



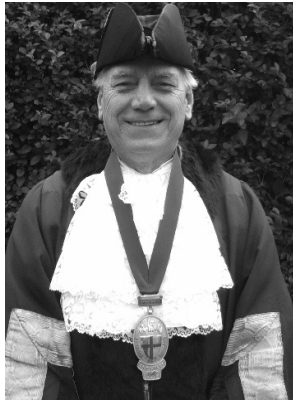
*Freemen of England  
and Wales.*

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*With Compliments*

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## Presidents Letter.



Dear Members.

We are now looking to the future what is past is past. What I am about to say I have said before. With all the Freemen and Guilds we need unity and with this we have strength and with the strength we can ensure the future of the Freedom 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. None of us are getting any younger and we really have to find a way of interesting the next and future generations of Freemen. We need to find a way for members to take on positions within the Guilds and the Association to bring in new ideas and move forward. 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. I am pleased to say that one or two of our Guilds have now brought out some ideas that could spread and after listening to some of the proposals I am now very optimistic.

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. We need to give this a great deal of thought on how to attract a dynamic new generation of Freemen or Associates. I have said this before. The Wardens are the most important people in the Association and I would ask all that they are kept fully informed of future events and functions. Please send out invitations to other Guilds. One of our Guilds has done this with great success. We could see if other Guilds and Freemen can be involved in events not normally attended. "Wardens can you not seek out the Freemen in your area that are Freemen of other areas can you not get them involved as Journeymen Freemen of the area that they are residing in"?

In 2015 one of our 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 promised to keep you informed. Well this is still ongoing. I know that I am passionate about things moving forward. Are we really sure that things will not die out with our generation or the next? Surely it falls on us to make sure that it does not.

Gordon.

## *Minutes of the Court Meeting.*

Held on Saturday 15th March 2014 at Freeman's Holt, Leicester.

- 1) List of Attendees: Phil Ager — Northampton, Derek Austin — Coventry; Michael Ayres — Leicester; Howard Crapper — Oxford; John Edwards — Stafford; Capt. Jim Evans — Berwick-upon-Tweed; Pat Evans — Berwick-upon-Tweed; Alan Fallows — Shrewsbury; Roy Folland — Pembroke; Eileen Forth — York; Colin Hardcastle — York; Hazel Hague — York; Nick Johnson — Hale; Ron Leek — Alcester and London Jim Manship — Leicester; Anthony Piddock — Stafford; Eileen Reynolds — Coventry; W.A.Roffee — Leicester; P.R.Staines — Leicester; John Tolston — Leicester; Gordon Varndell— London; Trevor Ward — Northampton; Stephen White — Grimsby.
- a) The meeting was called to order, and the Court was opened by the President, who welcomed everyone present.
- 2) Apologies for absence were received from Alan Shelley, Officer Without Portfolio; Tom Gibson, Hon Editor; Capt. Stephen Healy, Warden for the North; Norman Offield, Warden for the East; Martin Hanks, Warden for the South West; Ray Stone.
- 3) The minutes of the last Court Meeting held in Bedern Hall, York, on 16th March 2013; were approved as a correct record, and were signed by the President.
- 4) There were no matters arising.
- 5) Gordon Varndell presented his President's Report. A copy is appended.
- 6) Deputy President, Ron Leek, had only one item to note, this was his attendance at the Oxford Gild's Annual Banquet.
- 7) Due to Stephen White's rather late arrival, he did not present a Vice President's Report.
- 8) As Stephen White had not yet arrived at this juncture of the meeting, the presentation of Wardens' Reports was chaired by Immediate Past President, Alan Fallows.

Reports were presented as follows:-

- Warden for the West, Howard Crapper. Copy appended.
- Warden for the North Midlands, John Edwards. Copy appended.
- Warden for the South Midlands, Derek Austin. Copy appended.
- Warden for the South East and London, Nick Johnson. Copy appended.
- Warden for Wales, Roy Folland. Copy appended.
- Warden for the North East, Colin Hardcastle. Colin had no report to present.
- Warden for the North, Capt. Stephen Healy. Stephen's report was read out by the Vice President, having now arrived. Copy appended.
- Warden for the East, Norman Offield. Norman's report was read out by the Vice President. Copy appended.
- Warden for the South West, Martin Hanks. No report had been received.

Warden for the North West. Position vacant.

- 9) Stephen White presented his Hon Treasurer's Report and accounts. Copy appended.
- 10) Eileen Forth presented her Hon Membership Secretary's Report. Copy appended.
- 11) Immediate Past President, Alan Fallows, presented his Hon Archivist's Report. Copy appended.
- 12) In his absence, Tom Gibson's Hon Editor's Report was read out by the Hon Secretary, Ron Leek. Copy appended.
- 13) A copy of Alan Shelley's Officer Without Portfolio's Report, received following the meeting, is appended.
- 14) The Hon Secretary, Ron Leek, announced that in an attempt to encourage better attendances at Court Meetings held each year in Spring (March or April), it had been decided that these should be held, if at all possible, on a date which coincided with a major event of the Court's Host Guild, thereby allowing the opportunity of supporting the Host Guild's event, as well as attending the Court itself. He further pointed out, that Courts would alternate biannually, between a venue in the more northerly York region one year, and the more southerly Leicester region the following year, these venue areas seemingly better suited for attendees. Ron then called on John Edwards to make his presentation on this year's AGM hosted by the Stafford Guild. John, in explaining the details, circulated copies of all information and documentation to everyone present, stating that he would also be circulating these by post to all Member Guilds. Copies are further appended to these minutes, and will be published in the next Journal.
- 15) Any Other Business:-
  - a) Capt. Jim Evans confirmed the dates of the 2015 AGM to be held in Berwick-upon-Tweed as 11th to 13th September 2015. He also stated that this coincides with a Beer Festival in the town.
  - b) The Hon Secretary stated that a draft comprehensive FEW expenses policy document was being prepared for consideration at the next Court Meeting.
  - c) The Hon Secretary, noting that FEW Custodian Trustees on occasion were present at Executive Meetings, requested the Court's endorsement that they were always Welcome to attend any Executive Meeting should they so desire, and were able to speak there with the President's consent, although they were not able to vote on any issue under consideration. The Court gave its unanimous approval.
  - d) Michael Ayres asked about progress on Harry Ward 2. He was advised that without updated information — not received from many Guild Members — it was difficult to move forward.
  - e) The President thanked Roy Folland and his son, for producing the new FEW Membership Forms which would be issued to all future new members. He also reported that FEW now had a new seal embossing stamp for the certificates.
  - f) Hazel Hague noted that the York Guild had recently made a grant to a very worthwhile local community charity at one of its coffee mornings.

16) There being no further business, the President, in thanking Michael Ayres and his team, especially the ladies, for providing the facilities and refreshment for the meeting, declared the Court Meeting closed.

### *Presidents Report.*

Eileen and I have been very busy since the September AGM 2013, we have attended a lot of functions small and large.

I will start with the Chester Banquet 11 October 2013. Chester has really got on top of things, the weekend was a resounding success and for those that missed it you really missed out on a very good weekend I was in London on the 21 October 2013 at the London Guild Hall for the Gibraltar Day. Celebrations. I will add although it was not as your President. However the event creates the opportunity of meeting people and passing on the information of the Association and the Freedom.

Our Warden for the South East Nick Johnson has been in consultation with the Young Freemen of London. The information has come back so far is that they were going to discuss at their Court meeting the possibility of applying to join the Association. I have had no further information yet but I know that Nick is keeping abreast of the situation. He has also been looking into the Ipswich Guild in an effort to find out what has gone wrong but he along with everyone else has come across dead ends at every turn. Thank you for trying Nick, but I think that we will have to give up the ghost on this one.

We were in Durham on the 26 October 2013. We attended their Annual Dinner along with our Warden for the North East Captain Stephen Healy and some of the York Guild of Freemen along with their Master and Consort Mr & Mrs Alec Stephenson. Needless to say we had a really good time. I would venture to say that any other member or Guild/Guild that could make this event would be made most welcome, the dates can be supplied by Stephen for anyone wishing to attend.

On the 8 December we attended the York Guild Christmas lunch and from this we went straight off to London to attend the London Banquet in the Guild Hall. This is one of the most prestigious events of the year. We met up with the Masters of York, Coventry, Leicester, London and the Deputy Master of Chester as well as others, needless to say we were well received and had a really good night.

Eileen and I went over to Corsham near Bath from there for a few days and whilst there we attended a school Carol Concert before coming back to York to attend the Freemen of York's Carol Concert. We have in actual fact attended several functions since September not all I might add to do with the Freemen. We have attended Remembrance Services, some with the Royal Air Force Association. Some Carol Concerts including one at a school for the disabled in West Yorkshire.

You may quite rightly say "What has this got to do with the Freemen?" I would reply "They are all points of contact where it can be made known who the Freemen are and the important work that we do for the community. One other thing is that it is made known that we are not an elitist group that keep to ourselves. We are very much part of the community.

I am pleased to report that some Guilds have taken up the challenge to create new interests in the Freemen. I will mention York. Their last events have been complete sell outs with waiting lists. The Burns night was a huge success for the second year running, The Harry Ward Lecture on the 18th of February titled "The Irish in York" again a complete sell out

with a waiting list, the last event was a tour. in the York Glaziers (they repair and renew the Minster windows, The Great West Window is the project at the moment) this was followed by a pancake lunch. This event was such a success it had to be repeated in the afternoon with the second group taking their lunch first. They have social gatherings sometimes with speakers other times with musical turns. There is a lot going on in York. The Master and his Court are to be congratulated.

Leicester is another Gild that is doing well with another garden party coming up. Northampton altering it's charity dinner to cover weekend. We attended the Coventry Ladies night on February the 14th this was a complete sell out with a waiting list, these are very good reasons why we should look now to booking early for to avoid missing out. I could go on but I am already into the second page. All these things attract not only the members but the members families and friends.

I and the members of the Freeman of England and Wales congratulate your efforts. I have been asked to pass on the invitation from the York Gild of Freeman to their 'Pre banquet get together on Friday evening 4 April 2014 in the library. The Royal York Hotel next door to the station, this consists of 'Pig Racing and supper' this promises to be a fun affair. Then the Banquet will be held in the Oak Room at the Royal York Hotel on Saturday 5 April 2014. Tours are also provided and you will all be made welcome but places are very limited and tickets are on a first come first served basis. (In fact the last time I checked at the beginning of this week there were eight places left). Accommodation is also available at the Royal York Hotel at a very reasonable cost.

Northampton. I am pleased to report that Northampton this year have changed their annual Charity Dinner, from one night as in the past to a Friday night get together supper and Saturday night the Annual Charity Dinner. This is to be held on Friday the 11 April 2014 and Saturday 12 April 2014 There are also tours arranged for those who like to see the sights, accommodation is also available at Moulton College at a very reasonable cost. There are two members here representing Northampton Freeman and I think I am right in saying that they have some application forms with them so if you see them now you may not be disappointed. It's a nice location and they are one of our up and coming Guilds looking to a bright future so please support them. The prices for both of these events is very reasonable and all will be made most welcome.

Eileen and I do have other invitations to several things to attend this year but these will be reported on at a later date.

## *Wardens Reports.*

### Warden for the West;

Recent floods have affected the west. Some Freeman houses in Malmesbury suffered again for the second time within twelve months . Great swathes of Oxford have been under water. Horses on Port Meadow were restricted to an island of refuge for a number of weeks .

I was pleased to meet the Government planning minister , Nick Bowles on Port Meadow in January. Here he saw for himself the eight new, tall & ugly student accommodation blocks which have been build overlooking and blocking the view of the meadow . The Minister did not mince his words when he spoke later to the press and said that the design was wrong , the planning process had been wrong and the materials used had been wrong. It was the worst case of planning he had seen in his time in office. The Freeman of Oxford are now to get the belated opportunity to comment on this huge development - even

though the buildings are now in use.

Freemen of Oxford look forward to their Annual Apprentice Awards evening later this month . 18 finalists are eagerly awaiting the outcome.

Also this month , the Freemen are sponsoring a Freemen and Port Meadow exhibition in the Oxford Town Hall over a 4 week period . Works by local artists , photographers and some Freemen archives will all be on show.

I am often asked by fellow FEW members to approach the Bristol Merchant Venturers Society with prospect of engaging their membership . This society are not Freemen . Their own membership is drawn from invited prominent businessmen and they raise huge sums of money which is mainly spent on charity education projects.

Between my good friend, the Warden for the south west and myself , we have discovered that Baden Powell , founder of the Boy Scouts was bestowed the Honorary Freedom of Poole in Dorset . It is my intention this summer to delve deeper into the existence or otherwise of the Freedom in this coastal town .

May I close by wishing the Freemen of Northampton all the best for their forthcoming Charity weekend and many thanks for their kind invitation to attend.

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

I feel rather redundant in the role of warden most of the time because the active Guilds like Bridgnorth, Shrewsbury and Stafford do perfectly well without me and the others don't seem to want me. Having said that; it is good to be able to represent F.E.W. a few times during the year at social or ceremonial occasions. I was again well received at the Bridgnorth dinner and met, not only their local dignitaries, but representatives of the other guilds in my area, with the exception of Derby, who I hear little about.

I was privileged to be on the journal photograph with some of the new lady freemen of Bridgnorth, who have been sworn in recently by a mayor who was keen to see equality established. Likewise Stafford's current Mayor, again a lady made the formal announcement of our rule changes and opened the door for many ladies to be sworn in. in October that happened in Stafford and eight ladies became Burgesses of the Borough at a splendid Burgesses Court in the council chamber of Staffordshire county council. The other thing that the changes produced was a significant change in the age range. Being able to claim from parents rather than grandparents allowed children of several of our active guild members to join. At the other extreme a lady of 92 who has always supported us via her late husband now qualifies in her own right and expects to be sworn in in July.

Fortunately the long term animosity between the Stafford Guild and the Trustees of the freemen's Lands has virtually disappeared with new blood and new thinking. However, the rush to legislation by one of our nominal burgesses, who was possibly sworn-in in error, has caused the trustees some trauma and two court appearances. Eventually, the judge decided that no orders would be issued and advised the person against taking the matter further. Regrettably, I have become well versed in the various clauses of the civil procedure act. Not what I planned as a volunteer freeman trustee! Hopefully this story is now dead, but who knows.

The Stafford dinner gave us the chance to thank the mayor and others who have helped us, as well as having a very good social evening. Once again we were pleased to welcome the few active members of the Newcastle-under-Lyme freemen to our gathering, but sadly the Master of Bridgnorth was unable to accept our invitation.

Stafford has held several skittles evenings (traditional nine pins that is!) and we hope to

challenge other guilds, so I may at least add referee to my warden's tasks.

It is all hands on deck to get ready for the September AGM Weekend and I think we will be able to make it a memorable occasion. I may even have participation from all the guilds in the North Midlands Area which would be rather nice.

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

As the events of the Coventry, Leicester, and Northampton Guilds are currently reported in the Journal columns, I shall just cover a few of their forthcoming highlights first.

**Coventry Freeman's Guild** banquet weekend events will start with an evening meal and discounted overnight accommodation at Days Hotel on Friday 2nd May. Formal banquet will be on 3rd May in St Mary's Great Hall with tickets at £45 each. Sunday church service at Holy Trinity will be preceded by a robed procession, with a sherry reception afterwards at the Council House.

**Leicester Freeman's Gild** annual banquet weekend starts with a fish & chip supper at Freemans Holt on Friday 13th June. The Saturday banquet will be at the usual Devonshire Place venue on 14th June, with the Sunday robed procession to St Martin's Cathedral for a service.

**Northampton Freeman's Guild** inaugural Charity weekend will also start with a fish & chip supper on 11th April at Moulton College, where discounted overnight accommodation is available. On Saturday morning the Mayor will welcome you to a guided tour of the Guildhall, and other tours are available in the afternoon. The evening dinner will also be at Moulton College, with tickets at £30 each.

**Alcester Court Leet** elected Steven Brown as High Bailiff at the annual 'Court Leet and Court Baron of the most Honourable Henry Jocelyn Seymour, Marquess of Hertford' last October. This is an interesting ceremony in the 1641 Grade II listed town hall, where men sit on the right, and women on the left, and the latter have yet to become court members. Over £6000 was distributed to local charities last year, an outstanding amount for a small organisation, and reflects the excellent support by the townspeople to Court Leet events.

**'The Manor of Henley-in-Arden Court Leet and Court Baron'** re-elected Fred Dowling as High Bailiff at their annual Leet meeting last November. Also Dawn Leech was confirmed as Low Bailiff – first female in 800 year! The calendar of events start next month, with Guildhall afternoon openings and a Court Leet Dinner.

'The Court Leet of the Worshipful Town Mayor and Chief Burgesses of Warwick' held its 459th annual meeting last October in the Pageant House in Warwick, where the usual Officer reports and 'Presentments for the good of the Town' were duly considered. Supper was taken at the refurbished Court House next door. Next open meeting to town residents will be the Spring Court on 27th March. A useful information leaflet on the Warwick Court Leet is now available, and also a new website at [www.warwickcourtleet.co.uk](http://www.warwickcourtleet.co.uk)

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

#### **The Court Leet & View of Frankpledge of the Town and Borough of Southwark Wednesday the 13th of November 2013**

Guildable Manor is a Court Leet in Southwark under the authority of the City of London, along with the King's Manor, Southwark, and the Great Liberty. The name of 'Guildable' first recorded in 1377 refers to the collection of taxes there and was adopted to distinguish this from the other manors of the Southwark area. Its legal title, according to a Royal



charter granted to the City by King Edward III in 1327, is 'the ville of Southwark' i.e. 'ville = 'town'; in the more substantive charter of Edward VI it is designated 'The Town and Borough of Southwark' as is stated on its Seal. It is a preserved limited jurisdiction under the Administration of Justice Act 1977. Although neither a guild nor a livery company, the Guildable Manor does have a permanent organization, consisting of Officers and Jurors. The Court of Aldermen of the City appoints a High Steward. Since 1900 this has been the Recorder of London, sitting at the Old Bailey. Currently this is His Honour Judge Brian John Barker, QC who was appointed in February 2013 and is the senior judge at the Old Bailey.

The Aldermen also appoint a High Bailiff, since 1750 this has been the current Under Sheriff and Secondary of London, the administrator of the Old Bailey. Currently this is a former Coldstream Guards officer, Major Charles Henty, who has held the post for the last eight years.

Once a year, usually on the second Wednesday in November, these two officials swear into office the Jurors and their nominated Officers.

The area of the Manor includes the south-side footing of London Bridge, Southwark Cathedral, Borough Market, Hays Galleria and The Shard.

The Procedure of the Court Leet commences with a Summons from the 'Old Bailey': "Juror of the Town and Borough of Southwark 'Guildable Manor': You are hereby summoned to appear personally before the High Steward of the said Manor, at a Court Leet and View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of the Mayor and Commonality and Citizens of the City of London to be held at Amigo Hall, St Georges Cathedral, Southwark on November 13th 2013, then and there to serve as a Juror of the said Court. Hereof you are not to fail on pain of americiament. (signed) High Bailiff". (Americiament is a pecuniary punishment in English law arbitrarily imposed by some lord or court, in distinction from a fine which is expressed according to a statute).

On the appointed day, the Court is assembled, the Jurors are sworn in and they name their Foreman and he names a Constable, an Affeeror, a Flesh Taster and Ale Conners, who take their oaths. The Affeeror prices the fines; the Ale Conners and the Flesh Taster are appointed to test the quality and measure of beers and meats, ie check weights and measures. Some note on terminology of the Manor may help at this point by analogy with the practice of Livery Companies. - Foreman = Master; Sworn Officers = Wardens; Tithing = Court of Assistants; Tithingmen = Assistants.

The Foreman of the Manor for the ensuing year (2014 to 2015) is Leslie Grout, a retired teacher.

The High Bailiff then reads the Riot Act (from an original King's Printers Copy without which it has no proclamatory validity) and the High Steward then delivers his 'charge' to the Jury. After this the Foreman states any 'presentments', i.e. the cases he wishes to present. There have been none since the early Victorian period.

The High Steward, being such an eminent jurist, then gives a talk (a 'charge' to the Jury) on some historical matter or an issue of some current legal concern and controversy and the Court then adjourns to allow the Jurors to continue in a convivial way entertaining their guests and the Old Bailey officers to a festive meal.

This arrangement of the City's Law Officers Swearing the Jurors ('freemen') and Foreman with Officers ('Master and Wardens') is unique in the City, unlike the Liveries and guilds which swear their own Freemen and Courts of Assistants. The City's authority in Southwark in relation to its manors there dates from 1327, considerably pre-dating most of the livery companies foundations. However, it is the Manor's officers which conduct all

ceremonial in the Borough and not (as in the City) the Guildhall officials.

The Manor members are called 'Tenants' and 'Jurors' because the qualification for 'Listing for Summons' to the Court Leet is being a Tenant in the Manor. In late July the High Bailiff confirms the date of the Court Leet and asks for a list of those qualified (bona fide Tenants) from the Clerk. The Clerk sends the members list of that date to the City Surveyors Dept (the landlord) with a note to say that all named are liable under the terms of our Lease at Colechurch House; that legal status is a 'tenancy'. The List is then as such sent to the Old Bailey.

However, in the interim period between members joining the Manor and the Court at which one becomes a 'Sworn Juror', they are referred to as just 'Tenants' and this slight difference is similar to the distinction in the City Livery Companies where one is firstly a 'Freeman' of the company and then 'en clothed' in the Livery as a full member.

The members of the 'Guildable Manor' are the Free Tenants or Burgesses of the 'Town and Borough of Southwark' which is the title given to it in the Charter granted to the City by Edward VI in 1550. The original burh of Southwark was founded by Alfred the Great ca 879-886 as part of a system of forts to defend the kingdom of Wessex from the Vikings. These forts had become by the late tenth century settlements and towns in which there were markets, tradesmen/craftsmen and a mint. The denizens had certain rights within the feudal system which meant they were 'free' of manorial obligations, indeed they began to exercise within their settlements what were effectively manorial rights of a 'lord'.

Apart from trade and administrative control the 'freemen' or burgesses (burh members) also dispensed local justice and this too grew from an early Anglo-Saxon procedure of the frið-borh. This was the 'peace-oath', which required all freemen to pledge by oath to uphold the peace of the realm. They did this by binding each other in mutual cogniscence, usually in an assembly of a tenth part, a 'tything', of a 'hundred' (a subdivision of a shire with a taxable value of a hundred hides). This procedure is prefigured in King Alfred's law codes by an arrangement called the gegilden and references to tenth century 'frith gilds'.

The clearest proof of the ancient status of the Southwark free-tenants is their first written appearance; this is in Domesday Book compiled in 1086 for William I 'the Conqueror'. This was a national record of account to list what was owed to the king by his tenants in chief, his fellow Norman conquerors and the senior Prelates of the Church, whom were the greatest landholders. These in turn had sub-let to others, so that ownership and duties, either food-rents or military services, had become confused as to who owed them, the tenant in chief or the under-tenant. The king therefore sent his commissioners across the nation to interrogate these to provide evidences, they also asked the king's local agent in the shires or counties to confirm these statements, the 'shire-reeves'. These sheriffs could not know everything, but they could ask the local freemen on oath to announce their opinion of this information. The point is that the freemen could express the truth in the knowledge of royal protection from the wrath of local magnates. In the sections of Domesday Book in regard to this manor, the 'Men of Southwark' are shown as doing this. In 1326 the City was allied to the cause of Queen Isabella and Mortimer to remove Edward II and replace him with his juvenile son as Edward III. In doing so the City was rewarded with the maintenance and extension of its privileges at the first Parliament of the new reign in March 1327 and granted associated charters to authorise some major Livery Companies and to grant the Crown's interest in Southwark to the City for the fee or tax farm, the City thereafter appointing the Bailiff who was now responsible to the City as

'Lord of the Manor'. The charter of 1327 is still extant and held at Guildhall in the City of London, where it may be viewed on appointment.

### **Warden for Wales:**

#### **The Gild of Freemen of Pembroke:**

As Warden for Wales I was invited to attend the Haverfordwest Gild of Freemen's AGM weekend which was held on the 5th of October at the County Hall, Haverfordwest. The Annual Banquet was held in the evening at the Wolfscastle Hotel, On Sunday the Benefactors Service took place at St. Martin's Church and was followed by a wine reception in the church hall.

On the 10th of October the Master represented the Gild at the opening of the St. Michaelmas Fair, this involved a parade from the town hall led by the Mayor, Pembroke Town Councillors, Mayors and Sheriffs from other towns in the county. Following the opening of the fair there was a reception and dinner held at the town hall, which was hosted by the Showman's Gild.

The AGM of the Gild was held on the 24th of October in the Chamber of Pembroke Town Council. During the election of officers the Master vacated the Chair which was taken by Mr Phil Lloyd. It was moved, seconded and accepted that the existing Officers be re-elected. The dates for the Court Meetings for 2014 were agreed and will take place on the 20th March, 24th July and the AGM on the 23rd of October. On the 16th of November the Annual Service will be held at St. Mary's Church, Pembroke and will be followed by the Annual Luncheon at the Cleddau Bridge Hotel.

On the 7th of November the Master and members attended a meeting with the members of the Tanyard Youth Club and presented them with a cheque for £250 to help them buy equipment for their club.

On November the 10th representatives of the Gild took part in the Service of Remembrance at the Pembroke Town Cenotaph, the Master laid the wreath on their behalf.

As Warden for Wales I received an invitation from the Haverfordwest Town Council to accompany the Haverfordwest Gild of Freemen for the Mayor's Civic Carol service which was held at St. Mary's Church Haverfordwest.

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

A quiet winter in the North, with little of any real significance to report.

I was privileged to attend the Freeman of the City of Durham's Annual Dinner in late October and congratulations are due to John Heslop and colleagues for a fine event. I was also invited to Berwick upon Tweed's Christmas social in December, for which thanks are extended to Capt. Jim Evans and his colleagues.

There have been some discussions with the Town Clerk of Morpeth, but she remains adamant that all rights in respect of creating Freemen were surrendered when Northumberland County Council replaced the various borough councils. I know there is opinion to the contrary within FEW and am still pursuing this. There are still direct descendants of Freemen of Morpeth living within the town.

You will recall previous reports that the famous Hoppings fair was not held on Newcastle upon Tyne's Town Moor in 2013. Despite the Chairman of the Stewards Committee of the Freemen of Newcastle upon Tyne reporting continuing difficulties in negotiations with the Northern Syndicate of the Showmen's Guild, the local press has recently announced

resolution of the differences and anticipation that the fair will return this year. Easter Guild will no doubt deliver more information.

### **Warden for the East**

Contact has been made with Southend Freemen. Their spokes person is Cllr. Barry Godwin. There are 14 Freemen currently. They all appeared to be interested in becoming Associate Members. I am hoping that in the near future, there will be some completed Associate Member forms appearing soon.

Last night was an historical time, as told by them, that it was the first time the Freemen of Southend had had a meeting at which time the members were together.

Will advise of any developments in that area.

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

### **Guilds**

Currently we have 38 Guilds on the books with five Guilds in Arrears.

### **Individual Membership**

The current membership stands at 356. This has dropped slightly since the last report.

### **Since September 2013**

- 1 New full individual Member
- 4 Members have resigned due to ill health
- 5 Members have died
- 1 Change of address

### **Current payments**

Late payments, again I have to say reminders are being sent out constantly. Currently 25 members are in arrears. Some of these paid by Standing order. All have been reminded and as yet there has been no response from them.

### **The Breakdown of members payments**

- As I said In total there are 25 members in arrears.
- Some of these were paying by standing order.
- 13 are in arrears for April 2013 to April 2014
- 12 are in arrears for September 2013 to September 2014.
- There is 1 in arrears for September 2012 and September 2013
- No reminder letters have yet been answered.

## ***Hon. Archivists Report.***

The period since the AGM in Oxford has been very quiet, probably as we have been trying to keep our heads above water.

I have added papers to the archives from Stafford, Berwick; York and Southwark in addition to which I will (in due course) add the completed items of Presidency Papers and Correspondence.

As previously reported I concluded my engagements with an invitation from the Freemen of Montgomery to attend their December meeting and give a short account of the work of FEW. During their meeting I also heard a report from the local power company regarding the requirement for “temporary access” to the freemens lands to provide a route for pylons and was asked for a considered opinion regarding the legal position and compensation. The Montgomery experience was fortuitous as last month I received a request from the Beverley Clerk for advice regarding a similar access over their pastures for a housing development arising from conversion of an adjoining hospital site. Taking into account current changes to planning rules I gave advice regarding their position and suggested an approach for compensation and some contractual stipulations to provide betterment of their boundaries. I have stressed on both occasions that my advice was personal and did not represent a commitment from FEW.

The deadline for registration under the LRA passed without our being able to formulate an argument due to unfortunately being let down by the legal representative we had engaged (albeit informally) due to High Court pressures. I have been attempting to engage with I2pc; a Firm in Southampton who have specialist experience with the Urban Spaces Society. Having finally managed to get an e-mail through their spam filters I have sent a preliminary draft of our position and argument over our exclusive rights which is under consideration by their specialist Mr William Webster. I hope to be able to report favourably but we must be very aware of the current aversion to any instances of over-riding interests.

One final word of caution. I have received two e-mails over the last year purporting to have been sent from Officers of FEW and showing their correct e-mail addresses. Both were bogus so we must be vigilant in only opening those mailings with a recognisable reference in addition to the senders address.

### **Hon. Editor's Report.**

It was only as I was putting the last issue together (177) that it hit me that this was our penultimate issue before the AGM and a quick phone call to a few others revealed that they had not realised it either. So far this has been the only teething problem with the change from quarterly issues down to thrice yearly.

However it resulted in additional items for publication in what would otherwise have been a very thin issue, additionally the current constitution of the association was included as a four page centre fold which could easily be removed from the Journal without damaging the rest if so desired. Many thanks to all -who sent items for the last issue, some of which were also published on the Facebook page.

### **Officer Without Portfolio.**

My report is much as that previously given to the executive in January. During the past year I have produced several essays for publication on the FEW Website:

Viewpoints: 27 ‘Freemen’s Property and Status’

28 ‘Local Green Spaces’

29 ‘Freemen's “Exclusive” Grazing Rights’

30 ‘The Window is Closing’ (Final Opportunity to Register under LRA 2002)

31 ‘Current Legislation affecting Land Registration’

32 'The Legal Case for Freeman's Exclusive Rights'

33 'A Freeman's "Modern" Apprenticeship'

34 'The Correction of Freeman's Registered Rights'

35 'A Modern Approach to Freedom'.

In addition there were further 'Terms Associated with Freeman' and articles in the Spring and Summer 'Journals, a tribute to Allan Berry MA (1919-2013) Learned Clerk to the Freeman of Sudbury. Another article was inserted to explain the changes to conferment of 'Honorary Freedom'.

I continue to monitor those various subjects including Land Registration, Apprenticeships and items that may be of useful advice to wardens and the future of Freedom with their association to national patriotism. I am particularly concerned about deregulations, especially with the recent advent of the Bill and to any relaxations of customs and practices that may affect the freedom. It may also be necessary to reconsider our standing as a charity, bearing in mind the recent decision directed against Freemasonry.

### **Expenses or reimbursements whilst on F.E.W. Business.** **A draft policy document. By Colin Hardcastle.**

Preamble: Expenses may only be allowable to persons identified in Rule 10[a] [i] and [ii] when acting solely and exclusively on FEW business as defined by Rule 2 [i] and [ii] as authorized by the Court pursuant to Rule 12[b]. No expenses shall be claimable by any spouse, partner, consort or companion who are not themselves on FEW business.

#### 1) Type of expense:

- 1.1 Travel by private car may be paid at the rate of 35 pence per mile calculated to and from the claimants home to the place visited by the most direct route. Ancillary costs e.g. parking fees [but not fines], road, bridge or tunnel tolls may be paid on production of receipts. '
- 1.2 Travel by train should be limited to standard class on production of rail tickets. Additionally, the costs of getting to and from rail-heads and venues from a claimants home should be allowed on production of receipts.
- 1.3 Travel by omnibus would be paid on production of tickets together with any additional costs as in 1.2
- 1.4 In the unlikely event that an air or sea journey is anticipated, prior approval **must** be sought.
- 1.5 If it be necessary for a meal to be taken whilst in transit or at a venue, the reasonable cost would be allowable.
- 1.6 Should it be necessary for overnight accommodation to be used, the reasonable costs would be allowed.
- 1.7 Consumables such as postages, telephone calls, broadband time, stationery, printer ink cartridges used **solely and exclusively** for FEW business should be allowed on production of bills or other receipts
- 1.8 Claims will not be accepted for loss of earnings or personal income.

## 2 Reimbursement:

Preamble: Reimbursement is defined by my dictionary as “to indemnify, repay”.

There is a legal phrase of ' repayment of monies for a consideration that has failed'. In my opinion, where any person identified in Rule 10 [a] [i] and [ii] when acting or intending to act **solely and exclusively** on FEW business as defined by Rule 2[i] and [ii] has prepaid for a service such as travel costs or accommodation costs (often to secure better or concessionary rates) is unable to use the service so pre-paid through no fault of his/her including Acts of God and other *force majeure*, should seek to recover the sums paid (preferably from the payee) but any shortfall should be recoverable from FEW as he/she would be deemed to be acting as an agent of FEW.

## 3 Ex Gratia payments:

Preamble: An ex gratia payment is made at the discretion of an organisation in exceptional circumstances.

Any claim by any person identified in Rule 10[a] [i] and [ii] when acting solely and exclusively on FEW business as defined by Rule 2[i] and [ii] for any ex gratia payment in respect of emergencies, often at home (child care, dependant care etc.), should be submitted in confidence to the Executive meeting who will make a recommendation to the Court without breaching confidences or causing embarrassment to the claimant. I anticipate any such claim will be very rare.

## *Hon Secretary's Notices.*

### **AGM 2014**

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

### **2014-2015 Executive Committee.**

Nominations received for the 2014-2015 FEW Executive by the deadline of 21st June, will be circulated separately to all Gilds for their consideration, shortly following that date.

## *FEW AGM at Stafford in September*

After Stafford Guild had hosted the AGM in 2009, we said “Never again” However, the truth is that we rather enjoyed the weekend and we believe that those who attended also had a good time. So, when our dear Deputy Master said “Let's give it another go, because it must be easier if the venue does not go into liquidation a month before the event”, we agreed. We hope that we will be providing an entertaining programme with rather less rushing about than last time.

Being centrally located and with costs, including accommodation on site, being rather less

than in recent years, we hope that a good number of delegates will join us. Yarnfield was owned by the Post Office and still remains their main training base, but it has now developed into a major conference centre. There are no car parking problems, it is only half a mile from the M6, although it would be better to use junctions 14 or 15! Stafford Station is about 7 miles away and we can offer lifts to the venue if told in advance, but there are always taxis nearby.

Stafford Borough and St Mary's Church are keen to see the return of FEW and we think you will like the visit to Shugborough. There were compliments about the food last time and the Yarnfield staff are very helpful. We would like an early response if you are planning to come, but payment may be deferred if you wish.

Stafford Guild has developed quite a lot since the last time we hosted the AGM. We look forward to seeing new and returning delegates for this combined business and social gathering. There is an application form in this journal and more details can be found on [www.staffordfreemen.org.uk](http://www.staffordfreemen.org.uk)

## *News From the Guilds.*

### Chester:

At the Lord Mayor's Pentice Court on 25 April, (the nearest Friday to St. George's Day), 14 new freemen were admitted by patrimony.

The proceedings took place in the lavish surroundings of the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, presided over by the Lord Mayor, the Chief Executive, and the President of the Freemen and Guilds, Canon Dennis Kelly. The whole company then processed back to the Guildhall for some excellent refreshments, and photographs.

In their speeches the Lord Mayor and the President emphasised the historic honour which the new freemen had inherited, and they urged the new freemen to continue as ambassadors for Chester wherever in the world they went.

Chester freemen now have an attractive thrice yearly newsletter, in addition to the annual Deva Pentice. The Deva Pentice is now edited by Dr. Colin McNae, husband of a previous President of the Freemen and Guilds, Hilarie McNae.

On 15 May, freemen attended the Lord Mayor Making at the Town Hall, and provided a bodyguard to the Lord Mayor, equipped with staves.

The Guilds President, Canon Kelly, has expressed his delight at being able to attend various Guild banquets across the country, and meeting many old friends amongst the freemen.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Jun, freemen will play a leading role in the Midsummer Watch Parade through the ancient streets of the city, with many colourful participants, including the robed freemen and the civic party.

Chester freemen look forward to welcoming friends from across the country to their annual Banquet at Chester Town Hall (please note the new venue), on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October, with a Pre-Banquet supper on the Friday evening, 3<sup>rd</sup> October. The caterers will be the excellent Chester Racecourse Company.



## Northampton:

Twice this year the honour of carrying the Borough of Northampton's Mace at the head of the Mayoral procession has been bestowed upon the Freemen by Northampton Borough's Chief Executive, Mr David Kennedy. (See back cover).

### **Inaugural Charity Weekend.**

On 11th & 12th April 2014 the Northampton Guild's Inaugural Charity Weekend took place. Freemen representing Guilds from as far afield as Chester, Coventry, London, Oxford, Shrewsbury & York attended a Fish & Chip Get Together Supper on the Friday evening, tours of the Northampton Guildhall, Rennie Mackintosh designed house at 78 Derngate and the Guildhall Museum during Saturday morning and afternoon. In the evening our 8th Annual Charity Dinner was held when the Mayor & Mayoress of Northampton, Cllr. Les and Mrs Lisa Marriott were the principle guests. The venue for the overnight accommodation and the meals were at Moulton College, West Street, Moulton, Northampton who did us proud.

32 guests attended the Fish & Chip Supper which was followed by a quiz, whilst the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Dinner saw 57 guests sitting down to an excellent 3 course dinner. The weekend raised over £600 for the Freemen and the Mayor's Charities; The Caring & Sharing Trust, Cogenhoe.

Our thanks goes to our speaker, Mr Gordon Varndell the President of the Freemen of England & Wales.

### **Charity Weekend 2015:**

Following our enjoyable Inaugural Charity Weekend which received many positive comments and raised over £600 for the Freemen & Northampton Mayor's Charity, the Northampton Guild have booked the same venue at Moulton College for next year. Due to Easter falling early and existing bookings at the College already, the date chosen is:

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2015**, please make a note in your diary. The itinerary will be included with your invites in the new year.

### **Three New Freemen Swear the Oath**

In the Mayor's Parlour on 31st March 2014 the Northampton Freemen Trustees welcomed Mrs Ann Elizabeth FitzGerald, Mr James Edward FitzGerald and Miss Alice Kate FitzGerald as new Freemen. Ann FitzGerald has chased her lineage through the Alsop line to John Alsop who was made a Freeman by Apprenticeship on 23rd February 1860.

## Leicester:

On Friday the 14th February Keith and Dorothy Harding, Michael and Jean Ayres visited Coventry Freemen's Guild for their Ladies Evening Dinner. At the end of the evening all the ladies were presented with a red rose.

We would like to thank the Coventry Freemen and their wives for a magnificent evening. Friday 28th February we held A Long Alley Skittles Night at the Coach & Horses Public House in Markfield.

Twenty six Leicester Freemen challenged twelve, of our friends from Coventry Freemen's

Guild to two games, of skittles, before we sat down to the normal pub supper. After supper we played the final game of killer with Josie Tolton being the highest scorer and winning all the money. Charlie Platt's from Coventry being the highest Coventry scorer now holds the trophy until we have the return match in September at Coventry.

Saturday 22nd March a Cheese and Wine evening held at Freeman's Holt. When a very informative talk was given by Brian Johnson on Made in Leicester, with today's media advertising we are all familiar with many of the large company names some national, some international, but not many people realise that many of these well know companies originated in Leicester. In the sixties Leicester was the second richest City in Europe, but sadly, many of these companies are no longer with us.

Sunday 30th March an open morning, held at Freeman's Holt when members of the Gild could come along for a chat with Members of the Court on future events and outings arranged by the Gild pay their subscriptions and book for future events and purchase Gild products. We would like to thank the Ladies of the Gild for serving tea, coffee and biscuits during the morning.

Friday 4th Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th April. Four members of the Leicester Gild and their wives visited York Gild for their weekend Banquet. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Freeman of York for their hospitality and an excellent weekend. Especially the pig racing held at the hotel on Friday night.

Wednesday 16th April. The Leicester Gild held its Common Hall meeting in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, in the presence of our President the Lord Mayor of Leicester Councillor Mustafa Karmal.

The meeting commenced at 8 00 PM with a welcome speech by the Deputy Master of the Gild Michael Ayres and thanking the Lord Mayor for allowing the Gild to use the Council Chamber for our meeting.

The Lord Mayor responded by thanking the Gild for their support at many Civic Events though out his term in office. The Deputy Master then presented the Lord Mayor with a pair of Gild cufflinks and a cheque for his Charity Cancer Research.

During the meeting after thirty eight years of the existence of the Leicester Gild history was made with Lynn Roffee being elected the first Lady Master of the Gild. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Lynn and give her best wishes for a successful year in office.

The meeting closed at 9 00 PM when we retired to the Lord Mayor's tearoom for a Buffett Supper.

Thursday 1st May. Six members of the Gild escorted Judge the Honourable Mr Justice Haddon -Cave, Visiting High Sheriffs, The Lord Mayor and the Circuit Judges into the Leicester Cathedral for the Crown Court Service.

After the service the congregation made its way to the Guild Hall for the Reading of Letters Patent.

Friday 2nd Saturday 3rd Sunday 4th May. Six members and their wives represented the Leicester Gild at the City of Coventry Freeman's Guild weekend Banquet. Once again this

was a most enjoyable weekend. With the Saturday night Banquet held in the magnificent St Mary's Hall. We wish to take this opportunity to thank the Coventry Freemen for their kindness and hospitality over the weekend.

### Coventry:

On 21st January the 9th annual Apprentice of the Year Competition awards dinner was held in St Mary's Guildhall, with a record attendance of 131. The task of the interview panels was not helped by the record number of candidates this year, the second year of splitting the awards into small and medium enterprises (SME) and large organisations. Molly Smith won the SME category, and Georgina Oag the large organisation, both receiving a cheque for £1000 thanks to our sponsors. An endeavour award of £100 was won by Daniel Harvey, who has overcome profound deafness to succeed in his apprenticeship.

On 31st January a Lord Mayor's Admission ceremony was held to recognise 48 new Freemen, of which all but four were apprenticed at the Rolls-Royce factories at Coventry and Ansty. Due to numbers, the ceremony was held in the Guildhall in lieu of the usual Council Chamber venue, with Court members in robes supporting our Master and President. Afterwards a chafer meal was enjoyed to round off a special evening.

On 14th February, the Ladies Night dinner was also held in the Guildhall. Speaker was John Burton, chairman of the Bedworth Society, who in this centenary year read extracts from local letters sent back from the WW1 battlefields. All ladies received a gift from the Master's Lady, and a red rose courtesy of Guildsman Ron Robinson.

On 28th February, by kind invitation of the Leicester Freemen's Guild, some Court members travelled to Markfield for long alley skittles and supper. A return event at Barnacle Village Hall is planned for 8th August.

On 9th March the annual Past Masters Dinner, with their ladies and widows, was held at the Coventry & North Warwickshire Cricket Club. A traditional roast beef meal and fellowship was enjoyed by all, our thanks to immediate Past Master Charlie Platts for organising the event.

On 25th March over 60 diners attended the annual Charity Awards Event in the Guildhall. Over £4500 was distributed to 12 local charities, with the Master's principal charities of Myton Hospice and the Coventry Foodbank each receiving £1000.

In early April Coventry Guild were represented at the York Guild's banquet weekend events.

In mid April, Coventry Guild Court was happy to support the Northampton Guild at their inaugural charity weekend events at Moulton College, led by our President.

On 16th April the Guild's AGM was held in the Council Chamber. The Honorary Clerk, Jim Parry, advised that 77 Freemen and ladies had been admitted this year, and that he was seeking to retire – once a suitable replacement had been identified.

On 23rd April, our Junior Warden Clive Nelson organised a coach trip to the Ironbridge area museums, as a St George's Day event.

Our principal event, the Coventry banquet weekend, took place over 2nd- 4th May. The Friday night 'get together' was again held at the Days Hotel, where discounted accommodation had been arranged, and 55 diners enjoyed the three course meal and quiz.

On Saturday the black tie banquet in the Guildhall saw the installation of new Master Colin Harris and his Officers. 118 guests enjoyed a traditional beef meal based five course meal, and included members from: Chester; Leicester; London; Northampton and York Gilds, and FEW President Gordon Varndell. On Sunday a robed procession to the Guild church of Holy Trinity saw the installation of our Chaplain, the Rev David Mayhew, for the forthcoming year. A procession back to the Council House then enjoyed a buffet lunch courtesy of our President, Lord Mayor Gary Crookes.

## *Directory.*

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

**Front cover:** Statue of Izaak Walton by the River Sow, Stafford. By John Edwards.

**Back Cover: Top;** The March Court meeting in Leicester. By Nick Johnson. **Bottom;** Mr John Keggins leads the Civic party along George Row to All Saint's Church Northampton. Courtesy the Northampton Guild

Hon. Editor: Tom Gibson, Freeman of York. All correspondence, enquiries as to advertising and circulation (including requests for additional copies) should be addressed to: Mr. T. Gibson. Hon. Editor F.E.W Journal. 79 Tang Hall Lane. York. YO31 0SZ  
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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. 179) is the 26/9/14.**

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.

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# Freemen of England & Wales

An Association of Freemen and Guilds in England and Wales

Registered charity no: 293536

## 2014 AGM Weekend at Stafford - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September

**Attendance information and Booking Form for Accommodation and Functions  
Notice of 49<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting 11.00 a.m. Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September  
To be held at: The Yarnfield Conference Centre, Yarnfield, Near Stone,  
Stafford, ST15 0NL**

Contact details:

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Church Eaton

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### Accommodation information:

All accommodation is available at Yarnfield Park Conference Centre  
([www.yarnfieldpark.com](http://www.yarnfieldpark.com)) Tel: 0151 794 6440

Most rooms are doubles, (available for single or double occupancy), but twin rooms are now available on request. All have *en suite* facilities, Televisions, Wi-Fi, High speed broadband, etc.

Facilities are available for disabled delegates and special dietary requirements can also be accommodated. Please indicate on the booking form if disabled facilities or special meals are required.

Ample Free Parking is available at the Conference Centre and most parking is free on Sunday in Stafford. We can probably arrange lifts to and from Stafford Station if requested.

Please indicate on the form if this is required. Please say if partners wish to visit Trentham Sat a.m. (If you wish to extend your stay please deal directly with the Conference Centre.)

More information will be available in the Confirmation pack and on Stafford Guild Web Site: [www.staffordfreemen.org.uk](http://www.staffordfreemen.org.uk)

The costs of extra nights at Yarnfield are: Bed and breakfast. Single: £50 + VAT = £60, Double £58.33 +VAT = £70.
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*The provisional programme is below, but everything is subject to change and times are flexible. All events are held at the Conference Centre unless otherwise indicated.*

<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September</b>	
Guests arrive for Registration from:	16.00
Executive meeting	17.30 – 19.00
Evening Buffet available	19.00-20.30
Talk - possibly on "The Staffordshire Hoard"	20.15
Entertainment in the Bar (details later)	21.00
Bar Closes when last customer leaves	02.00
<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September</b>	
Registration from:	09.00
Breakfast	07.00 - 09.00
Warden's Meeting	9.00 – 9.50
(Bus to Trentham)	09.30
Open Forum	10.00
Annual General Meeting* ( <i>Dress :- Gowned and/or Chains/Badges of Office 'preferred'</i> )	11.00
Group Photograph	12.30
Buffet Lunch	13.00
Buses to Shugborough Hall	14.00
Return to Yarnfield via Cannock Chase	17.00
<i>Gather in the Foyer for some entertainment</i>	19.00
Banquet in the Knighton Room <i>Dress: Black Bow Tie and Dinner Jacket 'preferred'</i>	19.30 -
Retire to the bar for further entertainment	22.15
Bar Closes when last customer leaves	02.00
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September</b>	
Breakfast (check out 9.30 a.m.)	07.0-09.00
Leave For Stafford Borough Council Offices. <i>Transport will be provided if required.</i>	09.30
Procession from Borough Offices to St Mary's Church	10.45
Service at St Mary's Collegiate Church	11.15
Return Procession	12.00
Visit to Civic Offices hosted by the Mayor of Stafford	12.45
Buffet Lunch	13.30
"Passing on the AGM Baton", speeches and farewells	14.15



## Available Packages

<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September</b>						
Evening Meal	A		C1			
Talk on the "Staffordshire Hoard"	A					
Entertainment in the bar	A					
<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September</b>						
Breakfast	A					
General Forum	A	B			E	F1
FEW Annual General Meeting*	A	B			E	F1
Lunch at Yarnfield	A	B		D1	E	
Lunch and Visit to Shugborough	A	B		D2	E	
Banquet and entertainment	A	B	C2		E	
Banquet, Entertainment, Bed & Breakfast			C3			
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September</b>						
Breakfast	A	B				
Church Service	A	B				F2
Visit to Civic Centre, Buffet Lunch	A	B				

<b>A</b>	Full Weekend Friday to Sunday Lunch including accommodation.	£235 Single	£355 Double
<b>B</b>	Sat / Sun, AGM to Sunday Lunch, including accommodation.	£140 Single	£240 Double
<b>C1</b>	Friday evening meal and entertainment.	£21 Single	
<b>C2</b>	Saturday evening Banquet and entertainment.	£37 Single	£74 Double
<b>C3</b>	Saturday evening Banquet, entertainment, Bed and Breakfast		£150 Double
<b>D1</b>	AGM plus lunch.	£17 Single	
<b>D2</b>	AGM, Lunch and visit to Shugborough.	£34 Single	
<b>E</b>	AGM, lunch, Visit, banquet and entertainment.	£80 Single	
<b>F1</b>	Free item – Numbers for persons attending the Forum /AGM <b>only</b>	FREE	
<b>F2</b>	Free item – Numbers for persons attending the church service <b>only</b>	FREE	

Please send this order form to:  
 FEW AGM 2014, c/o John Edwards  
 5 Oak Close  
 Church Eaton  
 Stafford  
 ST20 0AQ



Package A Double		£355.00	For 2 persons	£
Package A Single		£235.00	For 1 person	£
Package B Double		£240.00	For 2 persons	£
Package B Single		£140.00	For 1 person	£
Visit to Trentham Gardens		Free	___ person(s)	
Package C 1	Per person	£21.00	___ person(s)	£
Package C 2	Per person	£37.00	___ person(s)	£
Package C 3 Single		£100.00	___ person(s)	£
Package C 3 Double		£150.00	___ person(s)	£
Package D1	Per person	£17.00	___ person(s)	£
Package D2	Per person	£34.00	___ person(s)	£
Package E	Per person	£80.00	___ person(s)	£
Package F1		Free	___ person(s)	
Package F2		Free	___ person(s)	

SPECIAL DIETARY OR DISABILITY REQUIREMENTS  
 (Detail overleaf).

**Please tick here if you are  
 National Trust members.** \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet wine not included – please order at bar.

I am a Freeman (or Associate) of \_\_\_\_\_  
 Full name and names of partner(s)

Full address, contact telephone numbers and e-mail address, if available.

Mode of Transport:

Lift requested from Stafford Station:

I enclose my payment for \_\_\_ person(s) for above package(s)

TOTAL

Cheques payable to: 'FEW 2014'

Or Bank transfer to: 'FEW AGM' A/c No. 0310701 Sort Code 30-98-00

Please send applications as soon as possible

Payment may be sent later

Thank you.

£ \_\_\_\_\_