



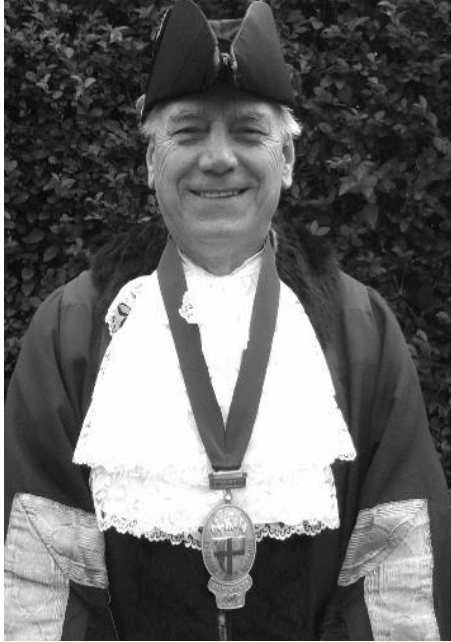
Freemen of England and Wales.

Journal 180
Spring 2015.



*Including Constitution.
With Compliments
ISSN 1749-4095*

Presidents letter.



First I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. We on the Executive have been working hard on your behalf and I am pleased to say that all seems to be going well at the moment. Eileen and I would like to thank all the Guilds throughout the land that have sent us the invitations

We have attended quite a number of engagements over the past year albeit not all are to do with the Freemans but as I have said in the past the word of the Freedom is being spread and some groups are now asking if we can give talks to them about who we are and what we represent. I believe that the more we put ourselves out there the less the remarks will be made about Freemasons and suchlike.

I have mentioned before about the Museum display, the Museum is at Goole and if we make the display interesting enough they will put money into it by designing large display boards that we may keep at the end of the display. The Insurance is well covered by them, they are allocating large secure glass display cabinets for the items and all the displays are situated within reach of the security staff on the door, if we go ahead with this and I think we should, the dates that have been pencilled in for us is through September and into October so please let us seriously think about this one. One of our Gilds have already said that it will go ahead and display.

The other thing that I should mention is that if all goes well another of our larger National Museums have said that they would like to go with the idea

Thank you for all your support to Eileen and myself over the past year.
Gordon

John H. Speake 1928 – 2014

It is with great sadness that I have to report the passing of John Speake, Freeman of Shrewsbury and London and former Archivist of FEW.

John was born in Birmingham and lived during his working life in Tamworth and Sutton Coldfield later moving to Shrewsbury for his retirement after research of his family history had revealed his entitlement to be sworn a freeman of the town and subsequent visits having given John and Margaret an affinity with the area.

John was a staunch defender of the Freedom, tirelessly researching records, firstly in Shrewsbury Gild Archives and later as FEW Archivist to prepare and publish a great deal of invaluable information to advise and educate anyone with an interest in family history and the Freedom.

It was only a long period of ill-health that curtailed Johns active involvement with his Gild and FEW thus depriving us all of a wealth of knowledge and experience.

Johns funeral service was held at St. Edithas Church in Tamworth on 9th January 2015 where two Shrewsbury Freemen acted as pallbearers. Freemen of Chester, Newcastle-under-Lyme, London and Shrewsbury were in attendance and it is a mark of the esteem in which John was held that those attendees included seven Gild Past-Chairmen and Presidents and two Past Presidents of FEW.

News from the Gilds.

Bridgenorth.

On Friday 10th October 2014 7 new Bridgnorth Freemen were enrolled at the Town Hall by Mayor Councillor Edward Marshall.

The 7 new Freemen are as follows: Harriet Page, Matthew Robbins, Charlotte Ward, Richard Ward, Alexandra Lambert, Julie Dain and Richard Dain.

Harriet Page's grandfather Eric Ridley and her father Michael Ridley helped to reform the Gild of Freemen of Bridgnorth in 1982. Her grandfather, Eric, was past Master of the Gild and her father Michael was Clerk of the Gild and mace bearer for the Freemen. He also served two terms as Town Mayor.

Matthew Robbin's grandfather Jim Head is Knight of the Gild and Past Master.

Charlotte, Richard, Alexandra, Julie and Richard all hold links with the Foxall family.

A photograph of this event is reproduced on the back cover.

Coventry.

On 10th June our Almoner Duncan Hall welcomed 60+ members to 'Senior Freeman's Evening' at Coundon Social Club for a buffet and fellowship. A raffle raised over £150 for our Master's charity.

On 13th – 15th June Coventry Guild members were pleased to support our nearest Guild at Leicester, for their banquet weekend series of events.

On 28th June our Master, Colin Harris, represented the Guild at the civic Armed Forces Day church service at Holy Trinity, and then on the saluting dais for the ceremonial march past.

On 5th - 6th July the Guild had a stand at the 'Godiva Festival' in the War Memorial Park. Whilst this is principally a free pop festival, it does attract 125,000 visitors, so is an opportunity to promote the Guild. Most queries were regarding admittance to the Freedom – and these have been forwarded to the Lord Mayor's office for assistance. Our thanks to PRO Peter Wilford for organising the stand and equipment.

On 13th July Colin Harris held his 'Master's Garden Party' at the RAFA Club. A bowling alley, tombola, raffle, bookstall and buffet helped raise over £380 for his charity fund.

On the 18th July we installed our new President, the Lord Mayor Hazel Noonan, at a dinner in St Mary's Guildhall crypt, and thanked our outgoing President Gary Crookes with a presentation of a Guild shield.

On 8th August the Guild welcomed the Leicester Guild to our annual skittles match and supper at Barnacle Village Hall. Over 80 members enjoyed long alley and bar skittles, quoits, and 'devil amongst the tailors' games. Over £160 was raised for the Master's charity. Our thanks to Charity Warden Tony Archer for his organisation.

In early August our Master represented the Guild at WW1 commemorative services at Coventry Cathedral, and at the refurbished city War Memorial.

On 13th – 14th September the national 'Heritage Open Days' weekend saw our Guildroom in St Mary's Hall open for many visitors to explore the Freeman's local heritage, and to promote the Guild.

On 2nd October our Lord Mayor and President held a Freeman's Admission Court in St Mary's Hall, where 26 time served apprentices swore the oath and promised to undertake Watch, Scot and Lot, before retiring for a hot buffet. The next day a party of Guild members travelled to Chester for their banquet weekend event.

On 9th October our Junior Warden Clive Nelson organised a coach trip to RAF Cosford museum, to view aircraft, missiles and exhibitions, which was well supported and enjoyed.

On 16th October a selection of the Guild Court, led by Master Colin Harris, attended the Ceremony of the Freedom of Coventry being granted to the ship's company of HMS Diamond, Coventry's affiliated Type 45 destroyer. Cdr Ingham, the ship's captain prior to the current dockyard upgrade work, accepted the Freedom Scroll and presented a ship's bell to the City. The Lord Mayor then presented a Coventry coat of arms worked in silver to the ship, before the Guard Party fixed bayonets and marched with colours flying and the band of the Royal Logistics Corps playing, along the principal streets to take the formal salute at the dais in Broadgate. The ship's company then had a blessing at the steps of Coventry Cathedral, before retiring for a civic reception. The previous day, Guild officers led a selection of the ship's company around the city sights and the Museum of British Road Transport.

On 23rd October the annual Guild Admission Court was held in the Council Chamber, where 26 new members were welcomed into the Guild, before retiring to St Mary's Crypt for an audio visual presentation on Guild activities, followed by a buffet.

On 30th October a Race Night was held at Coundon Social Club. An eight race card and buffet was enjoyed by members and friends, and over £350 was raised for the Masters charity fund.

On 9th November our Master represented the Guild at the annual Remembrance Day Service and Parade at the Centograph in the War Memorial Park, and laid a wreath in memory of the many Coventry Freemen lost in the World War conflicts.

On 12th December the Christmas Dinner in St Mary's Greathall concluded events for the Guild year, a capacity audience enjoyed festive fare and entertainment by the City of Coventry Male Voice Choir.

On 20th January 2015 the tenth annual 'Apprentice of the Year' competition reached its climax with prizes presented at a dinner in St Marys Hall. This year we were pleased to have the support of Jaguar – Land Rover on our sponsor's panel, which allowed a main prize of £1000 for the winning candidate.

Our Chamberlain and Senior Warden, Steve Morson, has now revised the Guild website at www.coventryfreemensguild.wordpress.com A link to a new Facebook site has also been added – thanks to FEW Journal editor Tom Gibson. *(Editors note: Should any member Guild need assistance to gain a presence for themselves on Facebook please contact the Hon.Editor).*

Gloucester.

Our Annual Dinner for 2014 took place at the historic New Inn in Gloucester on October 25th 2014 when 72 Freemen and Women and their guests attended including the Mayor Councillor Deb Llewellyn and her Consort together with Mr Tony Conder and his wife. Mr Conder was former Curator of The National Waterways Museum and following dinner gave an interesting talk on Gloucester Docks and canal.

On December 5th 2014 34 new candidates were admitted as Freemen and Women of the City of Gloucester. The ceremony was held in the Council chamber situated in the North Warehouse at Gloucester Docks and was carried out by the Mayor assisted by the city Sheriff. The present Mayor was very supportive of the Freedom and stated it was a very important part of Gloucester's history and a tradition that needs to be preserved.

I am pleased to report that the Freedom is again thriving in our city.

Haverfordwest.

Growing out of town shopping at Withybush is casting a blight on Haverfordwest's town centre, a senior cleric commented at the annual weekend of Haverfordwest Gild of Freemen in October.

Canon Residentiary at St Davids Cathedral, Canon Dorrien Davies, urged the Gild at their annual banquet at Wolfscastle Country Hotel to ensure that what has already happened in his native Carmarthen, where the old Market, Dark Gate and some beautiful Nash buildings have disappeared, does not happen to their town.

‘It is one of the things that is happening to beautiful old towns whose infrastructure is leaving the centre, and present day youth will not have a collective memory of what their town was, and will lose interest in it,’ he said in his response to the toast to the guests proposed by Deputy Master Col Martin Green. ‘It is a sad reflection of what is being allowed to happen. Of course we need prosperity, but not at the cost of your town's identity,’ he added.

A symptom was his failure to locate the Tourist Information Centre, which the Gild Master Mr Charles Davies, had alluded to earlier in his response to the toast to the Gild proposed by County Council chairman, Councillor Tom Richards. The Master said it was a disgrace that in the County Town, in a County which relied heavily on the tourist industry, visitors and locals alike were unable to find the Tourist Information Centre. He urged the County Council to take immediate measures to remedy the lapse, the TIC in the town centre at Old Bridge having recently been closed and its business transferred to the temporary location of the library in the former Community Centre Buildings off Dew Street.

Canon Davies referred to the Tudor Knight, Sir John Perrot's, service to the town and added that 13th-century Bishop Iorwerth should also have a lasting memorial in Haverfordwest, which he saved from destruction by his kinsman Prince Llywelyn ap Iorwerth in 1217. ‘The fact is Haverfordwest would not exist at all as you know it, if it were not for Bishop Iorwerth,’ he added, emphasising the importance of the Gild in giving the town identity and protecting its interests.

Councillor Richards also referred to the role of the Freemen in safeguarding the town for future generations.

The Master referred to the dilemma facing the Gild over the future of Haroldston ruins, Tudor mansion and supposed birthplace of Sir John Perrot, which the Gild acquired 30 years ago and intended to turn into a country park. CADW, the Welsh Ancient Monuments department, had now washed its hands of the site, which the Gild would now have to consider leasing or selling due to the cost of upkeep. He speculated on the possibility of finding a UK millionaire or a wealthy American to buy it, particularly if there was a Perrot connection. And he reminded his audience that an American furniture magnate had owned Roch Castle for a decade or so after seeing it in a real estate magazine and buying it on impulse for £15,000 in the 1970s. Diners were entertained by three talented teenage singers and instrumentalists, Aaron Kendal, Josh Morris and Ben Richards from the Landsker Singers, who were accompanied by Mr R. Noyce. The MC was Gild Clerk Mr Paul Lucas.

The Banquet followed the AGM and annual cash distribution to the Freemen. which was held at County Hall. The Gild was welcomed by the chairman of Pembrokeshire County Council, Cllr Tom Richards, and the Town Mayor, Cllr Roy Thomas. On the Sunday the annual Benefactors' Service was held in St Martin's Church when civic dignitaries, including the Mayors of other local towns, attended. The sermon was delivered by the Vicar, Burgess The Rev Nicholas Cale, who is the Gild's Chaplain, and the lessons were read by the Master Charles Davies and Deputy Master Col Martin Green.

Leicester.

On Friday the 13th June until Sunday 15th .The Leicester Gild held their Banquet weekend, with the activities beginning on Friday evening with a buffet supper of roast beef and turkey served with new potatoes and salad. This was followed with a choice of desserts, the evening then concluded with a general quiz.

The Banquet was once again held at Devonshire Place, the choice of menu this year was Richard 111 menu and this proved an excellent choice. Our principle guests and speakers were the Lord Mayor of Leicester Councillor John Thomas, Dr John Smail Master of the Guilds of the City of London and Dr Rev Johannes Arens, Canon Precentor of Leicester Cathedral. On the conclusion of the Banquet Michael Kellett arranged for a tour of the Freemasons Hall and Temple.

The Sunday morning Church service, held at Leicester Cathedral, in the presence of the Lord Mayor of Leicester Councillor John Thomas, the High Sherriff of Leicestershire Mr. Richard Cowes. The lessons were read by the Master of the Gild Mrs Lynn Roffee and the High Sherriff of Leicestershire Mr Richard Cowes.

Saturday 21st June a Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving was held at Leicester Cathedral on Armed Forces Day. The Gild was represented by six Freemen and their Ladies. The Civic Dignitaries present at the Service, Lady Gretton, The Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire, and Lord Mayor of Leicester Councillor John Thomas and the Gilds Patron Colonel Robert Martin OBE, D.L. After the service the serving members

of the armed forces and the veterans paraded through Leicester with the salute taken by Lady Gretton and the Lord Mayor.

Tuesday 24th June four Freemen represented the Gild at the Damask Rose Ceremony. We paraded in our robes from the Town Hall escorting the Lord Mayor in his full regalia with the Mace Bearer at the head of the parade, to O'Neil's public house. (Formally the Crown and Thistle Inn), on our arrival we were welcomed by the the Landlord, and keeping with the old custom and tradition dating back hundreds of years the Lord Mayor receives the symbolic rent of a Damask Rose and four old pennies from the Landlord. The ceremony is held on the 24th June to coincide with the Feast of St John the Baptist.

Sunday 29th June. The Lord Mayor Leicester Councillor John Thomas invited four members of the Gild to view the inspection of the 9th and 12th Lancers Homecoming parade, after their recent tour of Afghanistan.

After the inspection of the battalion in Town Hall Square by the Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire Lady Gretton and the the Lord Mayor they then took the Salute before the battalion moved off to Humberstone Gate to fall out, and attend a Civic Reception held at the Nottingham Oddfellows Club.

Sunday 13th July. Six members of the Leicester Gild visited Coventry Freemen's Annual Garden Party held at the RAF club in Coventry. We had a lovely afternoon; the weather was kind with a number of stalls to spend our money on including tombola, lucky dip a book stall and long alley skittles. The food included sandwiches, cakes, cream scones and strawberries and cream, all homemade and served by the ladies of the Coventry Guild.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Coventry Freemen for their warm welcome and hospitality.

Friday 25th July. The Lord Mayor of Leicester Councillor John Thomas, invited members of the Leicester Gild to view the parade and inspection of the Royal Anglian Regiment Homecoming after their recent tour of Afghanistan. After the inspection in Town Hall Square by Lady Gretton the Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire and The Lord Mayor Councillor John Thomas. They both took the salute before the parade moved off to Humberstone Gate, to fall out. This was followed by a Civic Reception at the Nottingham Oddfellows Club.

Sunday 3rd August. The Gild was invited to attend the Memorial Service held at Leicester Cathedral to mark the Centenary of the Beginning of the First World War. The Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire and the Lord Mayor were both present at the service.

Tuesday 5th August, and Saturday 9th August. A World War 1 exhibition was held at Freemen's Holt with a display board showing photograph's of the Leicester Freemen who had fought in the war it also showed the battles which they took part in and a short

history of the battle. During the two day event there were four interesting talks on the history of the war. The Tommy Atkins Society also had a display of military items and uniforms.

Friday 8th August. On the invitation of the Coventry Freemen, eighteen members of the Leicester Gild travelled by mini bus to Barnacle Village Hall for a games evening. This included long alley skittles, table skittles and devil among the tailors. After the first round of games we had a short break for fish and chips or a chicken and chips supper, before carrying on with the second round of games.

The evening finished with Coventry once again having a winning team, with the Leicester team coming second.

Friday 19th September. Michael and Jean Ayres represented the Leicester Gild at the FEW AGM weekend in Stafford.

Tuesday 30th September. Members of the Gild had the most interesting tour of the Rolls Royce Heritage Trust in Derby. During the visit they were shown the largest collection of aero engines in the country, ranging from WW1 piston engines the famous Merlin right up to the modern day jet engines. There was a small display of Vintage cars which hark back to the early days of Rolls Royce

Friday 3rd October. Six members of the Gild Michael and Jean Ayres, Brian and Gill Mudford, Lynn and Brian Roffee, represented the Leicester Gild at the Guild of Chester Banquet weekend.

Friday 7th November. A cheese and wine evening held in the community centre Freemen's Holt, with a very interesting talk by Felicity Austin Oh I do like to be beside the Seaside in Edwardian Days. Felicity managed to get the audience joining in the singing of the old seaside songs.

Sunday 9th November. We received an invitation from The Lord Mayor of Leicester Councillor John Thomas to attend the Remembrance Service at Victoria Park. Before the service and parade we were invited for coffee in the Victoria Suite. After the service the Master of the Gild Mrs Lynn Roffee laid a wreath on behalf of the Freemen of Leicester.

Take Saturday 6th December. A Children's Christmas Party held at Varney's fun factory, where they all enjoyed themselves on the bouncy castle, slides and climbing frames. The highlight of the day was the visit of Father Christmas.

Friday 12th December. The Coventry Freemen's Guild held their annual Christmas Dinner in the magnificent St Marys Hall. Leicester Gild was represented by Michael and Jean Ayres, David and Rita Johnson, John and Josie Tolton. After a three course dinner the Coventry Male Voice Choir entertained us with Christmas Songs past and present. The evening concluded with the Master of the Coventry Guild thanking

every one for attending and wishing all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Friday 19th December. Once again the Gild arranged a visit to The Little Theatre for the annual Pantomime, this year it was Puss in Boots. As normal the grandparents were shouting he's behind you louder than the children.

Please make a note in your diary. The leicester gild banquet this year will be held over the weekend of friday 5th june saturday 6th and sunday 7th. The friday evening supper will be held at freemen's holt. The saturday banquet will be at devonshire place london road, the sunday morning church service at the leicester cathedral.

For booking forms and further information on the weekend please contact.
Michael Ayres. Phone 01162242353. Mickayres31@virginmedia.com

Freemen's Railway Society.

It has long been suggested, even if tongue in cheek, at gatherings of the Association of Freemen of England and Wales that as there are so many present with an interest in Railways of all scales we should have a Freemens Railway Society. Well finally at the AGM weekend of the Association 2014 three of the attendees (From Stafford, York and Great Grimsby) decided to create a Facebook group to that end, as a means of keeping in touch and sharing photo's, links etc and open it up for other like minded properly admitted Freemen, of whatever Borough, town or City. Before the end of the first day of that memorable weekend in Stafford, the group had been created.

This is not however a group officially sanctioned by F.E.W in anyway and is an informal group of like minded Freemen of both genders, however if you wish to visit or even join the group, it can be found at:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/736130756449655/>
Where you would be most welcome, to join us.

The Annual Harry Ward Memorial Lecture. York.

**"Archaeology is Rubbish" - A Talk by Mr Tom Gibson
Friday 27th February at 7.30 pm at Bedern Hall
£7.50 to include a light supper**

Wine and orange juice may be purchased Raffle in aid of the Master's charity.

An entertaining talk about the lives of ordinary people in York 1,000 years ago and what rubbish can tell us about the way they lived, given by our Hon. Editor who was an Archaeologist and even appeared on Time Team. Replica Viking artefacts, including weaponry will be on display and explained, there will be a chance to try on chain mail armour! Contact :**Mr Alan Banks 13 Manor Drive South, York.YO26 5SB Telephone 01904331215** or Email: **dogger13@ntlworld.com**

No tickets will be issued. Only if the event is fully booked will you be contacted and put on the waiting list. If a place becomes available you will be contacted again.

Hon. Secretary's Notices.

Notice is hereby given to all Gild Representatives, Wardens, and Executive Officers, that the next FEW COURT MEETING will be held on **Saturday 14th March 2015 at 2.30pm in the Council Chamber of the Guildhall, Northampton, St Giles Square, Northampton NN1 1DE.**

AGENDA

- 1) Attendees to sign register and be seated.
 - a) Call to Order, Opening of Court, and Welcome.
- 3) Minutes of the Court Meeting held on Saturday 15th March 2014 in the Community Room, Freeman's Holt, Leicester. These minutes were published in Journal No 178, Summer 2014.
 - 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) Guide Document for assisting Host Gilds in arranging and costing AGM Weekends.
- 15) Discussion on lack of new nominees at AGMs for Executive Officer positions.
- 16) Any Other Business.
- 17) Closure of Court.

AGM 2015

The 2015 AGM to be hosted by the Gild of Freeman of Berwick-upon-Tweed, will be held from 11th to 13th September in the Guild Hall, Berwick-upon-Tweed.

Nominations For Few Executive Officers 2015-2016

Nominations are requested for FEW Executive Officers for 2015-2016. All positions are open for nomination, and must be submitted on the correct Nomination Form accompanying this notice (photocopies are acceptable). The positions are:- President (to serve for two years); Deputy President; Vice President; Hon Secretary; Hon Treasurer; Hon Membership Secretary; Hon Archivist; Hon Editor; and Officer Without Portfolio. Please note that in order to comply with the FEW Constitution, any nominee for the offices 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. All nominations must be sent to myself (Hon Secretary), and received by the closing date of **22 May 2015**, in order that they can be published in the Summer 2015 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 Freemen 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.

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

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

The objects of the "Freemen of England and Wales" are:-

- i) 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.

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

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 Freeman/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; i.e.: 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 Guild, 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 Guilds 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.

Useful Contacts and Information.

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