizes** (5th May) where we tasted Fish & Flesh, weighed bread and assessed leather. 13 local businesses took part in what was a wonderful day for the Court completing one of its ancient tasks.

Fiona and I attended the **City of Coventry Freeman's Guild Banquet** (5th May). A splendid event in the historic St Mary's Hall, Coventry.

We had 3 Ale Tastings in May! Bromsgrove was on 8th May, Henley in Arden was 16th May and ours was 23rd May.

Finally, we get to the **‘Best of British’ 2-day festival that included Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Celebrations on 3rd June and our traditional Street Market on 4th June that had an Olympic theme – ‘Athens to Alcester’**. We had planned these two events for more than 6 months. Alcester has a long tradition of marking special royal occasions, and we wanted to make sure that this historic moment is marked properly. We had a traditional Street Party on Sunday inviting the whole Town to come down to the High Street between noon and 8pm with their own food, tables, chairs and gazebos. The High Street was closed to traffic and festooned in flags and bunting with live music all day. For those who didn’t wish to bring a picnic had the choice of many pubs, shops, restaurants and coffee shops in the Town that were open. Also, we provided a traditional Pig Roast and BBQ. The Party started at 1pm with a parade up the High Street to St Nicholas Church led by Redditch Sea Cadet Band, members of Alcester Court Leet and other town organisations. Members of the public sporting royal themed fancy dress were invited to participate. As you can see, it was very damp. In fact, that night on Radio 4, it announced that the wettest place in the country was Astwood Bank which is just 3 miles from Alcester. We knew because we were in it all day!

On Monday, We held our annual Street Market giving local business, charities and organisations the opportunity to sell whatever they wanted (as long it was legal!). Thousands turned out and we had one of the best days that anyone can remember. There was a programme of live music outside the pubs on the High St and we had the obligatory kids rides, hot dog, ice cream and candy floss vans. We were swamped with press for the day including BBC, ITV and local radio. In fact, BBC Midlands did live broadcasts from 8am all the way through to its 30-minute news programme at 6pm hosted by Nick Owen! The all-important weather was kind to us and it seemed if the whole of Warwickshire wanted to join us.

As I said at the start, it has been a very busy period but we still have some great events to look forward to including the arrival of the Olympic Torch but more about that next time! Steve Payne, High Bailiff Alcester Court Leet and Court Baron of the Most Honourable Henry Jocelyn Seymour Marquess of Hertford.

Great Grimsby:

A break in tradition saw The Enrolled Freemen of Grimsby hold their 160th Annual General Meeting a week late at noon on the second Monday of June. This was due to HM The Queen decreeing a public holiday to celebrate her Diamond Jubilee on the first Monday, the same day set by statute for the AGM.

Stephen White was re-elected Chairman of the Enrolled Freemen, and subsequently re-elected Chairman of the Pastures Committee when it met later in the month. We had four vacancies to fill on the committee and one of those elected was Councillor Norma Lincoln, former Mayor (twice) who had presided over the Admission of so many Freemen’s Daughters during her term of office 2010-11, and was also Mayor when FEW last held their AGM in Grimsby in 2001, the 800th Anniversary of the granting of the towns’ first Charter.

As we go to press, we have just been advised that our application for European Regional Development Funding has been recommended for approval by the Government Department now dealing with this after a twelve month delay caused by the abolition of Yorkshire Forward. This will go towards the creation of a Business and Media Hub to be

situated in a disused part of our market, and will form a major element of the proposed regeneration of this part of the town.

The retail side of the market has been undergoing a series of various improvements with new stalls and flooring being laid, and a substantial solar panel installation on the roof to take advantage of the very attractive Feed-in-Tariffs before they were reduced.

Whilst all retail has been hard-hit, and markets especially, we are “holding our own” with a variety of stalls and goods on offer that can’t be found on the typical high street. We are working with the Local Authority to submit a bid for the second round of Mary Portas Funding, having been unsuccessful the first time around.

The Court Leet of the Worshipful Town Mayor and Chief Burgesses of Warwick.

The closed summer meeting of the Court was held at the Court House, Warwick, on Thursday 28th June 2012. Reports were received from the Bailiff, Foreman and Officers.

A number of presentments were made regarding problems around the town and the Steward was asked to pass them to the relevant authorities for action.

Earlier in the year the Warwick Court was invited to enter a team for a games night hosted by Alcester Court Leet, together with teams from Bromsgrove and Henley in Arden Courts. Unfortunately, due to the short notice, Warwick was not able to muster a team but the other Courts made a up a team to represent Warwick. As you may have guessed the “stand-in” Warwick team were the victors and the silver trophy is now on display in Warwick Court House ! Warwick are now discussing arrangements for a return event next year.

On the 18th May members of the Court attended the granting of the Freedom of the town of Warwick to Kineton Station. This event took place in the grounds of Warwick Castle and was followed by a parade of troops through the town and a service of Thanksgiving at the Collegiate Church of St Mary. Kineton Station is the HQ of (DEMSS) Defence Explosives Munitions and Search School, formerly known as the Army School of Ammunition. Over 200 troops paraded, many of whom had only recently returned from duty in Afghanistan.

19th June saw the annual Warwick Court Ale Tasting, when a number of local hostleries were visited, their ales being checked for quality by the Court’s Ale Taster. Once approved by him the other members of the Court and visitors were able to sample the wares on offer.

The Court currently has vacancies for three Jurors and people who live in the town or who have had business or other connections with Warwick for a number of years are invited to apply.

Regalia Items for Sale

Following a number of requests received from members, enquiries were made and the Executive recently took the decision to place an order for **cufflinks** to be added to our sales list. These will be similar, but smaller, in design to our lapel badges and made in metal with a 3 colour enamelled finish. They will be supplied complete in a presentation box making them suitable for purchasing as gifts. We anticipate the selling price to be around £10 a pair, excluding postage and packing, and they should be available from the AGM onwards.

The Website: an apology.

Those of you who visit our website may have noticed that there has been very little change recently and, in fact, contributions submitted by Alan Shelley have been temporarily removed. This is due to the fact that there was a formatting problem when a new Paper was attempted to be added and then the VP's notepad, (mini-laptop), which was being used for this purpose gave up the ghost. Unfortunately, a lot of other work was also lost in this unexpected failure which required re-assembling. It is hoped that by the time you read this work will have re-commenced on the website, with apologies especially to Alan.

Be a Part of This Exercise and See What We Can Achieve.

A paper by Gordon Vardell a Freeman of London.

We are currently looking for ways to make ourselves as Freemen more recognised to the public at large. I said in my last report that we are looked upon as Masons, a posh club or a secret society. This is not the way the Freemen of this land want to be portrayed. Eileen, the Membership Secretary and myself go all over this land to different functions and meetings and talk to people in other Associations and it never ceases to amaze me just how many people have never heard of "The Freemen of England and Wales" much less of the Freemen in their own town or city. I have no doubt other Freemen throughout the Guilds have experienced the same. The most common one is when we are on a church procession somewhere in the land you will always get someone from the streets asking "Who are you?" When they are given the answer with an explanation their next remark is; "Well I or we have never heard of you. What do you do?" And so it goes on. I would say we need publicity and some way of being able to control it. We have tried it in house but it hasn't worked.

Roy Folland our Warden for Wales did a really good job in getting press coverage for the AGM in Pembroke.

Is there any way we could learn from him and keep the press interested? We need ideas, it could be continual publicity or a way of covering all events throughout the Guilds.

The other thing I would like to address is interest among members, although this will vary throughout the different Guilds.

Guilds have on their books varying numbers of members that they never see. If I can explain, I look at Guilds admitting new Freemen of both genders, the problem is that they take the oath, take the scroll and promptly disappear. They never join the Guild or keep in touch. They go home put the scroll on the wall and a lot of them have no idea what it means. These new Freemen number into thousands throughout the land. There must be a way you could creatively attract these new Freemen into the Guilds. Is it possible that you could have more Guild interaction. I have said, "Could there be a way of more Guilds visiting Guilds?" I have seen in the past where this has generated interest with members old and new. Could there be more social interaction with the Guilds at other events. This could be beneficial in the sense that they could learn from each other on how the other operates and generate ideas. You could create family events through the Guilds.

You could create Cadet Freemen under a certain age and teach them what the Freedom means to them when they are old enough to take it. You could then go on from the top age of Cadet Freemen and create Junior Freemen as they already do in London. Things like the Cadets and Juniors could I believe be achieved through the charity status.

You could find out from other Guilds/Gilds if there are Freemen of other towns and cities living in your area. Invite them to your gatherings and functions, possibly make them associate Freemen of your Guild/Gild so that they can become more active in the Freedom.

These are just ideas ready to be blown apart or disseminated and made into viable working projects. The choice is for all to make, throw your own ideas in and send them to me I promise that we will look at all that comes our way. We really need to generate the interest in the Freemen of all Guilds/Gilds I understand that one of our member Guilds which I will not name without their permission have six types of membership on the go the last I heard. These are listed as;

Family Social Life Member (Husband/Wife & children under 18)

Single Social Life Member (Self only)

Family Social Member (Husband/Wife & children under 18)

Single Social Member (Self only)

Senior Citizen (Single)

Senior Citizen (Couple)

Hon Secretary's Notices.

Special Court Meeting

**9.45am Saturday 15th September in the Merchant Adventurers Hall, York.
To approve an amendment to Item 10b of the FEW Constitution.**

An anomaly has been discerned in the wording of the final sentence of Item 10b – Officers – of the FEW Constitution, and in order that the corrected wording can go forward for ratification by the AGM at 11.00am, a Special Meeting of the FEW Court will be held at 9.45am on Saturday 15th September, immediately prior to the scheduled Open Forum, to discuss and vote on the following proposed rewording of that sentence:-

“Any nominee for the office of President, Deputy President, or Vice President, must have served as an Executive Officer of the Association for a minimum of one year within the preceding four years immediately prior to the nomination; and any nominee for other executive office must have senior officer experience within their own Gild, or if no such gild exists, must satisfactorily demonstrate evidence of administrative experience.”

Voting on the proposed amendment will be in accordance with Rule 14 of the Constitution. Mail votes are acceptable at both the Special Court and the AGM.

Nominations for 2012-2013 Executive

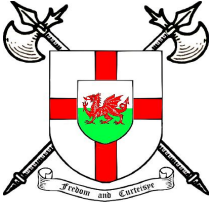
At the closing date of 23rd June 2012, the following nominations had been received for 2012-2013 FEW Executive Officers:-

President – Alan Fallows
Deputy President – Ron Leek
Vice President – Stephen White
Hon Secretary – Ron Leek
Hon Treasurer – Stephen White
Hon Membership Secretary – Colin Hardcastle and Eileen Forth
Hon Editor – Tom Gibson
Hon Archivist – Post Vacant
Officer Without Portfolio – Alan Shelley

As there are two nominations for the position of Hon Membership Secretary, an election will take place for this position at the AGM in accordance with Rule 14. Mail votes are acceptable. The unopposed nominees for all other positions are deemed elected.

AGM 2012 Agenda

- 1) Attendees to Sign Register and be seated.
- 2) Call to Order, and President's Procession into the AGM.
- 3) Opening of AGM and Welcome.
- 4) Apologies for Absence.
- 5) Minutes of the 45th AGM held on Saturday 17th September 2011 in Pembroke, and circulated in the Annual Record and Gazette, Journal No 168, October 2011.
 - a) Approval of Minutes.
 - b) Matters Arising, not forming any other part of this agenda.
- 6) President's Report.
- 7) Deputy President's Report.
- 8) Vice President's Report.
- 9) Wardens' Reports.
- 10) Hon Treasurer's Report.
- 11) Hon Membership Secretary's Report.
- 12) Hon Archivist's Report.
- 13) Hon Editor's Report.
- 14) Officer Without Portfolio's Report.
- 15) Election of Hon Membership Secretary.
- 16) Executive Officers 2012-2013.
- 17) Wardens 2012-2013.
- 18) Ratification of amendment to Item 10b of the Constitution.
- 19) Any Other Business.
- 20) Closure of Proceedings, and President's Withdrawal Procession.



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 14th – Sunday 16th 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 800th 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:

**46th Annual General Meeting Of the Association of
the Freemen of England and Wales**

15th September 2012

at 11 am

**in the Merchant Adventurers Hall,
Fossgate, York. YO1 9XD**

www.theyorkcompany.co.uk

Programme of Events.

(all events meet at Merchant Adventurers Hall).

Friday 14th September:

5pm Registration opens.

6pm Executive meeting.

7.30pm Welcome supper.

9pm Presentation by the Yorkshire Film Archive.

11pm Bar closes.

Saturday 15th September:

9am Saturday registration opens.

9.45am Special Court Meeting.

10am Open forum

10.30am Tea/Coffee Break

10.50am Official robed group photograph in garden.

11am AGM of the Freemen 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 16th 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.visitork.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 Guild 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 14th August 2012 please.

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Front Cover: Shambles at night, York. Editors collection.

Back Cover :Top; Attendees and the first lady Freemen to be enrolled at Bridgnorth.
© Bridgnorth Gild of Freemen

Bottom; Attendees of The Leicester Banquet taken on Sunday morning out side the Cathedral. © Leicester Gild of Freemen.

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

Mr. T. Gibson. Hon. Editor F.E.W Journal.

79 Tang Hall Lane.

York. YO31 0SZ

Email: thomasg624@aol.com

Tel. No. 01904 423153

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Please note the closing date for the editor to receive items for the next issue (No. 172) is the 21/9/12. Any amendments for the Gazette and Directory for 2012/13 by the same date please.

Registered address of the Freemen of England and Wales Association:

F.E.W.

Richmond House,

Beech Close,

Oversley Green,

Alcester.

Warwickshire

B49 6PP

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