

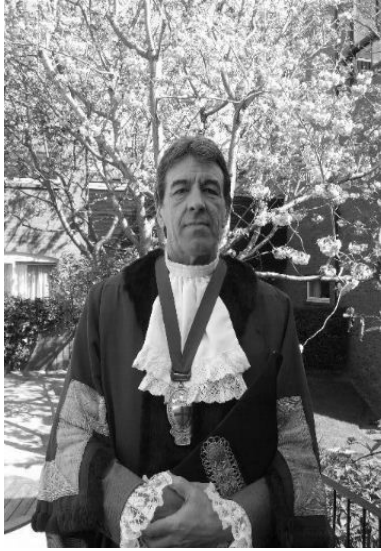


# Freemen of England and Wales.



Journal 174. Spring 2013.  
With Compliments.  
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## President's Letter.



Dear Members,

We have just completed our Court Meeting for this year which will be fully reported in this journal. It is, however, important to refer to a couple of items here.

Firstly, the Court has agreed that future Court Meetings will alternate annually between York and a Midlands venue to give the opportunity for more members to, at least, attend one or both events.

It was also agreed that the meeting may be moved to April from March to give a better chance of more clement weather, and also to give the opportunity to combine the meeting with the host gilds annual dinner/banquet and so encourage more support for both events.

Secondly, the Court was asked to vote upon the proposal to reduce the journal to three issues annually, in line with the amended schedule of meetings. The Court gave its unanimous approval to this proposal and it will now be presented to the AGM.

This should have been a formality as the Courts decision should be respected. However, attendance at the meeting was so poor (only 11 Gilds were represented) that we actually failed to achieve the simple majority of Gild Members, i.e. 20 Gilds. We will ensure that all Gilds have the opportunity to cast heir votes at the AGM on this matter, and hopefully respect the wish of the Court.

Best wishes for a successful year,

Alan Fallows.  
President.

## Appeal to Members and Member Guilds

It is becoming increasingly likely that legal action may have to be supported on behalf of one or more Guilds to facilitate registration of lands or rights under the LRA 2009. Such actions will, of course, be expensive to pursue or defend and will drain the resources of the legal fund. If you feel able to send (or pledge) a donation to the Legal Fund in the event of such actions becoming necessary I would be grateful if you could contact the Hon. Treasurer, Steven White at 11, Manor Avenue, Great Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire DN32 0QR or email [stevewhite.grimsby.nel@ntlworld.com](mailto:stevewhite.grimsby.nel@ntlworld.com) as soon as possible.

Many thanks and best wishes.

President

## On-line Copies of the Journal.

Dear Members,

Each Journal is digitally stored and published on the FEW website as well as being sent in hard copy to all members and Gild Reps. In order to make more copies available each Gild Representative will also now be sent a copy by e-mail which they can then forward (at no cost) to any of their members wishing to view or print off their own copy.

We hope that this facility will be used extensively to give many more members the opportunity to read the journal. Please also remember that if you are an individual member and wish to just receive your copy by e-mail this will be most helpful in reducing the costs of printing and postage so just let the editor know and he will gladly amend his mailing list to accommodate your wishes,

Best Regards,

President

## News from the Guilds.

### Coventry.

As the entrants for the annual **Apprentice of the Year** competition have tended to be from large firms, where specialist recruitment techniques will select the more able candidates as apprentices, naturally large firms such as Jaguar/Land Rover have done well in the trophy count. This year the competition has been split into small and medium firms (SME) and large firms – to increase the potential entrant field. This has resulted in the best ever entry. Judging was completed by Court and HR specialists – and awards announced and presented at the 28<sup>th</sup> January Dinner in St Mary's Guildhall, which was a sell out event. Business women of the year Julie White of D Drill was the guest speaker, and emphasized the value of apprentices to D Drill. The event received excellent coverage in the local newspaper. Also at the dinner was the outgoing and incoming Commanding Officers of Coventry's affiliated ship **HMS Diamond**, who gave a presentation on the Type 45 Destroyers first deployment the next day in the Council House, with Guild Court members present. As we go to press, the news is that HMS Diamond is likely to be granted the Freedom of the city at a ceremony later this year, 'with parade bands playing, colours flying, and bayonets fixed'.

**Ladies Night** was held this year on 12<sup>th</sup> February in St Marys Guildhall crypt. All ladies received a gift from the Master Charlie Platts and his lady Ann, and a red rose from member Ron Robinson. A talk by local RSPCA volunteers explained the challenging situation with surplus pets in these recessionary times. On the 1<sup>st</sup> March a party of Guildsmen took up the invitation of the Leicester Freeman's Gild to join them for **Long Alley Skittles** at Markfield, followed by a traditional skittles supper. Our thanks to Leicester for the invitation, we hope to reciprocate with our usual Barnacle village hall skittle event on 6<sup>th</sup> September. On 3<sup>rd</sup> March the annual **Past Masters Dinner** was held at the Coventry & North Warwickshire Cricket Club – a pleasant low key event to enjoy fellowship with some of our Past Masters now in their ninth decade.

### **Leicester:**

Our first Gild event for 2013, a long alley skittles night held on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March at the Coach and Horses public house Markfield. The event attracted 48 skittler's, including 10 of our friends from Coventry Guild.

We managed to play two games of skittles before supper with twelve players in each team with the Coventry team in the lead at this stage before for supper break, which consisted of a choice of Faggots, chips and peas, steak and ale pie, chips and peas or vegetable lasagne and mixed salad.

After refreshments and a refill of our glasses we continued the evening with a further four games before Coventry Guild became the final winners of the evening. The Master of the Leicester Gild John Tolton then presented the trophy to the Coventry Guild for having the player in their team scoring the highest number of points for the team.

Our future events include an open morning at Freeman's Holt on Sunday morning 7<sup>th</sup> April between 10 30 am to 12 30 when everyone will be welcome to drop in for a chat and a cup of tea or coffee. It is also ideal opportunity to book for future Gild events. On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April we will be holding a cheese and wine evening at Freeman's Holt when one of Leicester's Blue Badge Guides, Virginia Wright will be giving a talk on Mediaeval Leicester.

**The Master of the Leicester Gild** and wardens of the Court have very much pleasure in notifying you of our forthcoming Annual Banquet to be held on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2013 Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June and Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June. The weekend events begin with a Fish and Chips or Chicken and Chips welcome supper on Friday evening at Freeman's Holt, at a cost of £10 person including drinks.

The Saturday evening Banquet will be held at Devonshire Place London Road Leicester. At the price of £39 per person including a reception drink on arrival. On Sunday morning the Leicester Freeman's Annual Service will be held at St Mary de Castro Church. For further information and booking form please contact Maurice Hill, Chamberlain to the Gild at 33 Mossdale Road Kingsway Leicester LE3 2UT Telephone 01162895394 or E-mail: [mozjune@talktalk.net](mailto:mozjune@talktalk.net)

All the above information and our future events including the GILDHALL NEWS the quarterly journal of the Leicester Gild of Freeman can be found on our new website at [www.leicesterfreemen.com](http://www.leicesterfreemen.com)

**Allan W Berry MA (1919-2013)**

*Sudbury Historian and Learned Clerk of the Freemen*

The Sudbury freemen are sorry to report the loss of a very valued and respected member of their Society. Mr Allan Walter Berry passed away February 16 at the age of 93 and will be sadly missed by family, friends and colleagues for his wise and experienced counsel. He researched and accurately produced a huge amount of material relating to the history of Sudbury in Suffolk and particularly of the freemen of the old borough town. Without doubt he was a driving force in the reinstatement of the 'Freemen's Society' and founder of the Freemen's Trust.

A quiet and unassuming gentleman, he was always on-hand to advise or to correct any documentation required by the Freemen. Most of his working life was spent in Colchester, with frequent trips into Sudbury. He was a local government Careers Officer working with school leavers in northeast Essex until his retirement in 1984. For 60 years he was married to Margaret until she died in 2010.

With the prolific publications of pamphlets and books I would doubt that anyone would know more on the subject of Sudbury freemen and that I with many others have regarded ourselves privileged to avail upon his knowledge.

At a meeting at Sudbury in September 1971, collectively with the freemen of Sudbury and attended by Harry Ward, he organised and reconstituted the 'Sudbury Freemen's Society'.

Allan Berry's family background in Sudbury, where he was born at the dairy in Curde Lane (renamed Weavers Lane) meant that their activities were inextricably linked with the grazing of cattle on the freemen's meadows. Allan who was studiously inclined received his education at the Grammar School, between 1929 and 1937, putting him in very good stead to become an outstanding academic. Over many years he battled on behalf of the Sudbury freemen, working tirelessly to obtain the best possible outcome, especially for the freemen's meadows under the Commons Registration Act 1965. On that occasion he also ensured that the Freemen's grazing rights were properly protected.

Mr Berry was a keen and eloquent Rotarian and with a kind and charitable disposition was an example to all freemen. He founded the Sudbury Freemen's Trust in 1986 and was its chairman for many years until his retirement. The Trust, as set up by Allan, has been instrumental in providing much needed assistance to the townspeople in the same customary traditions of the freemen in the past.

The deep affection for the old Borough Town of Sudbury felt by Allan will have been recognised by all who have read his amusing and educational publications. His commitment and contribution to Sudbury and to the Freemen's Society will be most sorely missed. It will be particularly difficult for me to readjust from my regular habit of consulting over a multitude of matters, knowing he was always ready to provide some advice or reassurance.

Alan Shelley, Freeman of Sudbury, 25 February 2013

**Fred Ingram MBE**

**Chairman of the Freemen of the City of Oxford 1998 - 2004**

Fred (as he always preferred to be known) sadly passed away in February at the grand age of 100years. He was always pleased to tell his friends that he was born in the

City, educated in the City and his career and later years kept him centrally in the City.

It was a good day for the Freeman, in October 1982, when the then Labour Lord Mayor, Olive Gibbs, broke with tradition and made the Conservative leader her Lord Mayor's Child. Asked why she had done this, Olive's answer was simply that although they came from opposite political persuasions, that did not affect friendship or recognition of another's qualities. Fred was proud to swear his allegiance to our Sovereign and become Lord Mayor of Oxford.

His love of his wife Liz and his family were always uppermost but his love for Oxford people and Oxford buildings and heritage were central in his inner soul. His integrity can never be doubted. Pipe smoking then and a great walker of Oxford streets, where he could meet friends and see how real life was treating them.

Fred's early life was tough but in a loving household. Fred contracted TB in his childhood and later suffered peritonitis (burst appendix), he was lucky to survive either, but for both it was a near miracle. Fred did not start primary schooling until nearly seven, but shone through and was fortunate after four years to gain a scholarship to The Central Grammar school in Oxford. The Headmaster, a Mr Lambourn, ruled the school with the cane. Fred felt its effect on more than one occasion and often thought it was unfair.

Fred joined the Army on the outbreak of the war and served in Gibraltar and Palestine before being demobbed on medical grounds. When he had recovered, he gained employment at Morris Motors and through his guile and obvious ability, he secured a job as a logistics manager, with wide ranging powers on the secret project for amphibious landing craft being built at Cowley. Fred had access to a motor vehicle with all the petrol he required in order to attend meetings in Birmingham or wherever and could work all the overtime he needed for this vital project. He never let them down.

After the war, stood for election in the Oxford City Council and was elected at the first attempt. Fred now also had a career in a Barristers Office. Fred enjoyed his Council Committee work and soon found himself on nearly forty committees and becoming Chairman of several of the powerful and demanding positions. His MBE decoration came for services to Oxford. This award unfortunately caused resentment amongst his Labour colleagues. After one particular row, he quit the Labour party and walked out. He was courted by the other parties to join them. Labour tried to attract him back to the fold. He took a call from Robert Maxwell, who offered to make it worth his while to come back to Labour. Fred eventually joined the Conservatives and was soon Lord Mayor in 1973-74.

Fred and his wife Liz, ran the Pensioners Club in Gloucester Green in their own retirement. Usually there six days a week and sometimes seven. It was a total commitment and very popular with all the members, many of whom were younger than Fred. A hot lunch was cooked every day. It was upsetting for them both when the club eventually closed and they retired completely after over twenty years happy service.

He will be remembered by Freeman with affection and respect as a tireless former Chairman. More than once, he was heard to remark that for him, the Freedom of the City meant more than his MBE. May he rest in peace.

Minutes of the Court Meeting held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2013  
in Bedern Hall, York.

- 1) The list of attendees . Derek Austin – Coventry, Michael Ayres – Leicester, Tony Chettle – Leicester, Howard Crapper – Oxford, John Edwards – Stafford, Capt. Jim Evans – Berwick-upon-Tweed, Alan Fallows –Shrewsbury, Eileen Forth – York, Donna Gibson – York, Tom Gibson – York, Hazel Hague – York, Colin Hardcastle – York, Nick Johnson – Hale, Ron Leek – Alcester & London, Howard Pate – Chester, Ant Piddock – Stafford, Eileen Reynolds – Associate Member, Gordon Varndell – London, Stephen White – Grimsby
- 2)
  - a) The meeting was called to order by the President, Alan Fallows.
  - b) In opening the Court, the President introduced the Master of the York Gild, Hazel Hague, who gave a very warm welcome to everyone present.
  - c) The President then presented her Membership Certificate, to new member, Mrs Donna Gibson.
- 3) Apologies for absence were received from Alan Shelley – Officer Without Portfolio; Roy Folland – Warden for Wales; Capt. Stephen Healy – Warden for the North; and Ray Spurway – Stafford.
- 4) Following a proposal by Hazel Hague, seconded by Tony Chettle, the minutes of the previous Court Meeting held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2012 in Leicester, were approved as a correct record, and were signed by the President.
- 5) Matters arising:  
There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.
- 6) The President, Alan Fallows, presented his report. A copy is appended.
- 7) Deputy President, Ron Leek, noted that like most of his predecessors, he had not been called upon to fulfil any duties, and therefore had no report to make.
- 8) Vice President, Stephen White presented his report. A copy is appended.
- 9) The Vice President then introduced each warden in turn, who presented their reports as follows:-

Warden for the North – Capt. Stephen Healy. No report was available, due to the absence of Stephen, following the sudden death of his wife Diane. It was noted that condolences had been sent to Stephen on behalf of FEW, and that FEW had been represented at Diane’s funeral, by Immediate Past President Colin Hardcastle.

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

Warden for Wales – Roy Folland. In Roy’s absence, his report was read out by the Vice President. Copy appended.

Warden for the North West. Position vacant.

Warden for the West – Howard Crapper. Copy appended.

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

Warden for the South Midlands – Derek Austin. Copy appended. On behalf of the City of Coventry Freeman's Guild, Derek passed on its congratulations to the York Guild on its forthcoming 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.

Warden for the South East – Nick Johnson. Copy appended.

Warden for the South West. Position vacant.

10) Immediate Past President, Colin Hardcastle, presented a report on the recent very sad death of Diane Healy. A copy is appended.

11) Hon Treasurer, Stephen White, presented his report and interim accounts. Copy appended.

It was noted that the main expenditure for FEW was the production and distribution of Journals. Currently there are four editions each year, and the President stated that good savings would be made if this was reduced to three. He also mentioned possible changes in the dates for the Court meetings to perhaps coincide with one of the host guild's internal functions, thereby reducing the number of journeys for those members attending both events. Further deliberations are pending on these matters.

12) Eileen Forth presented her Hon Membership Secretary's Report. Copy appended.

13) Alan Fallows noted that his only comment for his Hon Archivist's Report had been included in his President's Report presented earlier in the meeting.

14) Tom Gibson presented his Hon Editor's Report. Copy appended.  
It was noted that Journals were kept to 24 pages so that their weight would qualify for 2<sup>nd</sup> class postage.

15) In his absence, Alan Shelley's Officer Without Portfolio Report was read out by the Hon Secretary, Ron Leek. Copy appended.  
Capt. Jim Evans stated that he had provided additional items of old terminology to supplement Alan's offering. The President confirmed that he had forwarded Jim's papers on to Alan, noting that any such items would always be added to the website for information purposes.

16) FEW Cost Reductions.  
As the President had covered most of this agenda item following the Hon Treasurer's Report, a vote was taken on the question of reducing the number of Journal editions from four to three. The meeting fully approved this proposal, which will now be put to the AGM for ratification, and introduction in 2014. It was further agreed that more accurate reporting was necessary in determining the reality of costs incurred in the running of FEW.

17) The following venues for future AGMs were offered and enthusiastically accepted:-



2014 – Stafford.

2015 – Berwick-upon-Tweed (the 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Guild's Charter).

2016 – Leicester (to be confirmed).

18) Any Other Business.

- a) On the subject of better publicising both FEW and the Freedom amongst younger people, Capt. Jim Evans detailed his proposals for introducing an initiative prize scheme to be promoted in secondary schools – copy of his suggested information and entry forms appended. The President suggested that Member Gilds should talk to, and encourage their local schools to consider the idea. To allow time for consideration, it was agreed that the subject would be taken forward to the AGM for more detailed discussion. The question of an upper age limit for entrants was queried.
- b) Derek Austin queried the fact that the FEW Mace was not in place in front of the gathering. It was pointed out that it was present all the time, but was unfortunately still in its case at the back of the room, having been inadvertently overlooked when setting up the room before the meeting. An apology was given.
- c) Following a query from John Edwards, the subject of FEW legal advice to Gilds was discussed. The President pointed out that having little success in communicating with the FEW Honorary Counsellor, Patrick Talbot QC., he is still trying to set up a panel of Member Gild Legal Advisors, but progress is slow. He stated that the FEW Legal Fund was there to somewhat financially assist Gilds with legal problems, provided that formal application is made, and approval given.
- d) Howard Pate asked about Norwich and membership of FEW. The President stated that there was no Norwich Gild, but only a Trust, and despite previous advances there was no interest in joining FEW, although they would be welcome.

Howard also queried FEW's relationship with Newcastle upon Tyne. The President answered that Newcastle are not talking to FEW, since their disagreement with the suggested FEW wording for the Local Democracy Bill, which would have allowed Gilds to make their own decisions, insisting on replacing this with their own mandatory clause concerning the admission of daughters, which subsequently became law.

19) There being no further business, the President closed the Court.

### President's Report.

In this my last term as President I have endeavoured not to be, as the Americans say, a Lame Duck.

In this light I have proceeded with the correlation of information regarding the modernisation of apprenticeships, and assisting Guilds with any queries.

On apprenticeships I have listed the methods currently in use and the changes Guilds have shown a desire to introduce. Frankly there are such variations of custom that I

am amazed at how Gilds have managed to introduce rules of admission that are patently adverse to the spirit of the 1835 Act. However these customs are in place and as such have legitimacy by virtue of their acceptance. I will list these items for publication and send them out to all Gild Reps for their information. Remember that it for each Gild to decide what course of action, if any, that they take on this matter; FEW is only acting in an advisory capacity as it was FEW that place d the enabling facility for change into the LDED&C Act.

I have also been pleased to travel to Oxford and meet with Howard to verify arrangements for this years AGM and draft a calling notice form based upon costings provided. The facilities seem excellent and I am confident of a very good weekend of both business and socializing.

More in my capacity of Archivist I have given advise to a member Gild upon the drafting of a specific clause for their Constitution and would remind Gilds that we are always available for tasks.

### **Vice President's Report.**

My duties continue to fall into two distinct and concise areas.

The first is the continuing development of the website.

New material is added on a fairly regular basis and in particular I am grateful to Alan Shelley for his steady stream of pertinent articles.

A new section, "Presidents on Parade", has been added, to feature our Past Presidents and, hopefully, the highlights of their time in office. Some of these appear as obituaries, as they appeared within our newsletter, whilst updated profiles are being sought from those past Presidents who are still with us.

In a similar vein a further page, "Some Notable Individuals", has been added in order to feature those members who have contributed so much to FEW, and their own Guilds, but have never held office within FEW. I would welcome any suggestions for inclusion but again, and rather unfortunately, the initial candidates will most probably be drawn from the obituaries.

Current copies of the Journal are added, one issue in arrears as agreed; the task of scanning older copies and converting into pdf's has not yet begun. There are a few gaps in our archive, the missing copies being noted in the last Journal.

We now have many more dates in the diary page. Since most of the events occur annually it is my intention to leave all of the functions in, simply up-dating the actual dates once they have been fixed for the following year. I would be happy to receive details of any other events, either directly from Guilds or through the Wardens, to be included.

The Freeman's Prayer, and Song – in its original format have been added.

Guidance has been obtained regarding the setting up of the Association email addresses which requires each individual to create an account on their own PC. All addresses are now displayed on the website, I have tested both of mine and they work so the instructions

must have been idiot proof.

In conjunction with the website we now also have a Facebook page and I am grateful for the assistance from Tom Gibson and Alex Christison with this.

My other duty is to *coordinate* the activities of the Wardens.

Not all Wardens are able to be here today, for a variety of reasons, but those that are made for a very useful meeting earlier today. Our new Warden for the South East, Nick Johnson, has been able to dip more than his toe in the water and I am pleased to say that I have had an approach in the last week from a Freeman of Oxford, living in Cornwall, interested in the vacancy in the South West; that will just leave the North West which we are patiently pursuing.

## Wardens Reports.

### Warden for the North East:

I am sure you have all read the excellent articles on York and the York Strays in Journal 173 [not penned by me incidentally] which leaves me nothing to add on those two areas.

However, I do have one piece of news regarding Great Grimsby. It is a little known fact that our Vice President and Treasurer — Stephen White — had an honour bestowed upon him at a recent birthday event. Sadly it was not one by Her Majesty but one upon the birth of his first grandson, Logan Tasker Pywell, some six weeks ago. Stephen is, therefore, now the proud possessor of the title 'Granddad'.

Young Logan is already being introduced to FEW as he is in York today with his mother, Emma, and grandmother Bridgett - good move that granddad, bringing him for his first outing to such a wonderful City as ours!! - but I would suggest we do not address Bridgett as 'grandma' !!

I am sure you will all join me in wishing granddad and the whole family health and happiness for the future.

### Warden for Wales :

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

On September 15<sup>th</sup> saw the enrolment of three ladies Mrs. Scoble, her daughter and granddaughter as Freemen of Pembroke.

The Master of the Gild was invited to attend the opening of the Michaelmas Fair At Pembroke on the 11<sup>th</sup> October, this involved a parade from the Town Hall led by the Mayor, Pembroke Town Councillors, Mayors and Sheriffs from other towns in the county, following the opening of the fair there was a reception and dinner at Pembroke Town Hall, hosted by the Showman's Guild.

**The AGM** of the Gild was held on the 25<sup>th</sup> October in the Chamber of the Pembroke Town Council. Mr. Paul Randall having served as Clerk to the Gild for over 10 years wished to retire from that position, the Master in thanking Paul made a presentation to him on behalf of the Gild for all his past service.

**Election of Officers:** The Master vacated the Chair during these proceedings which was taken by Phil Lloyd. It was moved and accepted that the existing Officers be re-elected with the exception of Paul. It was moved seconded and accepted that Graham Philips be nominated as Clerk.

The Officers for 2012/13 are as follows.

Master: Roy Folland

Deputy Master: Robin Folland

Treasurer: John Rowlands

Chaplain: Revd. Canon Roger Jones.

Clerk: Graham Philips, 1 Upper Lamphey Road, Pembroke, Pembrokeshire SA71 5JL

Press Officer Miss. Melanie Phillips.

On Saturday November 10<sup>th</sup>, the Gild was represented at the Memorial Service at Fresh Water West, and on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November the Gild was also in attendance at the Remembrance Service at the Pembroke Cenotaph, the Master laid wreaths on behalf of the Gild on both occasions.

The Annual service took place on Sunday November 18<sup>th</sup> at St. Michael's Church, Pembroke; the guest preacher was the Rt. Revd. Dr. John Saxbee former Bishop of Lincoln, also attending was the Vice Chairman of Pembrokeshire County Council, the Mayor of Pembroke and Mayor and Mayoress of Pembroke Dock. Following the service the Annual Luncheon was held at the Cleddau Bridge Hotel. St. Michael's Church which has been the Gild's church is being closed shortly and the Gild members have requested that our thanks be passed on to the membership of the church for their help and friendship over the years. In future our Annual Service will be held at St. Mary's Church, Pembroke.

The Gild suffered the sad loss of two of its most faithful members Mr. Kelvin Waters who passed away in December and our former Clerk Mr. Paul Randall who passed away in January, both of whom had accepted the invitation to be a Burgess of the Gild of Freemen of Pembroke, in recognition of their services to the town and community of Pembroke.

### **Warden for the West:**

In last Autumn's heavy rain, in late November, the town of Malmesbury, the oldest borough in England, suffered severe flooding in the areas close to the River Avon. The Freemen of Malmesbury have been at full stretch to recover and refurbish many of the houses effected. Eight houses remain vacant and awaiting complete re-plastering in the ground floor areas.

The Chartered Freemen of Gloucester have arranged an Admission Ceremony next month in the Council Chamber. I believe over twenty new Freemen will be welcomed into the fold. The Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October at the Mercers Hall. I am sure any Freemen living close to Gloucester will be welcome to apply.

Freemen of Oxford were saddened to learn of the passing of their former Chairman and former Lord Mayor of Oxford, Fred Ingram MBE. The first Chairman of the Freemen to live beyond his 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday. He worked tirelessly for the people of Oxford and the

pensioners of the City. His Freedom meant everything .

Network Rail are upgrading , electrifying and constructing a new freight loop on the line which runs alongside Port Meadow in Oxford. Considerable efforts have been made by the Freeman to ensure that the historic meadow is not abused or marginalized by the considerable construction works now in progress. Constant vigilance is required throughout the works . A huge increase in the number of trains , the length of the trains and the speed of the trains is expected , when the works are complete.

Oxford University is constructing a series of Student Accommodation blocks on brown field land adjacent to Port Meadow . Planning was granted last February and now everyone including members of the Planning Committee agree that they are unsightly . Hideous is a better word . Legal challenges to the original planning consent and protests to MP'S , the Prince of Wales and many more are ongoing. Multi millionaires are threatening to withhold donations to the University unless these buildings are at least reduced in height. It upsets me just to go a see this travesty . The beauty of Port Meadow has been marred by greed and thoughtlessness.

Testing for Tuberculosis has been brought in for cattle . This effects our grazing cattle on Port Meadow and it takes four days for results to be made known . This long period of diagnosis has led to cattle being held in our compound for this period which has placed huge burden on the facility .

The Freeman of Oxford look forward to welcoming all Freeman to the FEW AGM weekend at St Catherine's College in September. Further details appear later. I have been pleasantly surprised and remain very grateful for the offers of assistance and advice on the preparations of this event. Booking forms will be dealt with in the order that they arrive.

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

There has been more activity this period and I am grateful to the guilds in the area for including me in their events. I attended the Christmas dinner of the Shrewsbury Guild and found myself on the same table as the Bridgnorth representatives, which was rather nice, as I had time to find out more about their traditions and social programme. For example they carry the maces on civic occasions, something that Stafford has been trying to reinstate. Having a nearby guild that already does so is a useful precedent. At a Bridgnorth social event last year their Mayor told me how much the town values the Freeman and their heritage. Hopefully, that will rub off in other places.

Shrewsbury have been kind enough to invite me as Warden, to a number of their social functions, but sadly they often seem to clash with other commitments, but it is nice to be asked. It was great to have the FEW President and his lady at the Stafford Annual Dinner as well as representatives from Newcastle-u-Lyme. This was Stafford Guild's first attempt at a "black tie" event and it turned out to be a very successful evening. After the dinner and some speeches, the Mayor of Stafford presented awards on behalf of the Guild, to members and supporters, who have given special service to the Freeman over a number of years. The framed certificates and "gold" burgesses' badges were much appreciated by the recipients. These days we seem reluctant to formally thank our benefactors. (The Mayor's secretary kindly informed me that the council had started issuing certificates in frames

once they discovered Poundland's excellent range!)

Once again I attended the annual "Pay-out Day" at Newcastle under Lyme. This, unusually, took place in St Giles Church rather than in the hall, which led to some comments about "*moneychangers in the temple*"! There was a steady stream of burgess claimants queuing along the aisle to collect their dividend from the Mayor and Mayoress. Once again it was valuable to have time to have the chance to wear my warden's robes and talk to the recipients as they waited. A 'jobsworth' church official told me off for blocking the 8 foot gangway. I know I need to lose weight but honestly...

After a couple of postponements due to lack of numbers, a Freeman's Court was held at Stafford in November when fourteen new freemen were sworn in. This was a splendid traditional occasion with the Mayor, the Court clerk, Guild officers and trustees present as well as the Burgesses Sergeant, who was paid his customary, (metricated), Shilling, by the candidates. Hopefully, these new members will swell the numbers at Mayor-making and other civic parades, where the Guild Robes are at long last being recognised by the watching public.

The trustees of the Stafford Freeman's Allotments have had more than their fair share of problems, but hopefully the new trustees, appointed at the Annual Burgesses Meeting in January, will be able to resolve them. Fortunately, some "freemen gardeners" have joined the Trust, which should aid communication. At last, the letters are formulated to confirm the changes for admission as a Stafford Burgess. It is hoped that they will be implemented soon, which should boost numbers considerably.

### **Warden for the South Midlands:**

As the events of the Leicester and Coventry Guilds, and the Henley-in-Arden Court Leet are currently well reported in the Journals columns, I shall just cover a few of their forthcoming highlights first.

Tickets for the **Coventry Freeman's Guild** banquet on 4<sup>th</sup> May are likely to be sold out by the date of this report. 'Freemen's Sunday' on 5<sup>th</sup> May will have a robed procession to the Guild church of Holy Trinity to re-install the Guild Chaplain, with a sherry reception afterwards at the Council House.

The **Leicester Freeman's Gild** banquet on 8<sup>th</sup> June will again be at the 'Devonshire Place' venue on the London Road, with tickets priced at £39 each. The 9<sup>th</sup> June church service will this year be at the Gild church of St Mary de Castro at 10.30am. Last year's venue of Leicester Cathedral is likely, under the terms of the exhumation licence, to be the final resting place of the Richard III remains excavated recently.

**Henley-in-Arden Court Leet's** medieval half timbered Guildhall opens for afternoon visits on 16<sup>th</sup> April, until 29<sup>th</sup> September. Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June is Court Leet Day, where ceremonial enactments of ancient duties such as: ale tasting; butter and bread weighing; brook looking and beating of the bounds take place.

**Northampton Freeman's Guild** has recently published the third of their annual 'Freemen's Chronicle' newsletters. With the admission of 17 daughters since October

2011, total number of Freeman has increased to 92, compared with 79 listed in Harry Ward's 1975 book. The 7<sup>th</sup> annual Charity Dinner will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> May at the Lane Restaurant & Brasserie in Northampton College.

**Alcester Court Leet** had a very busy 2012, with Diamond Jubilee and Olympic themed street markets in the High Street. Forthcoming events include a Town Crier competition on 30<sup>th</sup> March, and the Annual Assize, where bread, fish, flesh, and leather quality are ceremonially sampled on 4<sup>th</sup> May in the High Street. This is also the location for the 9<sup>th</sup> June Court Leet Street Market event.

**Warwick Court Leet's** 458<sup>th</sup> annual meeting was held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2012 in the Unitarian Chapel. Most Officers were re-elected, with Past Mayor Roger Smith being elected as Jury Foreman. Presentments were made on the unsatisfactory status of the High Street roadway modifications, and hazardous parking near St Johns. Next public meeting is scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> March, venue to be confirmed as the 1725 Courthouse is on major refurbishment at present.

### **Warden for the South East:**

On Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup> of March, I attended the Charter Day and Quit Rents Ceremony of the Guildable Manor of Southwark in London.

To explain Charter Day, it is necessary to understand that in 1327 the City of London acquired the interests for a fee farm of £11 per annum from Edward III. The original Charter, approved by Parliament, is still in the Guildhall Record Office. The formal reason for the City wanting control was because of the difficulties of judicial process and arrest of miscreants who could make-off to the Surrey bank out of the City's jurisdiction; no doubt the potential of Southwark becoming a competitive alternative for the City markets also exercised the Corporation. This payment is still made to this day, by the Foreman and officers of the Manor, and on March 14<sup>th</sup> this year, the Jurors were summoned to an Exchequer Court, held in Southwark, by the Queen's Remembrancer, the Senior Master of the Superior Court of England & Wales of the Royal Courts of Justice, as a 'Quit Rent' on behalf of the City. This is a specific requirement of the Charter of 1327.

That document was recited, the Court was empanelled and the Queen's Remembrancer was called to receive the payment as required and this was rendered by the Foreman and Officers by being publicly placed onto the Exchequer Cloth. This was preceded by a religious service for the new Freedom recipients earlier that day, and was followed by a formal Luncheon at which the new Freeman gave readings from Alderman Bernard's 'Rules for the Conduct of Life'. The Manor hosts many senior City figures to this event, usually any newly elected Aldermen to introduce them to the 'Southwark side' as well as senior representatives of the Livery and also from the other two guilds of the City which have a formal relationship with Southwark, namely the Parish Clerks and the Watermen and Lightermen. Charter Day used to be held at Guy's Chapel until numbers attending required a larger venue and now St George the Martyr, Borough High Street, is the designated 'guild church' of the Manor.

It was a most instructional, informative and enjoyable occasion.

In July this year, I shall be attending the Rochester Oyster and Floating Fisheries Chamberlain's Court - an Annual event, and shall be reporting back on current matters there in due course.

This concludes my first report as Area Warden for London & South East.

### **Immediate Past President's Report.**

At about 8.30am on the morning of March 1st, I received a 'phone call from our Warden for the North - Stephen Healey - giving me the sad news that his wife Diane had died the night before.

Stephen asked me to pass on the news to as many colleagues in FEW as possible, as he was too upset to relate the news several times. I made many 'phone calls to Officers and others including one to Lanzarote where John Heslop of the Durham Gild currently was.

I was subsequently advised that a Service of Celebration of Diane's life was to be held in her Church in Newcastle on the 8' March at 2.30pm. I was determined to attend as Stephen was my friend as well as a colleague in FEW and Diane such a lovely person and had become a dear friend.

Unfortunately because of his own domestic difficulties, our President was not able to attend but asked me to represent FEW. The Master of York Gild would have attended but she was to attend a funeral in York for a past Master of the York Gild that same afternoon. She asked me to represent the York gild.

The Church at St. Andrews', Benton, was so full that many of the congregation had to be accommodated in an annexe. There were well in excess of 250 people present representing Diane's life, from her birth until her sad death, including The Lord Mayor of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, which demonstrated the respect in which she was held in her community.

Many Gildsmen also attended including Howard and Shirley Crapper, who had travelled from Oxford following another funeral in that City the day before, Alan Robson, Jim Evans and John Heslop who had returned from Lanzarote the day before, as well as other Gildsmen who, sadly, I did not recognise. I am also aware that many other Gilds and Freemen sent letters and cards of condolence. After the Service, a retiring collection was made for the work of 'Breast Cancer Care'.

It is often said that when one leaves, another arrives. So with us. We have lost the warmth and friendship of Diane but celebrate the arrival of young Logan. We send our combined Love to both families.

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

**Guilts:** Currently we have 38 Guilts on the books with four Guilts in Arrears.

**Individual Membership:**

The current membership stands at 373. This has dropped slightly since the last report.



### **Since September 2012:**

With the actual movement and alterations of members I will give these figures in September at the AGM to show the flow over a twelve month cycle. This should make the movement look more even. One person that said they were resigning paid the subscription this week for the next year.

### **Current payments:**

Late payments, again I have to say reminders are being sent out constantly. Currently 16 members are in arrears. These are the same members that I reported in January at the Court meeting in Leicester, as yet there has been no response from them.

**The Breakdown of members payments:** As ever this will be reported at the September AGM.

## **Editors Report.**

The last issue (173) was slightly delayed in getting to the printer, this was due to items not arriving by the due date and a lack of items received. Including items held over from issue 172 due to lack of space, I had only received sufficient items to fill ten pages plus cover by the closing date. I would appeal to all to ensure any items for publication arrive with me by the due date please, items for issue 174 should reach me by Friday the 22/3/13 please. The closing date for items for the next journal is published on the copyright page of each issue.

That said, my thanks to those who did contribute to issue 173, it was especially pleasing to receive the item from Altrincham, their first contribution for some time I believe.

## **Officer Without Portfolio's Report.**

- Firstly, my apologies for being unable to attend the meetings at York due to medical reasons.
- Since my last report you may be aware of my contributions to the F.E.W. website, including a Glossary of Freemen's Terms and a very recent piece on Allan W Berry of the Sudbury Freemen who sadly died in January.
- I have been keeping a general watch on national events and have drawn attention to political threats and/or dangers of government regulations that potentially may affect freemen.
- With respect to current delays or possible changes that may affect land registration under the 2006 Commons Act I have for trial purposes, placed an application to register a small piece of common land (21 Nov. 2012). The outcome should determine the effectiveness of any further attempts by freemen (currently) wishing to use this method to register similar lands.
- Finally, I have given considerable thought to the succession of Freedom and particularly by way of apprenticeship and am now awaiting further discussions.

## Proposal by Capt. Jim Evans. (see A.O.B. Item "a").

### The Freemen Of England And Wales (FEW) Prize For Initiative Pupil Information Form

Are you a secondary school pupil? Have you had an original idea in the last 12 months that demonstrates exceptional initiative? The Guild of Freemen of ..... would like to invite you to apply to win this year's FEW Prize for Initiative.

You may be wondering what constitutes 'initiative'. The judges will be looking for initiative in the broadest sense of the word. You must have started with an **original** idea that **you** have had in the last 12 months. The initiative may be your own commercial venture, or charity work, a community project, the environmental sphere, the arts... the sky is the limit!

You may enter as an individual or as a small group. You or your group should be nominated by a teacher or other representative from your school.

Details of how to enter by are provided on the attached "How to Enter" form together with the closing date for entries which is .....

There will be local heats in this area followed by the National Final in .....

Once all submissions are received they will go before the judging panel, which is made up of representatives from The Guild of Freemen and the ..... Council. A heat winner will be selected from all of the local entries.

You will be invited to .....in order to make a 10 minute presentation to the judging panel. You will be able to enhance your presentation with the use of visual aids or multimedia, such as PowerPoint. Your presentation will be followed by a question and answer session with the judges.

After the presentations, finalists will be selected by the judging panel and will be invited to the final, which takes place in ..... on ..... If you are selected as a finalist you will be able to invite friends and family to come and support you. All of the finalists will make a short presentation. The judging panel will then select the prizewinner(s) who will in the view of the judges, have demonstrated *exceptional* initiative and the greatest overall success\*.

The President of the Freemen of England and Wales will present the FEW Prize for Initiative. The winner will be presented with a Certificate from FEW together with a cheque for £1,000. The winner will also be interviewed by the President and given the opportunity to talk about their idea.

*\*The decision of the judging panel will be final and it will be under no obligation to award the prize if, in its view, none of the applicants meets the requirements of having demonstrated exceptional initiative. If additional applications are of a sufficiently high standard, runner-up prize(s) may be awarded.*

**Freemen Of England And Wales (FEW)  
Prize For Initiative  
How To Enter**

If you are interested in having your initiative recognised and rewarded there are three easy steps to entering the competition:

1. **Register your interest by email** on ..... An entry cover sheet will be sent to you and your contact details will be stored by The Guild of Freemen of..... If you know your idea or topic at this stage you can provide details but you don't have to.
  
2. **Prepare a Written Submission**. This should be a description of how you (or your group) have demonstrated initiative over the last 12 months. It must be between 500 and 1000 words and should be in Word format. Your submission should include the following information:
  - ◆ How is your activity/project/business innovative, creative or enterprising?
  - ◆ What was your goal, aim or reason?
  - ◆ Who is involved in the activity – both in delivering it and, if appropriate, those who have benefited?
  - ◆ How have you managed the activity?
  - ◆ What benefit has the activity had on you, or the participants or beneficiaries?
  - ◆ How has it been successful?

Your submission and the cover sheet should be emailed to ..... on .....

3. **Get support from two people**. One of your supporters should be from your school, for example a teacher, guidance teacher or head teacher. The other supporter can be anyone else who knows about your initiative and supports your entry such as a parent or friend. You will have to discuss your initiative with both of your supporters and ask them to write a letter of recommendation to **attach to your submission**.

**The closing date for submissions is .....**

You will receive an acknowledgement to prove that your submission has been received before the deadline and is being considered by the judging panel in the local round. If you have not received an acknowledgement within 5 days contact.....

If your submission makes it onto the shortlist you will be contacted by the Guild of Freemen and required to make a 10 minute presentation at ....., A finalist will then be selected to the grand final at ....., which takes place on .....

If you have any questions about the entry process please contact

..... **Good luck!**



Mrs. Donna Gibson receives her membership certificate from the President, Alan Fallows at the Court meeting in Bedern Hall, York. Photograph courtesy Hazel Hague.

### Subscriptions.

Members are reminded that the annual subscription for individual members is now **£10 per annum**, if you pay by standing order and have not already done so you are asked to adjust payment with your bank.

Any donations may be enhanced by giving under Gift Aid so that FEW can reclaim income tax at no cost to the member.

Gift Aid and Standing Order forms are available from the Membership Secretary or Treasurer (by post or email) or as downloads from the FEW Website.

### Hon Secretary's Notices.

#### Nominations for Executive Officers to serve for the period 2013-2014

Ref the AGM 2008 Directive, the time has now arrived for nominations to be submitted for officers to serve on the 2013-2014 FEW Executive. 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. Please note that in accordance with the FEW Constitution, 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 last four years.

Officers to be elected at the 2013 AGM (Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September), are:- President; Deputy President; Vice President; Hon Secretary; Hon Treasurer; Hon Membership Secretary; Hon Archivist; Hon Editor; and Officer Without Portfolio.

Nominations must be submitted to myself (Hon Secretary) by Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June latest, in order that they can be published in the Summer 2013 Journal. This will then allow all Member Gilds sufficient time for their full 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.

Ronald E. Leek Hon Secretary.

**Freemen of England and Wales**  
**Election of Executive Officers to serve for the year 2013-2014**  
**NOMINATION FORM**

Any nomination, properly proposed on this form, must be received by the Hon Secretary on or before the closing date of Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2013, in order that it can be published in the Summer 2013 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 2013-2014

Proposer.....  
(*sign*)

Seconder.....  
(*sign*)

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

..... of the Association of Freemen of England and  
Wales for the period 2013-2014.

Signed  
.....

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

A photocopy of this form is acceptable.

## **Freemen of England & Wales AGM 2013**

### **Hosted by the Freemen of the City of Oxford.**

The Freemen of the City of Oxford look forward to welcoming you to Oxford this September . St Catherine's College will provide our accommodation in the impressive Scandinavian designed campus where the architect Arne Jacobsen was involved in every detail including the tapestries , furniture and even the cutlery .All bedrooms are en suite and most have refrigerators . Free wi-fi is available throughout and there is also a computer room with ten on line computers where you can check your emails etc. We are delighted to offer this premium accommodation where we will all be on the one low level site together , yet close to the City centre and even limited parking facilities. The lounge bar will remain open until 1am on both nights.

After our served Welcome dinner on Friday evening we shall have what can only be described as a sparkling presentation and introduction to Oxford. This brief interlude while we enjoy our after dinner coffee and then its back to the lounge cash bar for networking and fellowship .

The Lord Mayor of Oxford will formally open our AGM , which is being held in the Award winning Bernard Sunley Lecture Theatre .A formal photograph of the line up of delegates will take place just prior to the Saturday morning meeting.

After served lunch we hope we can guide you to some fascinating sights of Oxford . All within a short walk of our college . It is the national open doors weekend and some our highlights will include places which are not normally open to the public. All very exciting . On show all the time at the Ashmoleum Museum is the King Arthur Jewel . This is what many believe is the beginning of the Craft Guilds . This wondrous Saxon Jewel has to be seen on the second floor in room 40 . It marks the time in history when tribal warfare gave way to enterprise and trade. The very beginning of Freemen perhaps ?

On Saturday evening we want you to relax and enjoy a complimentary drinks reception and accompanied by music before the four course Banquet which also includes Wine and Port . The Chef has been preparing this menu for several months and is looking forward to the challenge. The loyal toast and fine words from our top table will precede our withdrawal to the lounge cash bar at student prices.

On Sunday morning , our robes and badges to the fore , we shall process along Oxford's famous Holywell and Broad Street to one of Oxfords oldest colleges . The Dean of Balliol and the City Rector will officiate at our Morning Service . Our large procession will then take us along the pedestrian and historic street of Cornmarket to the Town Hall.

We are invited to a Civic Reception , to which we are truly grateful in this tough economic time. The Town Hall is built on the site of the former Guild Hall. There is a display of the City Silver Plate and much more. The ceremony of passing on the Baton to the next Host Guild will precede the exchange of presentations and closing speeches before our final farewells.

**Freemen of England & Wales AGM**  
**Oxford 13th - 15th September 2013**  
**St Catherines College , Manor Road , OX1 3UJ**

**Programme (times subject to change) :**

**Friday 13th**

2pm College Reception opens for checking in . Tea/Coffee available in rooms  
3pm to 5pm FEW Registration & Information Packs in Foyer  
5.30 pm Executive Meeting - Room A in BS Lecture Theatre  
6.00pm Bar opens in Commom Room  
7.00pm Dinner in Dining Room . Served at Table  
8.45 pm Please be seated in Lecture Theatre for exciting introduction to Oxford  
9.30 pm Return to Lounge Bar - remains open till 1am

**Saturday 14th**

8am -9am Breakfast in Dining Hall  
9am -9.30 am FEW Registration & Information Packs in Foyer  
9.15 am Group Photo . Robed - Outside, far end of Lecture Theatre.  
9.45 - 10.35 Open Forum - BST . Ask all those tricky questions which may also benefit others.  
10.35 Tea / Coffee in Bernard Sunley Lecture Theatre  
11am - 12.45 AGM . Robed where possible  
1pm -2.30pm Lunch . Served at Table  
2.45 - 5pm Oxford on Show. Tour options  
6.15 pm Bar opens  
7.30 pm Drinks Reception with Music  
7.50 pm Guests to seat for Dinnner  
8.00 pm Four course Banquet with music  
9.45pm Loyal Toast  
10.30pm Withdraw to Lounge Bar

**Sunday 15th**

8am- 9am Breakfast in Dining Hall  
Check out of Rooms  
10.15 Assemble at Reception and robe for procession to Church  
10.30 - 10.50 Process to Balliol College Chapel via Holywell Road & Broad Street  
11am - 12am Church Service with the Dean of Balliol College and the City Rector  
12.05 Procession from Church to Town Hall  
12.30 -2pm Civic Reception . Presentations , handing over Host Baton . View City Plate display  
2pm Closing address by Deputy President and farewells

**Please note: Any additional nights accommodation must be made booked and paid for with the booking form.**

**Please notify us of any special dietary requirements at time of booking.**

**Booking Form**  
**FEW AGM Oxford 2013**

	Number Attending	Cost Each £ - p	Total Cost £ - p
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September</b>			
Evening Dinner .....	.....	25.00	.....
Accommodation (B & B) .....	.....	85.00	.....
<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September</b>			
Open Forum .....	.....	FREE	.....
Tea/Coffee .....	.....	2.50	.....
AGM .....	.....	FREE	.....
Luncheon .....	.....	20.00	.....
Banquet .....	.....	70.00 (inc wine etc)	.....
Accommodation (B & B) .....	.....	85.00	.....
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September</b>			
Church Service .....	.....	FREE	.....
Civic Reception .....	.....	FREE	.....
<b>Grand total :</b>		<b>£</b>	<b>: p</b>

**Name:**..... **A Freeman of:**.....

**Address:**.....

.....

**Postcode:**..... **Email/**.....

**Tel: No**.....

**Names of Guests:**.....

A photocopy of this form is acceptable. Cheques should be made payable to **“The Freemen of the City of Oxford”** and sent with this form completed to : Simon Gibbs , Hon. Treasurer , Percy House , Canoe Lake Road , Ryde , Isle of Wight . PO33 1LY .



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

**Front Cover:** Holgate Windmill York, voted Britain's best roundabout in 2012. The York Guild made a donation towards the restoration of the sails. Photograph by the Hon. Editor.

**Back Cover:** HMS Diamond. Photo by kind permission of Bob Crane Past Master City of Coventry Freemen's Guild.

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

The editor can accept text for publication 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. 175) is the 21/6/13.** If you wish to receive future editions of this journal by email (as a PDF) rather than through the post, please contact the editor with your details.

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**Warden for the South West:** Vacant

