

Freemen of England and Wales



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With Compliments.

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Presidents Letter.

Dear Members.

Eileen and Myself wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Yes another year has gone we all are a year older and how time flies.

The past year has seen some changes in the Association thanks to Alan the Immediate Past President and things are now looking to the future.

We have seen some changes in 2013 with one Guild going into oblivion through lack of support from its members, there are also Guilds teetering on the edge. We have seen Individual Membership of the Association depleted through deaths and some resignations because of age and infirmity. None of us are getting any younger and we really have to find a way of interesting the next and future generations of Freemen.

I am pleased to say, that one or two of our Gilds/Guilds have now brought out some ideas that could spread and after listening to some of the proposals I am optimistic.

With all the Freemen and Gilds/Guilds we need unity and with this we have strength and with the strength we can ensure the future of the Freemen for the generations to come. We cannot sit back on our laurels and expect that people will be interested and things will carry on. If we think that we are sadly mistaken. Wherever we go, we get some that are interested in the Freedom but are never able to become Freemen. Can we not open the gates wider and make them Associate Freemen? We can tap into some of their organizational skills and knowledge or even just have their support at social functions. We were at a dinner in October and the two youngest Freemen aged eighteen were there. They were made most welcome by everyone. They were given the job of presenting flowers to the principal guests, not a big job you might add but they were welcome, involved and interested.

In 2015 one of our Gilds/Guilds are thinking to organize a large Freemen, Family and Friends affair. I have been given a rough outline of the ideas and it promises to be well worth attending. I will keep you informed.

I keep going on about ideas to create an interest. I would urge all Wardens to try and keep everyone informed of things going on in their areas, not only of past events but of future events. We could see if other Gilds/Guilds and Freemen can be involved in events not normally attended. The Wardens are the most important people in the Association and I would ask all that they are kept fully informed. Please send out invitations to other Gilds/Guilds, one of our Gilds/Guilds has done this with great success.

I finish this letter with one old saying "You can only take out of something what you put into it".

Once again have a Prosperous New Year.

Gordon.

News from the Guilds.

Berwick-upon-Tweed:

Following our news article in the Journal 175, Berwick Town Council and the Guild of Freemen of Berwick-upon-Tweed have agreed to jointly sponsor the Berwick 900th Anniversary. Both bodies have contributed £12,000 each to provide core funding for the year. A joint committee has been set up along with representatives from other town organizations and a draft programme has been prepared. Events are planned concentrating on the time between April and September. The programme will be officially presented to the Town Council and Guild next month.

Historically this anniversary is important. It marks Berwick becoming a Royal Burgh, the first in Scotland, and thus effectively the beginning of independent civic organization in that country. Guilds predate this by a considerable time. It was noted that three of the Guilds at this date were the baxters, fleshers and salmon fishers. After Berwick was incorporated into England it became the third in precedence behind London and York. This continued up to the reorganization of local government in 1972.

It is confirmed that the AGM of the Freemen of England and Wales (FEW) will hold their AGM in Berwick in September, 2015 during the anniversary year. In April 2015 the Court of Deans of Scotland will hold their AGM in Berwick. Thus the events marking the anniversary will be held between the AGMs of the historical Guilds of each country and will be linked within the programme.

The Guild continues to deal with the fall out of the 2009 Act. The rules for the freedom and succession have now been rewritten and been approved by the Head Guild. We are now ploughing through the charities. Some of these were arranged to provide support for widows and spinster daughters, sons being provided through the Guild. Now that daughters can become freemen they are dated. Discussions will take place with the Charity Commission and the opportunity taken to restructure all the charities in a more modern form.

The infirmary in Berwick is to be relocated within the next two years. The present infirmary is adjacent to the Guild's housing and an expression of interest has been registered with the Health Trust with a view to obtaining more land and extending our housing.

Another 14 people will take up the freedom next month. We are now in the third generation following the admission of ladies in 2010.

Our social programme continues successfully. Members of other Guilds residing in the Berwick area are welcome to join us for these events which are shown on our website.

Bridgenorth:

The Gild of Bridgnorth Freemen attended the Remembrance service and Parade on Sunday 10th November 2013 with two Freemen as Mace Bearers escorting the Civic Party and others joining in the parade. Knight of the Gild Mr J.B.Head laid a wreath on behalf of the Gild of Bridgnorth Freemen.



On Saturday 23rd November 2013 the Guild held their 32nd Annual Banquet at The Mill Hotel, Alveley, nr Bridgnorth, joining them for the evening was Bridgnorth Deputy Mayor Councillor Mrs C. Baines, North Midlands Warden Mr J. Edwards, Shrewsbury Freemen and guests. After dinner we were entertained by Black Country duo - 'Sister Act'. The evening was enjoyed by all. Photograph © Eddie Brown.

Coventry:

On 6th & 7th July the Guild had a stand at Coventry's Godiva Festival. Whilst this is now principally a free pop festival, the 125,000+ visitors justify our presence to promote the Guild and the Freemen of the City.

On 14th July our Master Sudhin Basu held a Garden Party to raise funds for Guild Charities, his principal charities this year being the Coventry Myton Hospice and the Coventry Foodbank. This was held by kind permission of the RAF Association at Douglas Bader House and grounds, and stands included book sales, several tombolas, home produce sales, and a raffle. A saxophone sextet kept the 60 -70 guests entertained on a warm day, and even included Freemen from York and Leicester Gilds. Nearly £500 was raised on the day.

On 18th July the Guild Court held a luncheon to honour PM Les Yates, who at 92 is probably the only surviving member of our founding Court of 1946, and is still active in the Guild after 67 years. Venue was the Coventry & North Warwickshire Cricket Club on a very pleasant summer day. Inspired posing of the group photo next to a cricket scoreboard showing 92 and 67 led to reports in several local newspapers.

On 8th August a second Guild Party visited the Malvern Works of the Morgan Motor Company for a guided tour: no production lines or robots here! Whilst the classic steel chassis, ash frame, and now aluminium panelled Morgan roadsters are still made, quantities of bonded aluminium chassis and modern suspension equipped BMW V8 powered cars are available in classic or 'aero' shapes. V twin three wheelers – with a

toothed belt final drive - are also proving popular. Our thanks to new Junior Warden Clive Nelson for organising a most interesting trip.

On 6th September the annual Barnacle Village Hall Skittles event saw Coventry and Leicestershire Freemen and friends enjoying long alley, table, and hood skittles before a chicken or fish & chip supper. A raffle also raised over £100 for Guild charities. Our thanks to new Charity Warden Tony Archer.

On 14th & 15th September the Freemen's Guild Room was opened to the public as part of the national 'Heritage Open Days' event. A steady stream of visitors descended the steps to our medieval undercroft, and those eligible briefed on how to become a Freeman and member of the Guild.

On 21st September a party of Northampton Freemen and partners visited Coventry as a reciprocal event for a previous Coventry visit to Northampton. Our Guild President & Lord Mayor Gary Crookes, with Lady Mayoress Shirley, welcomed visitors in the Council House hospitality suite, and explained the Council Chamber activities and display cabinet contents. Lord Mayor's Assistant Kip gave a guided tour of the St Mary's Hall complex, before a potted history talk from Stone Age to present day preceded the party splitting up for a pub lunch. The afternoon saw a Green Badge tour guide highlighting features of central Coventry, including the ruins of Coventry's predecessor Cathedral to the 20th century icon.

On 11th – 13th October a party of Guildsmen and partners motored north for the Chester Guilds banquet weekend, starting with the Friday hog roast, and ending with a visit to the Chester council chambers and offices.

On 15th October our President, Gary Crookes admitted 20 new Freemen and women at a ceremony in the Council Chamber.

On 17th October our President also presided over a Guild Admission Court for 25 new members, including three associates. A video presentation on the Guild by PM Keith Talbot was held in the Guildhall Crypt, plus a buffet.

On 14th November a Race Night & Buffet was held at the Coundon Social Club, which raised over £400 for Guild charities.

On 9th December our Master, Sudhin Basu and his lady Jacqueline attended the London Guild's Banquet, and enjoyed this event's unique pomp and ceremony at the Guildhall.

On 13th December the Guild year came to a close with the Christmas Dinner, which was enjoyed by 122 members and friends in St Mary's Greathall. After a four course seasonal feast our President drew the principal prizes in our annual raffle. We were then entertained by the band of the West Midlands Fire Service.

Gloucester:

On October 5th 2013 we held our Annual Dinner at The Masonic Hall in Gloucester with 62 Freemen and Guests attending. Our principal guests were the past President of The Freemen of England and Wales Mr Alan Fallows and his wife Valerie. Unfortunately the Mayor and Sheriff were unable to attend due to a prior engagement. Following an enjoyable Dinner, The Toasts, and speeches, we were given an illustrated talk on the "History of Gloucester Prison" by local historian Mr Philip Moss. The prison which has recently been closed stands on the site of the Norman Castle in Gloucester, so the talk was of considerable interest to everyone.

Two days later on October 7th an enrolment of 14 new Freemen and Women took place in

the Civic Suite of the City Council Offices. Twelve of the candidates were women and two men. The ceremony was carried out by the Mayor of Gloucester Councillor Chris Chatterton who is a keen supporter of the Freedom, assisted by the Sheriff. The Mayor recently discovered an important citation whilst he was delving in the Civic Offices basement conferring the Honorary Freedom of the City on Lord Nelson just prior to the Battle of Trafalgar. This document now hangs in the Mayor's Parlour. One of the women enrolled flew over especially for the ceremony from Oregon in the USA, and another came from The Hague in the Netherlands.

Since the introduction of women to the Freedom our numbers have increased dramatically and this bodes well for the continuation of the Freedom in Gloucester.

Haverfordwest:

A distinguished Freeman of Haverfordwest was the guest speaker at the Haverfordwest Gild's annual banquet on Saturday October 5th. He was the Editor of the Daily Express, Mr Hugh Whittow, an Hereditary Freeman of the Town, who has such a great love of his home town that he returns once a month to the family home where he was brought up. In a fascinating account of what he described as his "crazy career" he confided that he had absolutely no knowledge that phone hacking was going on until the news broke. "Although I have sailed close to the wind I have never once been sued or been dragged before a court," he said during his reminiscences of his journalistic career from his first 'scoop' as a junior reporter on the Western Telegraph, when he chased a Police car to Fishguard to witness the arrest of a criminal, to his own arrest at gunpoint and imprisonment for three days in Tripoli which he entered without a Visa.

Responding to a toast to 'The Guests' he regaled his captivated audience with stories of his career with the London Evening News, the Sun, the Daily Star and the Daily Express. It included being chased out of Soweto, driving through the night to be the first Pressman at the scene of the Lockerbie air disaster, acting as Ian Botham's 'minder,' driving George Best home from prison for another exclusive story, and being threatened with a 'whopping' by Muhammed Ali when he asked him if he was punch drunk. During what he described as "a crazy" career, he dined with Tony Blair, David Cameron and Prince Charles, was a guest in the Royal Box at Wimbledon, was present when Maradona scored his 'hand of God,' goal in the World Cup, covered the Brixton Riots, and scooped on the Cecil Parkinson and Sarah Keys scandal. He said that the newspaper industry is currently going through a crisis as the printed press goes out of fashion because of competition from TV and the internet. But Rupert Murdoch's prediction a few years ago that there would not be a newspaper left had not yet happened, he said.

Mr Whittow, who can count among his forbears a 19th century master mariner who sailed out of Haverfordwest, said he kept himself sane by making monthly visits to the family home he had kept in the town and where his brother Nigel, a financial advisor, has a business. He was responding to the toast proposed by the Deputy Master of the Gild, Colonel Martyn Green. Gild Master Charles Davies, responding to a toast to the Gild proposed by County Council chairman Councillor Arwyn Williams, referred to the detrimental effects of out-of-town shopping on the town centre, and welcomed the initiative of the 4-Cs - County and Town Councils, Chamber of Trade and College - to improve the commercial fortunes of the town.

The Loyal Toast was proposed by the Lord Lieutenant, The Hon Robin Lewis, and during the evening talented music pupils of Tasker Milward provided instrumental and vocal entertainment.

The banquet followed the Gild AGM at County Hall in the afternoon when the Master Charles Davies, said the Gild's ambition to turn Elizabethan benefactor, Sir John Perrot's, birthplace into a public park and visitor centre appears to have stalled. Daunted by the prospect of the cost of the proposal, the Gild had hoped that CADW (The Welsh Ancient Monuments Agency) might take over the ruined Tudor Mansion at Haroldston House near Merlin's Bridge, but Mr Davies, told the meeting that several approaches to CADW had met with no response.

Gild officials were called out to the site last month when a road tanker accident on a nearby roundabout caused a spillage of oil and petrol into Merlin's Brook, which runs through the lower part of the site. But the Master said that the incident had not affected the Freemen's land.

Following welcome speeches from the Town Mayor Councillor, Mrs Jackie Westrup, and the chairman of Pembrokeshire County Council, Cllr Arwyn Williams, the Clerk, Mr Paul Lucas, reported on the Gild accounts, and the Master's address, in which five new Burgesses were welcomed, was followed by a report on the Freemen's Estate by the chairman of Trustees, Mr Malcolm Thomas. The Estate of 253 acres, stretching from Portfield Gate to Palmerston Farm, has four tenants and produces an annual income of £2,000.

Mr Roy Folland, Master of the Pembroke Gild and Warden for Wales of the Freemen of England and Wales, reported on recent visits to the FEW AGM at Oxford and to a celebratory Banquet of the Leicester Guild. He found both events very impressive and enjoyable and brought back good wishes to the Haverfordwest Gild, in reply to those he had voiced at the meetings.

Lieutenant Colonel Mark Purvis, Commanding Officer of the 14th Signals at Cawdor Barracks, Brawdy, gave an interesting talk on the vital early warning communications and intelligence role of the Regiment in Afghanistan and other theatres of war. He outlined the Regiment's structure and expressed appreciation of the Gild's and the town's excellent relationship with and support of his unit, which, he said, would regrettably be leaving Brawdy in 2018. Robed members of the Gild had a week or two before attended a ceremony and parade in the town centre when the soldiers were presented with their Afghanistan Medals by their Brigadier and by the Mayor. The meeting was followed by the annual Freemen's Pageant.

The Gild weekend continued on Sunday with the traditional Procession and Benefactor's Service conducted by Gild Chaplain and Burgess, Revd Paul Mackness, at St Martin's Church. The Wardens of the Court and some of the Freemen and Burgesses processed with Civic leaders and other guests and the Mayors of other towns to the church, where the lessons were read by the Master Mr Charles Davies and Deputy Master Col Martyn Green. Wine and refreshments were enjoyed at St Martin's Hall afterwards.

There can be few Guilds of Freemen in the UK who can boast the athletic record of the Gild at Haverfordwest in Pembrokeshire. At the age of 80, the Master of the Gild, Mr Charles Davies, recently ran a 10k half marathon for charity in Cardiff and a week later the Deputy Master, Colonel Martyn Green, did likewise in Pembrokeshire, but he is a mere 52 years old so has another 28 years to go to equal the Master's feat. Charles played

on the wing for the town rugby side and for the Pembrokeshire County XV in his youth and also played at a high level during his National Service in the Army over 60 years ago. He still runs regularly and walks at such a pace that his contemporaries can hardly keep up.

Leicester:

On Saturday 22nd June four Freemen represented the Leicester Gild at the Armed Forces Day service at the Leicester Cathedral, after the parade of the Standards by the Armed Forces and the Royal British Legion, the congregation returned to the Cathedral for a buffet lunch.

Sunday 23rd June, on first Gild outing this year we visited, the Royal Air Force museum at Hendon. The museum offers an enthralling day out, with over 100 aircraft on site, nowhere else enables you to get so close to so many historic aircraft. During the day we were able to visit a number of the exhibition halls, containing the British aviation in the early 20s. In other halls we visited the Bomber Command, Fighter aircraft, from the Battle of Britain and many more including the Sunderland flying boat. Our day concluded with a visit to the souvenir shop to purchase a memento of the visit.

Monday 24th June four Freemen attended the Damask Rose Ceremony at the Crown and Thistle public House in Lowesby Lane, now O'Neill's. During the Ceremony the Land Lord of the public house makes a peppercorn rent to the Lord Mayor of one damask rose and four old pennies. This tradition is re enacted every June when the rent is collected by the Lord Mayor or Mayor and dates back to 16th century.

Monday 5th August when the Freemen's Court was held in the presence of the Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Leicester, Councillor Mustafa Kamal. With Hannah Lucie Rae Askham and Parveti Elizabeth Jane Wood (daughters of Peter Anthony Barratt) taking their oath to become Freemen of Leicester. Present at the ceremony Mr Bill Hargrave Chairman of the Board of Deputies and Mrs Jane Wildbore, the Gild was represented by the Master Mr Tony Chettle and Michael Ayres.

Thursday 22nd August. Leicester Freemen attended a Choral Evensong to mark the Death of King Richard III, at Leicester Cathedral, the service marked the death of King Richard III in Battle at Bosworth Field in Leicestershire 528 years ago this day. The service was held in the presence of the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, the High Sheriff and City dignitaries. After the service refreshments were served in the Cathedral.

Sunday 1st September the Leicester Freemen attended the Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Leicester Councillor Mustafa Kamal's Civic service at Leicester Cathedral. Thursday 5th September the High Sheriff of Leicestershire Mrs Sally Bowie invited the Master of the Gild Mr Tony Chettle and his Consort Mrs Hazel Hague to a Reception at the Grange, East Langton. Unfortunately the Master was unable to attend and the Deputy Master Michael Ayres and Jean Ayres represented the Gild.

Friday 6th September the Freemen of Coventry invited the Leicester Freemen to a skittles evening and a Fish and Chip supper at Barnacle Village Hall. A party of eight Freemen and wives, including the Master Tony Chettle and his Consort Hazel Hague, from the York Gild, travelled to Barnacle by mini bus. This year the Leicester Gild managed to come third against the five Coventry teams. (We normally finish last) Jeff Lewitt of Leicester won the trophy for the highest score male player and Daisy Daniell the highest lady player. We thank the Coventry freemen for their friendship and hospitality during the evening.

Saturday 14th September the Master of the Leicester Gild Tony Chettle and Michael Ayres represented the Leicester Gild at FEW AGM in Oxford.

Wednesday 18th September. A visit was arranged to an Everards Brewery a local company in Leicester. After a very interesting and informative tour, we all learned more on the problems of making good beer. From the start of the hops being delivered and sorted to the yeast and the water being added and the time it takes for the fermentation of the beer. The tour concluded with tasting samples of the different beers and a buffet lunch.

Friday 11th October. Eight members of the Leicester Gild visited Chester Freemen for their weekend Banquet. The weekend activities began on the Friday night with a Hog Roast held in the Guild Hall, the Banquet on Saturday night once again held in the Guild Hall. The Sunday morning Church service held at St Peter with St John the Baptist. The service and sermon conducted by Cannon Denis Kelly. The Leicester Gild would like to take this opportunity to thank the freemen of Chester for their hospitality over the weekend.

Friday 8th November. A fish and chip supper held at Freemen's Holt, when we had a very interesting talk by Brian Johnson on the Memorials and War Graves of WW1.

Friday 13th December. A visit to The Little Theatre, to see the Pantomime Cinderella, once again the Children and the Grandparents enjoyed the evening.

Friday 13th December. Nine members of the Leicester Gild visited the Coventry Guild for their Christmas dinner. We wish to thank the Coventry Guild for a most enjoyable evening.

The Master of the Leicester Gild and wardens of the Court have very much pleasure in notifying you of our forth coming Banquet weekend on 13th 14th and 15th June 2014, events begin with a welcome supper and drinks on Friday evening at a cost of £10 per person, the Saturday evening Banquet will be held at Devonshire Place London Road Leicester. At the cost of £40 per person including a reception drink on arrival. On Sunday morning the Leicester Freemen's Annual Church service will be held at the Leicester Cathedral St Martin's Leicester.

For further information and booking form please contact:

Lynn Roffee, Clerk to the Gild at 39 Thorpe Field Drive Thurmaston Leicester LE4 8GU
0116 2696381 or e-mail lynnroffee@hotmail.com

Northampton:

The President of the Northampton Guild wishes to inform you of our Inaugural Annual Charity Weekend to be held over Friday 11th and Saturday 12th April 2014

The weekend will begin with a 'Get Together' Fish and Chip Supper on the Friday evening at the cost of £10 per person.

On Saturday morning the Mayor of Northampton will welcome you to the Guildhall prior to a free guided tour of the Edward William Godwin designed Guildhall. (Numbers are limited so please book).

Saturday afternoon will offer you the opportunity of an optional visit to the Rennie Mackintosh's 78 Deragate, at a cost of £6.50 per person. (Numbers are limited so please book).

Our 8th Annual Charity Dinner will be held on the Saturday evening at a cost of £30 per person.

All evening meals are being held at Moulton College, Northampton where a special reduced rate for on site accommodation has been arranged. There will be a late bar

on both the Friday & Saturday evening.

For further information and booking forms please contact: Terry Sibley, Northampton Guild of Freeman Trustee, 43 Russet Drive, Little Billing, Northampton. NN3 9TU. Telephone 01604 784704 or email terry.sibley@btinternet.com .



The right to carry a sword to 'protect' the Mayor of Northampton during the Mayor's Ceremonial processions has been reinstated with the blessing of the Northampton Borough's Chief Executive, Mr David Kennedy and the Leader of the Borough Council Cllr David Mackintosh. The tradition of protecting the Mayor is steeped in the history of the Freeman of Northampton and will bring together the Freeman's Oath of Allegiance to the Mayor which is sworn by all Hereditary Freeman and will also give the Freeman a higher profile in the town. Trustee Chairman, Mr Phil Ager is pictured in the Mayor's Parlour with the Mayor Cllr. Les Marriott and Borough Macebearer, Mr Will Davidson after the Mayoral & Charity Sunday procession from the Guildhall to All Saints Church on 24th June 2013. Photograph ©The Guild of Freeman of the Borough of Northampton .

Pembroke:

At a recent Gild Session the Master of the Gild of Freeman of Pembroke Mr Roy Folland presented a cheque for £250 to a local registered charity run by two ladies who with their friends give financial and other aid to Cancer patients and their families within the SA71 and. SA72 postcode areas of Pembrokeshire.

As the ladies told the Gild members " Cancer patients and their families can go

through incredibly stressful and worrying times and the aim of our Charity is to help in whatever way we can, even something as small as a book of Cleddau Bridge toll tickets which can help in worrying financial times when hospital visits are necessary".

They further explained that they were a group of people who had been touched in some way or other by cancer and that the work they do is aimed at helping others in very difficult circumstances.

Founded in 2009 their first fund raising event was a 24 hour Sponsored Cycle Ride when the response from local businesses and individuals was spur to further fund raising.

The 'wish flower' which is their chosen logo, is based on the blowing of a dandelion head while making a wish, and was the idea of the ladies of their committee in wishing that a super cure for cancer would be found in the future.

Since their foundation they have gone from strength to strength, and with the help of e-mails, face book, and telephone calls, they now have well over five hundred members throughout the U.K. and continue to raise funds for a cause they fervently believe in.

Anyone wishing to join them or make a contribution are asked to contact the following:

Jane 07976407812. Email: janeandgary@hotmail.co.uk

or

Janette 07969510603. Email: janette@birch10.orangehome.co.uk



Photo: Jane Rogers and Janette Birch receiving a cheque from Master of the Gild of Freemen of Pembroke Mr Roy. Folland. ©Gild of Freemen of Pembroke.

Freemen's Lands, Berwick-Upon-Tweed.

Submitted by Capt. J. Evans.

As towns developed in early times the centre became built up and the inhabitants used the surrounding areas to graze their beasts and also to cut down trees for building material and firewood. They did not own this land, but over centuries they established a right of pasture and silage. In Berwick they were given the entitlement of ownership by King Henry IV of an area known as the Snook of 20 acres within the original ancient walls which cut off the peninsular on which Berwick stands. This area was outside later walls which were built by Edward II. Later Kings accepted that the Berwick Guild had a legitimate ownership of the Snook. The area between the original wall and the bounds of Berwick remained in Royal ownership with the Guild and garrison having the right of pasture and silage.

Following the accession of King James VI of Scotland to the English throne as King James I, the status of Berwick altered. It no longer was a garrison town requiring to be governed by Royal Officers. The Guild had continued with a responsibility for trade and the Mayor was a member of the Governing Council which met under the Governor. The Guild petitioned the King for a new charter to restore their control of the town to the Guild. They also applied to have ownership of the land over which they had the right of pasture and silage.

In 1603 the Guild petitioned the king 'That certain grounds near Berwick had belonged to the town since time out of mind that the town had always had the use of the same, except that of late years, some parts had been taken for feeding of Her Majesty's (Queen Elizabeth) beeves upon.' This petition craved that these lands might be restored to the town and not granted to any private person. The Privy Council ordered on 11th. September, 1603, 'that a stay and forbearance be made of any suit or suits already, or hereafter, to be made by any private person for any of the said grounds or pastures to the hurt or prejudice of the town'.

The Guild claim made to the King and Privy Council seems to have been that they were seized of the lands within the Bounds in fee simple, or had some exclusive title thereto. In support of their claim they produced various charters and grants, and gave evidence of continued usage and possession by prescription and of many of the burgesses being freeholders and owners of burgages within the borough and as such entitled to right of common on the lands within the bounds. The Privy Council decided against this claim and resolved that the land belonged to the King.

This decision was clear. However King James then divided the Royal land within the bounds between his favorite George Home and the Guild. The grant to George Home was made by letters patent under the great seal on 29th. March, 1604 and the grant to the Corporation was procured by an Act of Parliament. The new charter of 10th. April, 1604, included the clauses confirming the ownership of the Guild land as well as restoring the administration of the town to the Guild. This was repeated in later Acts of Parliament, the Berwick-upon-Tweed Acts of 1843 and 1926.

As an aside to the above, the Estate was placed under the Trusteeship of the

new elected Council in 1843. Between then and the 1926 Act about a third of the ancient documents, nearly 1000 acres of land and the salmon fisheries rights on the River Tweed were 'lost'. In addition the freemen received no income from the estate which acquired very large debts. The Town Hall, which was part of the estate, was not maintained and was in a dangerous state. Part of the land lost was the Snook which somehow ended up in the hands of the council.

After 1926 the Estate was placed in a Trust administered by five freemen and five councillors. It is now free of debt, pays income to the council and freemen, the archives are properly catalogued and kept in a controlled environment and the Town Hall is well maintained. We still had to fight to avoid the Council acquiring the estate in the 1970s.

Capt. Jim Evans would appreciate any feedback on the following Initiative document.

Makore' Northburn View, Eyemouth, Berwickshire, TD14 5BG jevans02436@jevans02436.plus.-com

THE GUILD OF FREEMEN OF BERWICK-upon-TWEED.
PRIZE FOR INITIATIVE
PUPIL INFORMATION FORM

Are you a school pupil in the Berwick area? Have you had an original idea in the last 12 months that demonstrates exceptional initiative? The Guild of Freemen of Berwick would like to invite you to apply to win this year's 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 a note of the closing date for entries which is Saturday, 3rd.May, 2014.

This scheme is being piloted this year in a number of towns and cities. It is hoped that next year it can be part of a National scheme organised by the Freemen of England and Wales There will then be a National final with entries from the winning entries from individual towns and cities.

Once all submissions are received they will go before the judging panel, which is selected by The Guild of Freemen and Berwick Town Council. A shortlist of finalists will be selected from all of the entries.

Finalists will be invited to Berwick Guild Hall on 28th.June, 2014. They will 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. 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 prize winner(s) who will in the view of the judges, have demonstrated *exceptional* initiative and the greatest overall success*.

The Mayor of Berwick will present the Prize for Initiative, which is provided by the Guild of Freemen of Berwick-upon-Tweed, together with a cheque for £500. The winner will also be interviewed by the Mayor 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.*

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 Berwick-upon-Tweed. 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 3rd.May, 2014.

You will receive an acknowledgement to prove that your submission has been received before the deadline and will be being considered by the judging panel in the first 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 the Guild Hall on 6th. July, 2014

If you have any questions about the entry process please contact

..... *Good luck!*

Official Opening of the Business and Digital Hub. **Freeman Street Market. Grimsby.**

By Colin Hardcastle, Warden for North East.

After five years of planning, re-building and finance raising, the Freeman Centre in Grimsby was officially opened on 31 January 2014.

Built on part of the old Freeman Street market hall, the new Centre described as the 'Business and Digital Hub' is a triumph for the Freemen of Grimsby in their re-generation programme for the whole area. With help from North East Lincolnshire Council and many other sources, the £1.6m refurbishment is available for use. There are a number of self contained 'modular offices' as well as workshop rooms, activity areas (including a Saturday 'kids club') and training suites.

The opening ceremony included speeches from the Clerk to the Grimsby Pastures development company, the Chairman of the Enrolled Freemen of Grimsby and a representative of NELC. The formal opening (See picture on back cover) was conducted by Austin Mitchell MP (Grimsby) and Martin Vickers MP (Cleethorpes) after which conducted tours of the centre were available to the near one hundred specially invited guests including myself and Tom Gibson.

It is a fine achievement and, dare I say it, a possible venue for FEW meetings in the future.

Custodian Trustee.

FEW is pleased to announce that its vacant Custodian Trustee position has kindly been filled by Past President Colin Hardcastle. Colin commenced his duties in January.

Gazette Ammendment.

Please note the following change to the list of Gild Representatives in the current FEW Gazette and Guilds Directory:- **Gild of Freemen of Haverfordwest.** Paul Lucas, c/o R.K.Lucas and Son, The Tithe Exchange, 9 Victoria Place, Haverfordwest, SA61 2JX. Email: paul@rkluucas.co.uk.

Hon Secretary's Notices

Notice is hereby given to all Guild Representatives, Wardens, and Executive Officers that the next FEW Court Meeting will be held on Saturday 15th March 2014 at 2.30pm in the Community Room at Freeman's Holt, Old Church Street, Aylestone, Leicester, LE2 8NH.

AGENDA

- 1) Attendees to sign register and be seated.
 - a) Call to order, Opening of the Court, and Welcome.
- 2) Apologies for absence.
- 3) Minutes of the Court Meeting held on 16th March 2013 in Bedern Hall, York.
(These minutes were published in Journal No 174, Spring 2013.)
 - a) Approval of minutes.
- 4) Matters Arising, not forming any other part of this agenda.
- 5) President's Report.
- 6) Deputy President's Report.
- 7) Vice President's Report.
- 8) Wardens' Reports.
- 9) Hon Treasurer's Report.
- 10) Hon Membership Secretary's Report.
- 11) Hon Archivist's Report.
- 12) Hon Editor's Report.
- 13) Officer Without Portfolio's Report.
- 14) Future Court and AGM venues.
- 15) Any Other Business.
- 16) Closure of Court.

AGM 2014

The 2014 AGM which will be hosted by the Stafford Freeman's Guild, will be held at the Yarnfield Conference Centre, Yarnfield, Staffordshire, from 19th to 21st September.

NOMINATIONS for FEW EXECUTIVE OFFICERS 2014 - 2015

As this issue of the FEW Journal is the first edition following the decision to reduce the number of issues from four to three each year, it is necessary to publish this earlier than usual request for the submission of nominations for officers to serve on the 2014 - 2015 Executive Committee. Offices open for nomination this time round are as follows:- Deputy President; Vice President; Hon Secretary; Hon Treasurer; Hon Membership Secretary; Hon Archivist; Hon Editor; and Officer Without Portfolio. The election will take place at the 2014 AGM on Saturday 20th September, and each officer will serve for one year. In accordance with the FEW Constitution, any nominee for the offices of 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. Nominations must be presented on the correct Nomination Form (published on next page— photocopies are acceptable), and must be accompanied by the appropriate statements as detailed on the Form, and be submitted to myself (Hon Secretary) by **Saturday 21st June** latest, in order that they can be published in the Summer 2014 Journal.

Ronald.E.Leek. Hon Secretary.

NOMINATION FORM
2014-2015

We the undersigned propose.....

A Freeman of.....

For election to the position of.....
of the Association of Freeman of England and Wales for the period 2014-
2015.

Proposer. Name.....

Signature.....

Seconder. Name.....

Signature.....

I.....declare that if elected, I am
willing to serve as.....of the Association of
Freemen of England and Wales for the period 2014-2015.

Signed.....

This nomination 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.

F.E.W AGM 2014 - Friday 19th to Sunday 21st September.
Stafford Freeman's Guild will host the weekend at Yarnfield Conference
Centre (ST15 ONL).

The date was chosen to avoid a clash with Battle of Britain commemorations or National Heritage Day. It was difficult to get definite information when we booked, but it will also give us more exclusive use of the venue.

Following the success of the 2009 AGM, we return to Yarnfield Conference Centre. Ownership has changed from BT to a commercial company though the excellent atmosphere and facilities remain. There have been major developments in the layout, décor and facilities of the venue. The banquet room is enlarged and many more conference rooms are available. The already extensive bar area has been reorganised to give more space and the well-stocked bar will stay open as long as we wish. The AGM and the banquet will both be held on site.

Improvements include a continual tea or coffee station, redecorated bedrooms, provision of twin-bedded and disabled rooms, electronic room keys, free Wi-Fi and updated equipment. The food recently sampled by guild members was excellent. For details or the venue see www.yarnfieldpark.com .

The meeting will be much cheaper than recent FEW weekends, indeed, little more than the 2009 event. Everyone can be accommodated at the venue, which is better socially and eases transport problems. There is ample free parking and the location is close to road and rail or canal and an hour from 3 airports. Stafford is pretty central, which will reduce many journey times. We hope to provide interesting entertainment and organise instructive visits, but will not duplicate the 2009 meeting. For further information check the Stafford Guild web site at www.staffordfreemen.org.uk . It will give detailed costs when available. We have estimated 70 people staying overnight Friday, (probably 30 double or twin and 10 singles), with 85 for the evening meal. The Saturday estimate is 84 staying overnight (37 double or twin, and 10 singles) and 200 for the banquet. Information will be sent to guilds shortly requesting numbers interested in attending and firm commitments will be needed by June. Individual members of FEW can contact Stafford (01785 823067) directly for details. Forms can be requested, printed from the web site when they appear, or completed on line. Hopefully, by March, as there is now no spring edition of this journal.

We reckon it'll be another "bostin do!" so get your name down soon; we'd like to see you.

Stafford Freeman's Guild.

The Guild was formed following the debacle of 1993, when the Coton Fields allotments were scheduled to be sold by the then trustees. At that time, there was thought to be not a little of the bribery and corruption, which had characterised the activities of the freemen in the early 19th century. Fortunately, as a result of press publicity and word of mouth concerns, many people, who had not bothered to exercise their rights, came forward and 79 were sworn in by the then Mayor, Andrew Compton. As a result of much legal action, they were able to prevent the sale and these lands now represent the Freeman's principal asset.

The reason for the problems were that there was no mechanism for either

monitoring the trustees or any communication forum for burgesses. The former was solved by the institution of an annual meeting, where Burgesses could question the trust and appoint new trustees. The latter was solved by the creation of the Freemen's Guild. A number of the men involved then are still playing an important part today.

While the Freemen's Guild is still a communications channel, it has also developed a civic and social element and now acts as the voice of the burgesses in the community. Whether it be threats to historic landmarks or concerns about local services, the freemen, (either as a body or as individuals), usually comment. The social programme, now masterminded by our Social Secretary, Ray Spurway has involved, meals, visits, quizzes, boat trips, talks, etc. In fact, anything the members want to do.

The Guild Council is the group delegated to run the guild at the AGM and the Master, (or chairman), and the other officers are elected at the same meeting. The job often falls on the faithful few, so new blood is always welcome. Indeed, some of our recently sworn burgesses are now taking an active part, which is very encouraging.

Our Regalia.

When a bunch of men joined the tail end of the Remembrance parade 10 years ago people said "who are they?". So they decided to get some form of recognition by having a badge to go on a blazer and a tie. The next year spectators realised that they were some sort of civilian body but only those with the keenest eyesight could read 'Freemen's Guild' on the badge.

In 2003 a member kindly offered to fund a banner, which Glynis Pye and fiends created. It has been much admired and had the desired effect that, when borne on civic occasions, it showed our identity.

In 2009, when we hosted the AGM of the Freemen of England and Wales in Stafford, we did not wish to be left out amongst all the other guilds, who wore their distinctive robes with pride. Hence the decision to get some of our own, but what colour and what style should we use. Fortunately, we had the services of another skilled seamstress, Carol Mitchell, who was experienced in theatrical costume production. However, the matter of colours was left with the Guild Council. Red would compete with the mayor; burgundy was already used by FEW; yellow too gaudy; blue used by many other guilds; so we had a good look at the Stafford Borough Arms, which are green, red and yellow. Hence, the colours used on Stafford robes.

The 'jewels' for the President, Master and Deputy were produced by Ant Piddock, as was the modern style mace that made its appearance this year. It will give a little more ceremonial to our official activities.

Although, these items of regalia are not key to our objectives they do get us noticed. People now look at the robed group and say "Those are the Burgesses, I think they have something to do with an old tradition in Stafford". We believe that that represents progress in raising our profile.

The Borough Arms.

We have somehow lost the Burgesses Sergeants, who in 1905 carried the town's silver maces that belonged to the bailiffs who, with the burgesses, administered the town before councils and mayors were established. We would dearly like to regain that right, (as they have in Bridgnorth)!

Directory.

President: Gordon Varndell. 3 Bridge Road, Bishopthorpe, York. YO23 2RR
01904 701286 GV.44@hotmail.co.uk

Deputy President: Ronald Leek. (See registered office address overleaf).

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

Immediate Past President: Alan Fallows. 3 Holborn Drive, London Road Shrewsbury,
Shropshire SY2 6SL 01743 358495 alan.fallows@talktalk.net

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

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

Membership Secretary: Eileen Forth . 88 Whitethorn Close, Huntington, York YO3 9EU
01904 638361

Hon Archivist: Alan Fallows (See Immediate Past President above).

Officer Without Portfolio: Alan Shelly. Wycken End, 16 Bournside Road, Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire, GL51 3AH Tel 01242 515739 alan.shelley@ymail.com

Warden for the North: Stephen Healy. 43 Greenlee Drive, Dalesford Green, Little
Benton, Newcastle upon Tyne NE7 7GA 0191 2159356 stephen.healy@tesco.net

Warden for the North East: Colin Hardcastle. 19 Holt Dale Road, Leeds LS16 7RN
01132 670409 (h) 0784 720 4318 (m)

Warden for the The North West: TBC

Warden for the North Midlands: John Edwards. 5 Oak Close, Church Eaton, Stafford
ST20 0AQ 01785 823067 john@staffordfreemen.org.uk

Warden for the South Midlands: Derek Austin 1 Yarrow Close, Rugby, Warwickshire
CV23 0TU 01788 547145 4derekaustin@mypostoffice.co.uk

Warden for the West: Howard Crapper. The Mount, Hinton Parva, Swindon, Wiltshire
SN4 0DH 01793 791171 howardcrapper@supanet.com

Warden for Wales: Roy Folland Winchcombe, St Thomas Green, Haverfordwest
SA61 1QW jarfolland@hotmail.com

Warden for the East: Norman Offield 26 Ferndale Road, Rayleigh, Essex SS66 9NW
01268 780032 offield122@btinternet.com

Warden for London and the South East: Nick Johnson. 37 Stanhope Gardens, Ilford
Essex IG1 3LQ 0208 554 5326 fidibelle@aol.com

Warden for the South West: Martin Hanks. Fairview Cottage, Shop, Bude. EX23 9SG.
01288 331480 oxonserve@btinternet.com

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

Cover Pictures:

Front Cover; Town hall Square Fountain, Leicester was a gift from former Mayor, Sir Israel Hart in 1878, it was unveiled the following year. © Brian Mudford.

Back Cover; Martin Vickers MP and Austin Mitchell MP open the new Business and Digital hub at Freeman Street Market, Great Grimsby. © Tom Gibson.

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. 178) is the 23/5/14.

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.

Registered address of the Freeman of England and Wales Association:

F.E.W.

Richmond House,

Beech Close,

Oversley Green,

Alcester.

Warwickshire

B49 6PP

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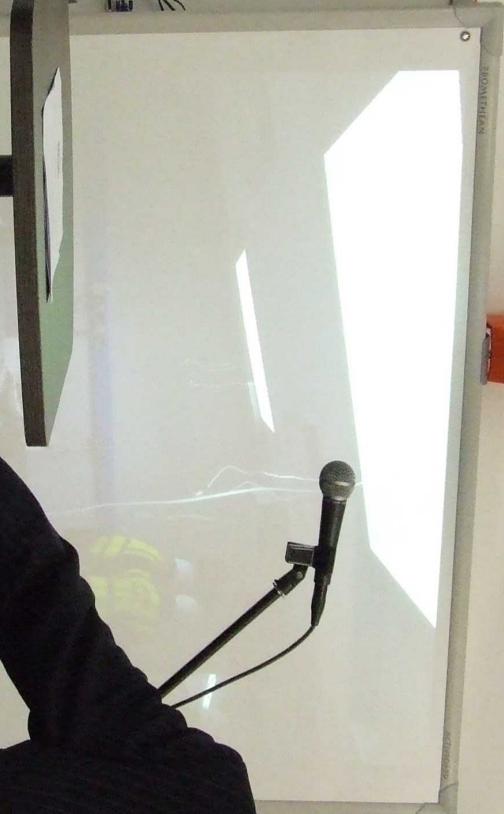


Business and Digital Hub

Thanks to funding from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Innovation (2014) by the Government of Ireland and the European Union under the European Regional Development Fund 2007-13



Austin M...
Limerick



Constitution of the Association of Freemen of England and Wales

The Constitution was written in 1968 at the formation of the Freemen of England.

It was re-drawn in 1976, and adopted in 1978.

It was amended in 1983. It was adopted in 1985 to include amendments proposed and agreed in principle in 1980, 1981, and 1983.

Further amendments were made in 1987 to appoint Officers as Trustees, and again in 1988 to include

the Membership Secretary as an Officer.

It was amended in 1992 to incorporate Freemen in Wales, and also to acknowledge the post of Immediate Past President as an Officer.

The office of Vice President was approved and added in 1996.

In 2005 the Presidential term of office was reduced from three to two years.

It was amended in 2008 to clarify the two categories of Officer, to remove a rule contradiction, and to

make meaningful a complex sentence.

Following a long term review, overall major amendments were introduced in 2011, to comprehensively qualify the Association's aims, membership criteria, and administration.

Rule 10b – Officers – was amended in 2012 to remove an ambiguity.

1) NAME.

The Association is comprised of the Gilds of Freemen throughout England and Wales, and shall be titled "Freemen of England and Wales" or F.E.W.

2) OBJECTS.

i) The objects of the "Freemen of England and Wales" are:- To advance public education in, and promote research into, the history and legal customs of the ancient towns of England and Wales with relation to the legal institution of the Freedom. To publish the useful results of such research.

ii) And in the furtherance of this object to provide advice and information concerning the legal institution of the Freedom within each of those several places in England and Wales where that institution is to be found.

iii) To take necessary action to protect and maintain the legal institution of the Freedom when threatened by statute or other interventions.

iv) The Association is non-political and non-religious in nature, and is not a lobbying platform for any matters disassociated to the Freedom.

3) ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Alterations to this constitution must receive the assent of a minimum of two-thirds of the members eligible to vote by Poll at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting, following approval by the same margin at the preceding Court Meeting. A resolution for the alteration of the constitution must be received by the Secretary of the Association at least 31 days before the meeting at which the resolution is to be brought forward. At least 21 days notice of such a meeting must be given by the Secretary, and must enclose notice of the alteration proposed. No alteration made to clauses 2 (Objects) and 13 (Dissolution) which would have the effect of causing the Association to cease to be a charity at law, shall be implemented until the written approval of the Charity Commissioners has been obtained.

4) MEMBERSHIP

Full Membership of the Association shall consist of:- i) Member Gilds. ii) Individual Members.

i) The term "Member Gild" shall mean the organized body of freemen representing the town or city where those freemen are listed on the Burgess Roll, and/or where such bodies exist, the individual Gild Companies that collectively combine the freemen of the Burgess Roll.

ii) The term “Individual Member” shall mean a person who either:-
a) Has had his/her claim to be admitted a freeman of their town/city established and his/her name entered on the Roll of Freemen/Burgess Roll in accordance with Section 248(3) of the Local Government Act 1972.

or:- b) Is a Freeman admitted according to the law and custom of the City of London.

5) ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Associate membership shall be open to:-

- i) Persons upon whom the Honorary Freedom of a place has been conferred.
- ii) Persons who although not freemen under 4.ii(a) are interested or concerned in freemens’ affairs for professional, legal, social or historical reasons.
- iii) Customary freeholders or tenants of manorial boroughs.
- iv) Non-Freemen bodies, groups, or organizations; ie: comprised of members who are not freemen as under 4.ii(a) whose aims are sympathetic to those of F.E.W., and who fully support the objectives of F.E.W. Such bodies must operate under a recognized constitution that governs their activities.

Associate members may attend, and with the permission of the Chairman, speak, but shall not vote at a general meeting.

6) CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

Freemen (other than Individual Members), who are members of a subscribing gild, shall be known as Corporate Members. They will not have any of the rights or liabilities of subscribing members of the Association, but will be permitted to purchase and display F.E.W. regalia.

7) HONORARY MEMBERSHIP.

The Association may admit as Honorary Members persons who have rendered distinguished service to the Association. They will have the same rights as Associate Members. Admission must be by unanimous agreement of a Court Meeting.

8) REGALIA.

All members shall be entitled to purchase and display the regalia of F.E.W.

9) CANCELLATION OF MEMBERSHIP.

Member Gilds and Individual Members (including Associates) whose subscriptions remain unpaid for 12 months after falling due shall have their membership cancelled. They may be re-admitted with the full agreement of the Court, on such terms as the Court decides. Any member whose conduct is considered damaging to the reputation or well-being of the Association may be dismissed from the Association by the full agreement of the Court, subject to the right of reply. Any such dismissal to be final and immutable.

10) OFFICERS.

a) There shall be two categories of Officer. i) Executive Officer. ii) Warden.

i) Executive Officers. The Executive Officers of the Association shall be the President, the Deputy President, the Vice President, the Immediate Past President, the Honorary Secretary, the Honorary Treasurer, the Honorary Membership Secretary, the Honorary Archivist, the Honorary Editor, and the Officer Without Portfolio. The President, on retiring at the conclusion of his/her term in office, will remain an Officer of the Association with the title of Immediate Past President (which title he/she will retain until replaced by a new Immediate Past President, and at which time he/she will also cease to be an Officer).

ii) Wardens. Wardens will be appointed by the Vice President with the approval of the Court or AGM. Their titles and responsibilities shall be fixed by the Court.

b) With the exception of the President, who following election at an Annual General Meeting, shall serve in office for a term of two years, and also the Immediate Past President, all other Executive Officers shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting, and shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting after their appointment. In the case of death or resignation of the President or any other Executive Officer, the Court shall have the power to fill the vacancy so caused until the next Annual General Meeting. Officers shall hold office as individuals, and not as representatives of their Gilds, but may also act as such representatives. One person may hold more than one office. The duties of officers shall be as allocated by the Court, which may appoint additional officers if required, following approval at an Annual General Meeting.

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

11) THE COURT

The Court shall consist of the representatives of each Member Gild and shall be responsible for the regulation of the affairs of the Association. The Court shall have the power to appoint a sub-committee consisting of two or more Court members to investigate any appropriate matter, provided that its findings are reported back to the next Court, with no unauthorized actions being taken.

12) FINANCE

a) The property and monies of the Association shall be under the control of the Court, to whom the Executive shall be responsible. Subscriptions shall be payable in advance on such date or individual dates as may from time to time be directed by the Court. The rates of subscriptions shall also be fixed from time to time by the Court. Owing to the great disparity between circumstances and financial resources of members, the Court may authorize variations of subscriptions in particular cases.

b) The Court alone, may authorize expenditure of the Association's funds upon or in connection with any of the objects of the Association. The Court shall arrange an annual audit of the accounts, books and vouchers of the Association and the Auditor's report shall be submitted at the following Annual General Meeting.

13) MEETINGS.

a) Annual General Meetings shall be held in the month of September or October, due notice of which shall be given by mail to each member not less than 60 days before the date fixed for the meeting.

b) Court Meetings shall be held in March, and (if desired) June, at a time and place to be decided by the Court. A quorum of 10% of Member Gilds must be present to validate any voting.

c) Executive Meetings shall be held immediately before each Court or Annual General Meeting, at a time and place to be decided by the Executive and Court. Additional meetings shall be held as deemed necessary by the Executive. A quorum of five officers is required for any voting to be validated.

d) Wardens' Meetings shall be held at least twice annually as deemed necessary by the Vice President, at times and venues to be agreed.

e) The minutes of AGM and Court Meetings shall be reported in the Journal immediately following the date of each meeting. In the event that this time scale is considered insufficient at any time, such minutes shall be provided by mail to each court member as soon as possible following the meeting.

f) Special Court or General Meetings may be called under exceptional circumstances by unanimous consent of the Executive.

14) VOTING.

a) Court.

Member Gilds may send to Court Meetings what representatives they desire (including professional advisors to speak on their behalf) but only one representative may vote. Only items previously included in a Court Meeting agenda notification shall be subject to voting. Each Member Gild shall have one vote and voting shall be by a show of official voting cards only. Votes by mail are accepted, but proxy votes are not permitted. To be carried, either for or against, decisions must be supported by a simple majority of all Member Gilds, unless for constitutional changes, which require a two thirds majority.

b) Annual General Meeting.

Individual Members shall have one vote each, validated by showing their official membership card, and the representative of each Member Gild shall have one vote for each full freeman member of his/her Gild subject to a maximum of 1,000, and barring any duplication of members. In the event of uncertainty or dispute as to the number of freemen in a gild, said number is to be determined by such evidence as may be provided and considered fair and just by the invigilator nominated by the meeting. Votes by mail are accepted, but proxy votes are not permitted.

To avoid said duplication, the following will apply:-

i) Gild Company Members, if also covered by a Member Gild for their town/city, will either (at their discretion) vote through their town/city gild or their company gild. In the event of only some of the individual companies wishing to cast votes for their members, the number of those votes cast will be deducted from the total registered for the town/city gild.

ii) Individual Members voting shall reduce the total count for their gild by their equivalent numbers.

c) AGM Vote Counting.

AGM vote counting will be undertaken by three nominees from the host gild under the control of an appointed invigilator. Total results for and against will be published, but all voting material will be held in the archives for a minimum of four years in case of query.

d) Voting Results.

For a vote to be carried, for or against, a clear two thirds majority of votes cast must be achieved, supported by a simple majority of all Member Gilds.

15) DISSOLUTION.

If the Court by a simple majority decides at any time that on the grounds of expense or otherwise it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Association, it shall call a meeting of all members of the Association who have the power to vote of which meeting not less than 21 days notice (stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed) shall be given. If such decision shall be confirmed by a simple (two-thirds) majority of those present and voting at such meeting the Court shall have the power to dispose of any assets held by or on behalf of the Association in manner hereinafter provided. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of the Association as the Court may determine.