



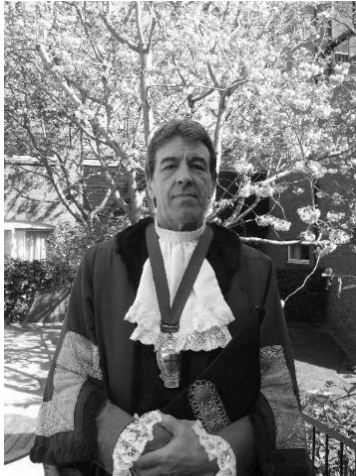
*Freemen of
England
and Wales.*



**Journal 175, Summer 2013,
With Compliments.**



ISSN 1749-4095



President's Message.

Dear Members,

We are approaching the September AGM when I will relinquish my Presidency and hand over the reins in the elegant surroundings of Oxford.

Whilst mentioning Oxford AGM I feel that I must comment about the cost of the weekend as there has been some feedback on the subject. Whilst I appreciate that the cost is higher than some may have liked I know Howard Crapper has worked wonders to obtain some discounts for members staying at St. Catherines College so re-check the booking form in this issue to make sure you have the correct prices. We must also be aware that there are alternative small hotels and B&B's available which may provide a reduction in cost, but the fact is that to enjoy the magnificent surroundings of an academic city such as Oxford we have to pay a little more. Rest assured the weekend will be worth it.

As I mentioned earlier this is my final term as President but I and my fellow Executive Officers are still working hard to finalise satisfactory results before the October deadline for registrations under the Land Registration Act 2002. I have long argued that the registration of Freemens Rights through Commons Registration was incorrect and that our rights were not Rights of Common but Exclusive Rights of Pasturage. I feel even more strongly that this is the correct terminology and that we should pursue it. If you feel that your Gild is affected by this contact me NOW so we can progress it further.

I have also been working on the question of the modernisation of apprenticeship. Some Gilds seem to be reticent to widen their horizons and embrace this concept so I will prepare a paper for the AGM with my personal views on the subject married with the thoughts of our Officer Without Portfolio, Alan Shelley who has again this year produced outstanding papers for inclusion on our website. It will then be for individual Gilds to decide upon their preferred course of action (or inaction) as they so desire.

I would like to close by re-iterating my view that FEW must always prove to be a relevant source of guidance and support for Gilds. I trust that we have succeeded in this over the last three years and that we will continue to do so.

Best wishes,
Alan Fallows

News From The Guilds.

Berwick-upon-Tweed: 900th. Anniversary.

Berwick has a very ancient history. It is first mentioned in a Danish source in 833 and there are repeated mentions from then on. These were chronicles which were an oral tradition although many were later written down. The first official written record of Berwick is in 1115 when the then Prince David granted to Selkirk Abbey in Berwick; 'A plowgate of land in Berwick, one house below the church of St. Lawrence, extending to the Tweed, the one half of a fishery, the seventh part of a mill and forty shillings out of the yearly revenue of the town. Berwick must by this time have been a sizeable town for monetary grant of this size to have been made. Selkirk Abbey was repeated raided and was relocated stone by stone at Kelso.

In 1119 David used the term Royal Burgh although at that time he was still Prince of Scotland becoming King in 1124. Berwick and Roxburgh were referred to as Royal Burghs and a Sheriff was appointed for Berwick (Vicecomes de Berwic). Berwick was stated to be a fort or fortified village standing on the north bank of the estuary of the River Tweed at the junction of roads and a centre for the exchange of local products. It was possible to ford the Tweed at low tide and in good weather. This ford ran from the Shoregate to near Tweedmouth Parish Church. The Royal Burghs were distinguished from Burgh of Regality or burgh of barony by being directly responsible to the king and protected by him.

To the Guild of Freemen of Berwick-upon-Tweed these are important anniversaries for Berwick and we would like to commemorate them in a suitable manner. The anniversaries are part of Berwick's history and traditions and it would be much more suitable if they were marked by the Town and not just the Freemen. We would be grateful if Berwick Town Council would consider joining with the Guild to mark this anniversary in 2015. The Berwick Guild is a member of the Court of Deans of Scotland. The AGM of the Court of Deans will be held in Berwick in the spring of 2015. This will mark the end of a year in office of the Lord President of the Court of Deans which in that year will be a Berwick Freeman. There will be a formal dinner as part of the AGM. The date of the AGM will be fixed by the Berwick Guild.

As this takes place in the spring it may be convenient to tie in with the May fair and raise the profile of this festival. If Berwick Town Council would be willing to mark this anniversary we would welcome a meeting with Council members to consider the way forward.

Coventry:

On 26th March the annual **Charity Awards Dinner** was held in St Mary's Guildhall. Besides the Masters chosen charities of Exhall Grange Special School and Zoe's Place Baby's Hospice receiving £1250 and £500 respectively, there were nine other £250 awards. Recipients included church appeals, community transport, and multiple sclerosis charities.

On 17th April the **Guild AGM** was held in the Council House Chamber, with Master Charlie Platts presiding. Clerk Jim Parry PM gave a comprehensive report on the Guild's

activities, with Renter Warden David Hearn presenting the accounts. Sudhin Basu was confirmed as Master Elect.

On 26th April a party of Coventry Guildsmen and partners were pleased to celebrate the diamond anniversary year of the **York Guild**, by attending their banquet weekend.

On 26th April the Lord Mayor presided over a **Freemen's Admission Court** in the Council Chamber, with the majority of the 32 candidates being ex Rolls-Royce apprentices. This was followed by a hot buffet, our thanks to the Lord Mayor and Guild President Cllr Tim Sawdon for his hospitality.

On 3rd May we welcomed Guild visitors from around the country to our **banquet weekend** 'get together' and hot supper at the Days Hotel. A testing quiz kept out attention before dispersing to discounted rate hotel rooms. 4th May saw the black tie banquet in St Marys Guildhall, with guests from York, Leicester, and London Guilds. Bailiffs from the Alcester and Henley-in-Arden Court Leets, and an officer from Coventry's affiliated ship HMS Diamond also attended, and witnessed the installation of our new Master Sudin Basu and his officers with due pomp and ceremony. Guest speaker John Nollett of award winning company Pailton Engineering highlighted that apprentices were the lifeblood of the company. Special thanks to Master of Ceremonies David Evans, who retires after 20 years in this role. PM David has also previously been the FEW Warden for the Midlands.

Sunday 5th May saw the robed procession to the Guild church of Holy Trinity, led by the civic sword, mace, and Guild Banner. During the service, the Rev. David Mayhew was installed as Guild Chaplain for the new Guild year. The return procession later enjoyed a buffet in the Council House, kindly provided by our President and Lord Mayor, Cllr Tim Sawdon.

On 7th June, Coventry Guildsmen and partners were pleased to support the **Leicester Guild's** banquet weekend events, with the supper and quiz at Freeman's Holt on the Friday, the banquet at Devonshire Place on Saturday, and the church service at St Mary de Castro on the Sunday.

On 11th June the **Senior Freeman's Evening** was held at the Coundon Social Club. Over 60 Freeman enjoyed a buffet and fellowship. A raffle raised £166 for the new Master's charity fund. Our thanks to Almoner PM Duncan Hall for his organisation.

On 18th June the **President's Dinner** was held in St Mary's Guildhall Crypt. Master Sudin Basu welcomed Cllr Gary Crookes, and invited him to serve as Guild President during his term as Lord Mayor. PM Charlie Platts presented Cllr Tim Sawdon with a Guild Plaque to mark his year as Guild President, and PM Derek Austin received a similar plaque to mark his term as Master during 2010-11.

Leicester:

Since our last report the Leicester Guild has been involved with the following activities' Our annual open morning was held on Sunday 7th April at Freeman's Holt when a number of members came along for a chat and a cup of tea or coffee' and to pay their subscriptions and to purchase Gild products. The morning concluded at 12 noon with a raffle.

Saturday 13th April a cheese and wine evening was held at Freemen's Holt to raise money for the 'Save our Steeple' appeal for St Mary de Castro Church. An excellent presentation was given by Virginia Wright, a Blue Badge Guide, on the history of the Church and its surroundings. The Leicester Gild has a particular connection with the church that was founded in the year 1107 by Robert Meulan, who granted a charter in the same year to the Merchants of Leicester for the formation of the Gild of Merchants. The evening raised £261 and with further donations from Gild members we were able to make a donation of £441 to the appeal.

Wednesday 17th April our Common Hall (AGM) was held in the Council Chamber in Leicester's Town Hall, in the presence of the The Lord Mayor of Leicester Councillor Abdul Osman. After the Lord Mayor's opening address and the reply from John Tolton, Master of the Gild, the Master then presented the Lord Mayor with a set of Gild cufflinks and a cheque for £200 for his charity The Stroke Appeal. The meeting then continued with the election of officers. The new Master elected to the Gild will be Tony Chettle who will take office at the annual Banquet in June. Michael Ayres was elected to Deputy Master, apart from the two offices there was little change in the composition of the Court. In any other Business it culminated in a lively discussion about attracting new younger members, there is a definite need to attract those Freemen who feel that they are not catered for because of their age, but there is even greater need for those who feel left out to come forward and actively take part in organizing events for their own age group. The meeting then closed at 9 15 pm when we retired to the Lord Mayor's Tea Room for a buffet supper. Friday 19th April eight members of the Leicester Gild travelled to York to represent the Gild at the Freemen of York Gild Banquet weekend.

Wednesday 23rd April seventeen robed Freemen and their wives represented the Gild for the annual St Georges Day service held at St Mary de Castro Church, where everyone in the congregation receives a red rose, this is followed with a procession to the statue of St George for the blessing to our Saint.

Friday 3rd May six members of the Gild travelled to Coventry to represent the Gild at the Freemen of Coventry Guild Banquet weekend.

Wednesday 5th June. The High Sheriff of Leicestershire, Mrs. Sally Bowie invited six members of the Gild to be present at the Crown Court Service, held at St Mary de Castro Church in the presence of HM Judge the Hon. Mr. Justice Leggatt. After the service the Judge's Procession moved to Leicester Castle for the reading of the Letters Patent.

Friday 7th June. The start of our Banquet weekend, the freemen and their wives from visiting Gilds attended a pre Banquet supper. This was held in the Community Centre at Freemen's Holt. The evening began with welcome drinks and a quiz before supper of Fish or Chicken and Chips was served at 8 30 pm.

Saturday 8th June. Blue badge guide Robert Gregory volunteered to take the visiting Freemen on a guided walk of King Richard 111 sites and to explain the Kings connections with Leicester. (This was a most informative tour especially to our friends from York.) The Banquet at Devonshire Place began at 7 00 pm with the guests welcomed by the Master, John Tolton and his wife Josie before being served with pre welcome dinks. The meal was served at 7 30 pm in the presence of the Lord Mayor of Leicester Councillor

Mustafa Kamal and the Lord Mayor's Consort Fiona Ferrao. Menu consisted of a choice of starter followed with a Sorbet, the main course being Beef Fillet Mignon with seasonal vegetables. A choice of the sweet menu was followed by Devonshire Place Country Cheeseboard Platter, with coffee and mints. After a short comfort break, the speeches followed and concluded with the Master John Tolton who proposed the toast to our guests and responded by Howard Crapper, Master of the Freeman of the City of Oxford. With the speeches completed we then held The Installation by the retiring Master, John Tolton, of the incoming Master, Tony Chettle. We sent our best wishes and congratulations to the new Master and his consort Mrs Hazel Hague of York.

Sunday 9th June. The annual Freeman's Church service was held at St Mary de Castro Church, after robing in Castle House we processed round Castle Green with the Lord Mayor and Consort at the head of the procession, followed by the Master of the Gild and Consort, the Patron of the Gild, Col Martin OBE and the High Sheriff of Leicestershire and Consort. After the service the Clergy and Choir invited the congregation to join them for refreshments in the Church.

Henley-in-Arden:

The **Court Leet Dinner** (pictured below) on 18th April filled the Guild Hall as usual, with guests from Alcester, Bromsgrove, and Warwick Court Leets, and the FEW Area Warden. After an excellent meal by Sue Dalby Catering, and the usual toasts, John Johnson of Henley based Johnson Coaches gave an illustrated talk on the development of the firm to its eminent position today.



Court Leet Day on 1st June was blessed with good weather for an action packed day, starting with the 9.30am proclamation by the Town Crier in the High Street. Re-enactment activities included: butter and bread weighing; ale tasting; and beating of the manorial bounds. An artisans market in the Guild Hall gardens attracted 25 stalls, and together with

Morris dancing, a pig roast, and a jazz band recital all added extra activities, not forgetting the annual plastic duck race on the River Alne! Some 500 visitors were estimated, and over £1500 raised for the vital job of the Guild Hall Trust to maintain the historic building.

Great Grimsby:

After the excitement of the Queen's Jubilee in 2012, which led to a change in date, The Enrolled Freemen of Grimsby held their 161st Annual General Meeting on the traditional first Monday of June at twelve noon.

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 three vacancies to fill on the committee and one of those elected was Emma Pywell, Stephen's daughter, who now becomes the third generation of the family to serve on the Committee. She wasted no time in raising a laugh when she announced that she often caught her dad parading around the house wearing his medal of office.

As we go to press, we have just signed contracts for our (partly) European Funded Business and Media Hub which will be built in a disused part of our market, and which will form a major element of the proposed regeneration of this part of the town. Actual construction starts in July and is due to be completed by early December this year. The complete refurbishment of the retail side of the market is now complete with new stalls and flooring being laid, and the substantial solar panel installation on the roof is generating a good return on our investment.

The Local Authority are just about to commence their "public realm" improvement works and as part of this the Freemen have made three successful grant applications, one for work at the market and two for other properties in our ownership which are being totally renovated.

Warwick:

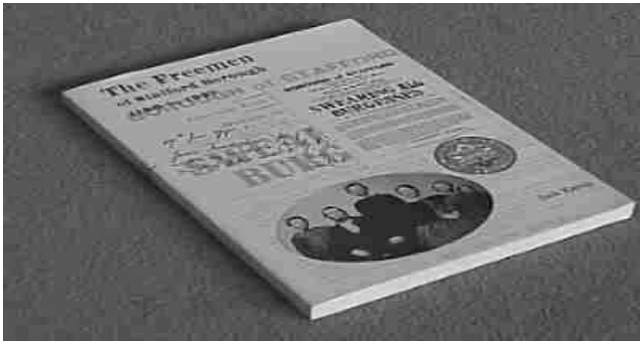
Work continues on the Heritage Lottery funded major renovation of the Court Leet's usual meeting venue, the 1725 Grade I listed Courthouse in Jury Street. With any ancient building 'surprises' are to be expected, and whereas old oak panelling, a hidden well and cellars are of interest, the discovery of significant cracks between the buildings rear wall and Victorian extensions was of concern. Rectification, and deepening of the lift shaft to allow access to the basement Yeomanry museum has necessitated underpinning of the rear wall structure. As the completion date slipped, the Court agreed to postpone the scheduled 2013 Town Crier competition to 2014 – to also help better celebrate the 1100th anniversary of the towns formation in 914 by Ethelfleda, the daughter of Alfred the Great.

Stafford:

Ready for a change after 1100 years. In 913 Aethelflaed, the Lady of the Mercians, and daughter of King Alfred the Great, fortified Stafford as a defended settlement. Stafford means a 'ford' by a 'staithe' (landing place). The original settlement was on a dry sand and gravel peninsula that provided a strategic crossing point in the marshy valley of the River Sow, a tributary of the River Trent. Earlier, St Bertelin had established a chapel in the area, but little is known about any organisation of his people. So in 2013 we are

celebrating 1100 years since the formal start of our town's history.

By the time of the Domesday Book of 1068, there was a mention of thirty six burgesses of the town, operating in the domain of the King and Earl Roger who presumably lived at Stafford Castle. That may be where it is today or on a site nearer to the town. By 1164 we start to get the names of the town officials with Walter de Stafford cited as Provost and by 1223 Simon de Celario is mentioned as the Reeve, or head burgess. Over the ensuing centuries we have many names recorded and, thanks to much research our honorary historian, Jack Kemp, these are enshrined in his very valuable book on the subject (Pictured).



The rules for entry to the status of burgess in the town have obviously changed over this considerable period of time, but they came into four main categories, Heredity, servitude, gift and purchase. By the time Stafford reached the unenviable status of a “Rotten Borough” in the 1840s, corruption was rife, with the mayor swearing in lots of his friends on the morning of an election, because only burgesses had the vote. Shortly afterwards the latter two categories were abolished, although the right for the town to give “honorary freedoms” to organisations and to individuals continues to this day.



Photograph: Stafford's new freemen 2012.

That leaves us with Heredity, (or “Birth”), which meant that the status could be passed by a burgess to his son or grandson, and “Servitude”, which required the applicant to have served a seven year indentured apprenticeship in the borough. By the 1960s, seven year

indentures were few and far between, so five years was agreed, later to be reduced to three years. And so it has continued over the past 50 or so years. However, with changing circumstances these definitions have started to become an impediment to survival the freedom in the borough.

In Stafford, over ensuing years, the rights of the freemen were diminished. They no longer ran the administration or justice in the town; they no longer held the exclusive right to appoint Members of Parliament; they were not the only ones permitted to trade in the markets and even their rights to fish the river Sow, as it passed through the town, were questioned. Indeed, the only right which continues to this day is to hold a plot on the Freemen's allotments site, our equivalent of the ancient "Burgess Plot" where a burgess had enough land to feed his family. For this and other reasons, we tend to use 'Burgess' instead of 'Freeman' as it is not gender specific and our ancient oath begins "Forasmuch as the Mayor of Stafford has called me to be a Burgess of this borough ---"

The passing of the 2009 Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act gave us the opportunity to redefine the rules of admission to bring them into line with the 21st century. We were anxious to ensure that the spirit of the historic rules were kept, but with ever changing definitions, gender equality, people taking up the freedom later in life and the tendency for training to be undertaken in multiple locations things needed to be redefined. A lot of thought went into our initial proposals and in 2011 they were submitted to the Legal department of the Borough Council for consideration. Little happened for six months as lawyers like precedents and there weren't any. Hence, a meeting was arranged between SBC and Guild representatives to thrash it out.

The meeting included the appointed lawyer, the head of administration, the Mayor's secretary, and, from our side, myself as master, a guild council member, who is a former Mayor of Stafford, and another burgess, who is a cabinet member of the Borough Council. We expected confrontation, as earlier holders of these offices had been very defensive of their "Right" to appoint freemen, but instead we got cooperation and an understanding of our position. Indeed it was accepted that they people with the greatest interest in keeping the traditions viable and undiluted were the burgesses themselves. A major step forward was the decision to let the guild arbitrate on qualifications offered under servitude and the right to approve the documents offered under Birth applications.

To that end the proposals had to be crystallised and submitted to the burgesses as a whole for approval. The first bit was fine, but how do you find out who the burgesses are, when the vast majority have shown little interest in either the Guild or the Allotments Trustees. The current "Freemen's Roll" is a book starting on 3rd October 1787. However, it is handwritten, and never updated to indicate either the demise or relocation of the people listed and hence was hardly the most useful of documents. Fortunately Jack's book gave us a printed transcription up to 1997, and after that the guild has made attempts to document the names and addresses of those sworn in at subsequent Freemen's Courts, but not everybody has been forthcoming with the information. Thank goodness for the concept of "reasonable" in identifying potential voters in the ballot.

We had 327 names on our lists, (albeit incomplete), with some known to have died and less than 50 having joined the Guild. We had about 70 e-mail addresses and about 30

could be issued by hand leaving 180 to be sent through the post. The postal task was not only expensive for a small guild but the thought of printing addressing, enveloping and stamping was worrying. Once again the SBC staff came up trumps, offering to do that for us and correlate any returns sent to them, which was a godsend. A spread-sheet helped us to correlate all the various returns, including people who had marked both yes and no, slips returned with no marking; some 30 marked “Unknown return to sender”, and some from the same person at different addresses! Sadly there were also several difficult phone calls informing us of recently departed relatives.

Anyway, with a 34% return and 98% in favour, we think we can claim to have complied with the rules and returned an agreement. So what next? Nobody knows when or why the seven to five, then to three year changes mentioned earlier took place, as they were not documented. Our former Mayor remembered that there was such a thing as a “Mayor’s Statement” a seldom used procedure where the facts are given to the full council without debate. We propose to ask our new mayor, (a lady as it happens), to make such a statement about our new rules, and then get as much publicity as we can to see what interest there is from newly enfranchised people.

Ladies claiming by birth, children of burgesses born before their father was sworn in, people undertaking training away from town, (but carrying out the results of the training in Stafford for at least two years), and those benefitting from a more modern definition of servitude should all help to boost our numbers. Hopefully, this will benefit the Guild and the Trustees, but perhaps more important generated more civic pride in a town that Aethelflaed started 1100 years ago.

Twenty Days in June.

For twenty days in June a possibly unique sharing of positions between two Gilds occurred. Mrs. Hazel Hague (Master of York from June 2012 to 28th June 2013) became consort to her consort Mr. Tony Chettle when he became Master of Leicester on the 8th June 2013 (See picture on the back cover). A unique position helping bring two Gilds even closer together whilst others in their City's bicker over a Kings remains.

Honorary Freedom *Conferment.*

By, Alan Shelley, Officer Without Portfolio, May 2013.

Pursuant to section 248 of the Local Govt. Act 1972, as amended by section 27 of the Local Democracy Act 2009, the admission of freemen (other than honorary) of a pre-1974 borough is approved by the chairman of the district council.

Prior to 1974, a number of cities and boroughs exercised by charter, custom or statute, powers of appointment of honorary freedoms, sheriffs, high stewards, honorary recorders etc. As a result of reorganisation, the area of an existing borough became a parish.

After 1974, a number of local authorities were given power to admit honorary freemen,

pursuant to section 249 of the 1972 Act. However, that power was not extended to parish councils. The position was partially rectified by section 180 of the Local Govt., Planning and Land Act 1980 which permitted any parish having a grant to be called a royal town to admit honorary freemen. Prior to 2010, only 10 local councils had the standing to confer the title of honorary freeman; the English cities of Chichester, Ely, Hereford, Lichfield, Ripon, Truro and Wells and three cities in Wales, Bangor, St David's and the Royal Town of Caernarfon.

On 12 January 2010, the 2009 Act amended the 1972 Act to enable local councils to confer honorary titles. By virtue of section 249 (5) and (6) of the 1972 Act as amended, all local councils may exercise powers to confer the title "honorary freeman" for eminent services to the council's area. Section 249 (8) of the 1972 Act as amended provides that the admission of an honorary freeman must be made by a meeting of the full council specially convened for such a purpose and passed by no less than two thirds of the members of the council. Section 249 (8) also requires "notice of the object of the meeting" to be given.

Existing practice: - Prior to the changes in law set out above, some councils, who wanted to honour local residents, for notable service, conferred titles such as 'honorary citizen' or 'honorary townsman' or even 'honorary burgess'. Such titles should not be applied in the future.

"Harry Ward 2 - Freemen in England and Wales" Reminder.

As noted in Journal 173, all material collected by Alan Robson, Past President, has been added to the FEW Website. However, by virtue of the time that has elapsed since this was originally sent to Alan, and combined with the unquestionable effects of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill (HL), it is most likely that this is in need of revision in order to keep it up-to-date and relevant. The onus is now **on the Guilds** to advise of any amendments which need to be made and these may be sent to Stephen White.

The Website

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

We continue to add to the website but would like to know of events going on in your Guilds/areas. Please let Stephen White know so that they can be included on a rolling basis. And don't forget to visit our Facebook page. There is a link to it from our website or you may find it at;- <https://www.facebook.com/FreemenOfEnglandWales>

Vice President

I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Martin Hanks, a Freeman of Oxford but resident in Bude, as Warden for the South West. It has been a long while since we were represented in this area and I am sure that Martin will be an asset to the Association.

Hon Secretary's Notices

47th AGM

Saturday 14th September 2013 St Catherine's College, Oxford

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 46th AGM held on Saturday 15th September 2012 in York, and circulated in the Annual Record and Gazette, Journal No 172, October 2012.
 - 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) Installation of new President.
- 16) Executive Officers 2013-2014.
- 17) Wardens 2013-2014.
- 18) Any Other Business.
- 19) Closure of Proceedings, and President's Withdrawal Procession.

At the closing date of Saturday 15th June, nominations for FEW President 2013/2015, and Executive Officers 2013/2014 had been received as follows:-

President:- Gordon Varndell
Deputy President:- Ronald Leek
Vice President:- Stephen White
Hon Secretary:- Ronald Leek
Hon Treasurer:- Stephen White
Hon Membership Secretary:- Eileen Forth
Hon Archivist:- Alan Fallows
Hon Editor:- Tom Gibson
Officer Without Portfolio:- Alan Shelley

As there is one nomination only for each of the positions, no election will be necessary at the AGM, and the nominees as listed will be confirmed in office.

R.E.Leek.

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 Oxford's 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 Gild 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.

Delegates to our AGM should be aware that the bar in the college will be cash only, it does not have facilities to accept cheques, debit or credit cards. There is no ATM on site.

Booking Form
FEW AGM Oxford 2013

	Number Attending	Cost Each £ - p	Total Cost £ - p
Friday 13th September			
Evening Dinner	25.00	.....
Accommodation (B & B) *	85.00	.....
Saturday 14th September			
Open Forum	FREE	.....
Tea/Coffee	2.50	.....
AGM	FREE	.....
Luncheon	20.00	.....
Banquet *	70.00 (inc wine etc)	.....
Accommodation (B & B)*	85.00	.....
<u>* If booking accommodation for Friday and Saturday nights and for the banquet (marked with *) please deduct £60 from total Discount code LN</u>			
Sunday 15th September			
Church Service	FREE	.....
Civic Reception	FREE	.....
Grand total :		£	: p

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

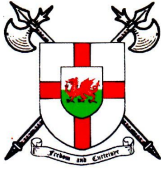
Address:.....

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.**



Freemen of England & Wales

An Association of Freemen and Guilds in England and Wales

Patron: The Right Honourable Earl Bathurst

Description of items for sale

- Tie** Navy blue background (ultra fine Reppe material) with one woven FEW motif (red / White). Tie length Approx - 1450mm and blade width 90mm
- Medallion** 40mm dia, silver gilt (hallmarked). Medallion with an engraved and enamelled FEW motif, supplied complete with a strong neck ribbon. (hook and eye fastening)
- Medallion** As above, but material is metal gilt (not hall marked)
- Wall Plaque** Heraldic, regimental - style shield measuring 150mm x 175mm. Solid wood base finished in dark wood stain, with raised FEW badge, hand painted in full colour. There are gilt coloured scrolls above and below the emblem bearing the Association name and motto.
- Blazer Badge** A round badge with the FEW motif and the 90mm circular enclosure wire woven into a black felt base material.
- Robe Badge** A round badge with double circular enclosure; the outer circle being 150mm in dia. the circumferential lettering and the FEW motif are wire woven into a blue base felt material.
- Lapel Badge** A 25mm diameter silver - coloured metal badge with a red white and blue enamelled finish bearing the FEW motif and motto. There is a pin fastening, complete with a safety catch on the rear.
- Car Sticker** 110mm diameter with a blue background and a reversed - out white design and lettering. The cross of St George and the Welsh Dragon are in red. There is a peel - off protective fronting, designed to be stuck on the inside Of car windscreen...etc
- Book Sticker** As described above for the car sticker; but it has a self - adhesive backing. Designed to enhance the cover of your "Aspects of Freedom" folder or your AGM minutes file ...etc
- Membership Certificate** Signed by the President of FEW; These certificates are for full or Associate Individual members (**please state when ordering**) They are A4 size with a FEW motif in full colour and lettering in early English style. Your name, place of freedom and date of joining the FEW Association are added in matching lettering.
- Ceremonial Robe** These robes are made to order to the measurements you give when you complete the order form. The Robes are in deep maroon with white moire revers and pale blue trim which extend around the yoke. Available in wool worsted or polyester material. Please Note: The robe badge must be purchased as a separate item. at the time of ordering your ceremonial robe.
- Aspects of Freedom** By Charles Sparrow QC. - FEW Past Honorary counsellor. Each year during our Annual General Meeting weekend. Charles Sparrow captivated Freemen and guests with one of his intriguing talks on some aspects of the Freedom. The subjects covered, the year and venue of the talks are listed on the order form. For a factual basis of Freemen history, their legal rights and their aspirations, these are transcripts are a must for active Freeman

Ladies Scarf Italian made in a soft polyester material, 675mm square with the Freeman of England motif in each corner

Lapel Badge A 19mm silver coloured metal badge with enamelled finish bearing the Freeman of England motif and motto. Pin fastener with a safety catch on the rear.

Sticker The design is 65mm diameter in red, silver and blue. It has the Freeman of England motif in the centre with the Association name in the centre with the name above and the motto below. This is all printed on a white plastic material (70mm x 70mm) - self adhesive on the back.

The Esprit Pen

A real must have item for all Freeman. The Esprit features bold contemporary styling with a gleaming tri-sided barrel, polished trim and a soft rubber grip. The colour is Burgundy with a Gold trim. The words "The Freeman of England and Wales" is engraved on the barrel.

A Fine Leather Wallet

This wallet has been specially made for the Freeman of England and Wales by the York leading craftsmen in leather, it has been designed to house five of the new A6 size documents with comfort and also has a clear view compartment to house your membership card. It is made of soft warm leather and will fit in the inside jacket pocket or a small bag.

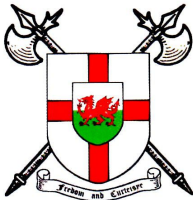
Freemen in England

By Harry Ward (our founder President) First published in 1975, this is the definitive book on the Freedom It includes a map, photographs, illustrations and brief accounts of The Freedom of 58 towns and cities within England and Wales. There is also a mention of Freedom in certain Scottish Burghs. In this book you will also find information relating to the origins and history of Freeman, their lands, apprentices and the position with regard to women. There is a section appertaining to the local government act of 1972, that almost destroyed the future of the freedom.

Enamel Logo Cuff links

This is quite a nice pair of cuff links with the Association FEW Logo in enamel

If you require any of these items the order may be placed with
The Honorary Membership Secretary
Ms Eileen Forth, 88 Whitethorn Close, Huntington York, YO31 9EU.



Freemen of England & Wales

An Association of Freemen and Guilds in England and Wales

Patron: "The Right Honourable Earl Bathurst"

17 November 2012

REGALIA ORDER No1

Please forward the following items bearing the "FREEMEN OF ENGLAND AND WALES" logo:-

	Please state		Quantity	
.....Tie.	Navy Blue or Maroon	@ £ 13 .80 each	.....	£.....
.....Medallion	Silver Gilt (hallmarked)	@ £ 100.50 each	.....	£.....
	Metal Gilt	@ £ 68 .00 each	.....	£.....
.....Wall Plaque		@ £ 28.50 each	.....	£.....
.....Blazer Badge (90mm round)	**	@ £ 15 .80 each	.....	£.....
.....Robe Badge (150mm round)	***	@ £ 21 .90 each	.....	£.....
	** To be worn on blazer breast pocket	*** To be worn on left sleeve.		
.....Lapel Badge		@ £ 3 .30 each	.....	£.....
.....Car Sticker		@ £ 1 .10 each	.....	£.....
.....Book Sticker		@ £ 1 .10 each	.....	£.....
.....Membership Certificate		@ £ 2 .80 each	.....	£.....
.....Ceremonial Gown (in polyester)		@ £195 .00 each #	.....	£.....
.....Ceremonial Gown (in wool worsted)		@ £280 .00 each #	.....	£.....
.....For the gowns please state	Chest size; _____		Height; _____	
	#(EXCLUDES BADGE)			
.....Eprit Pen	(a real must have)	@ £ 3 .50 each	.....	£.....
.....Real Leather Wallet for documents and card		@ £ 16 .50 each	.....	£.....
.....Enamel Logo Cuff Links		@ £ 13 .50 pair	.....	£.....

I wish to make a contribution to the **Legal Fund** to provide for legal advice on Freemen's problems.....£.....

I wish to make a donation to the **Insignia & Robe Fund** £.....

Total amount £ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Post code _____

Date _____

Occupation _____

Tel No: _____

Signature _____

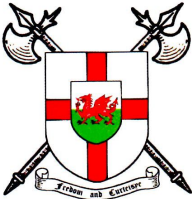
This form should be returned to the Honorary Membership Secretary.

Ms Eileen Forth, 88 Whitethorn Close, Huntington, York. YO31 9EU. Tel No:- 01904 638361

All prices include postage and packing. Please make all cheques payable to;

"FREEMEN OF ENGLAND AND WALES"

Registered as a Charity - Registration No: 293536



Freemen of England & Wales

An Association of Freemen and Guilds in England and Wales

Patron: The Right Honourable Earl Bathurst

17 November 2012

REGALIA ORDER No2

Please forward The following items bearing the (**old**) "FREEMEN OF ENGLAND" logo whilst stocks last

	Please state		
.....Ladies scarf...Green only		@ £ 6 .60 each	£.....
.....Lapel Badge		@ £ 1 .70 each	£.....
.....Sticker		@ £ 0 .60 each	£.....
.....The Book			
"FREEMEN IN ENGLAND" by Harry Ward		@ £ 6 .50 each	£.....

Aspects of the Freedom's by Charles Sparrow QC, FEW Past Honorary Councillor	1982 to 2003
....Freemen's land and property..... (Great Grimsby 1982)-----Freedom by servitude.....(York 1983)	
....Local Acts of Parliament.....(Shrewsbury 1984)-----Women and the Freedom.....(Oxford 1985)	
....Life with the York Bill.....(Ipswich 1987)-----Freemen's Lands.....(Newcastle-under -Lyme1989)	
....Managing the Freedom and it's public image.....(Chester 1990)-----Women and their part in the Freedom.....(York1991)	
....Customs Acts and Charters.....(Great Grimsby 1992)-----The end of a holiday.....(Leicester 1993)	
....Women and the Freedom Today.....(Berwick 1994)-----The Singularity of the Freedom.....(Coventry 1995)	
....Admission by Apprenticeship today.....(Haverfordwest 1996)-----At the Crossroads.....(Shrewsbury 1997)	
....The 1835 Act and it's penalty today.....(Oxford 1998)-----The Unity of the Freedom.....(Altrincham 1999)	
....The Freedom and it's Future.....(Newcastle 2000)-----Learning from Apprenticeship.....(Great Grimsby 2001)	
....The Freedom's Debt to York.....(York 2002)-----A Grave Menace.....(Durham 2003)	

All of the above @ £ 1 .75 each £.....

All Articles "Aspects of the Freedom" (Bound in A4 size only) @ £ 22 .00 each £.....

Maurice Pickering "The Guild History" (Bound in A4 size only) @ £ 22 .00 each £.....

I wish to make a contribution to the **Legal Fund** to provide for legal advice on Freemen's problems... £.....

I wish to make a donation to the **Insignia & Robe Fund** £.....

Total amount £.....

Name _____

Address _____

Date _____

Tel No: _____

Post code _____

Occupation _____

Signature _____

This form should be returned to the Honorary Membership Secretary.

Ms Eileen Forth, 88 Whitethorn Close, Huntington, York. YO31 9EU. Tel No:- 01904 638361

All prices include postage and packing. Please make all cheques payable to;

"FREEMEN OF ENGLAND AND WALES"

Registered as a Charity - Registration No: 293536

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Vice President: Steve White. 11 Manor Avenue, Great Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire DN32 0QR
01472 329847 stevewhite.grimsby.nel@ntlworld.com

Immediate Past President: Colin Hardcastle. 19 Holt Dale Road, Leeds LS16 7RN
01132 670409

Hon. Secretary: Ronald Leek. (See registered office address above).

Hon. Treasurer: Steve White. (See Vice President above).

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01904 638361

Hon Archivist: Alan Fallows (See President above).

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Warden for the North East: Colin Hardcastle. (See Immediate Past President above).

Warden for the The North West: TBC

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Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/FreemenOfEnglandWales>

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Front Cover: Oxford from Boars Hill. Picture supplied by Howard Crapper.

Back Cover: Master of York and Master of Leicester pictured whilst also being each others consorts. June 2013. Picture courtesy Paul Colbeck.

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

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. 176) is the 20/9/13. Please note next issue is the post AGM edition and is usually full.

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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