



Freemen of England and Wales.

Journal 186. Winter 2017.

ISSN 1465-8755



President's Report.



May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a most enjoyable and successful 2017.

After the excellent and well attended AGM last September, for which I thank our hosts, the Guild of Freemen of the City of York, the first general meeting of FEW this year will be the Annual Court in March, which will be hosted by Member Guild, Henley in Arden Court Leet. May I encourage your attendance at this, probably the most important meeting in the FEW year, as the FEW Court is where the formal business of the Association is conducted, and thereby provides the occasion for open discussion on all matters relating to Gilds and the Freedom?

A drive to encourage the recruitment of more Individual Members is currently under preparation, and it is hoped to implement this following the March Court, or in the very near future following. A significant point to be aware of regarding Individual Membership, is that each Member receives personal copies of the FEW Journals and any other circulated correspondence, and therefore does not have to rely on their Member Guild copies being passed around before they have the opportunity to read them.

The AGM this year will be hosted by the Guild of Freemen of Pembroke, during the weekend Friday 15th to Sunday 17th September. Please make a note of this in your diaries.

Ronald E. Leek.
President.

Obituaries.

David Moor 24 March 1927 – 15 October 2016
Chairman Guild Of Freemen Of Berwick 1971-3
Archivist Freemen Of England And Wales, 1966

With sadness I report the death of David Moor, a former Chairman of the Guild of Freemen of Berwick-upon-Tweed and the founder Archivist of FEW.

David was born in London in 1927 regularly visiting London Dock with his father who unfortunately was lost in the Second World War. He was an English and Latin Scholar at the City of London School before being evacuated to Marlborough where in addition to academic achievements he was a good shot and keen squash player.

In 1944 he started his career at Wm Denny's shipyard in Dumbarton and entered Glasgow University, graduating in Naval Architecture before he was 20 and winning the Kirk Memorial Prize. He continued working in the Denny Ship Model Tank for a number of years before taking charge of the Vickers St.Albans Tank. The Denny tank was later added to his responsibilities. He was recognised both nationally and internationally as a leader in his field who contributed significantly to the performance, design and safety of all kinds of sea going vessels. This included many technical papers for which he received wide recognition including Gold Medals from the Royal Institution of Naval Architects and the North East Coast Institute of Engineers and Shipbuilders.

After the decline in British Shipbuilding he rescued many Denny Artefacts which are now in Maritime Museums and wrote a history of shipbuilding in Dumbarton.

He was a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights in London and served on their court and as Prime Warden. He was also their Honorary Historian and received the Companies Gold Medal of Honour for his work on the Companies treasures and history. He also researched his own family history producing a work called 'The Turbulent Moors'.

He was a hereditary freeman of Berwick-upon-Tweed with the freedom running back in his family for over 500 years. After taking up his right to the Freedom he became involved in the Berwick Guild of Freemen. In the 1950s/60s he photographed every building within the walls of Berwick creating a unique heritage. Many of his photographs are now housed with other Guild records in the Town Hall. He worked closely with the then Chairman of the Guild, Thomas Evans, in two projects. The first was to provide for new Freemen a short history and description of the Guild. After Mr. Evans died in 1966 he completed this and it was given to all new freemen for many years until an updated version was produced. The second item where he was closely involved was the creation of an Association of Freemen Guilds. There had been discussions on this since 1927, but by the 1960s reorganisation of local government was being considered. It became imperative that Guilds worked together to be able to preserve the freedom. The result was the formation of the Freemen of England in 1966. David was a founder member and was elected Archivist of the new Association. This reflected his keen interest in history and preservation of artefacts and documents. He created a filing system for the archives and acquired an impressive library for FEW., which was passed to subsequent Archivists.

In 1966 David was elected to the Committee of the Berwick Guild where he served for the next ten years. This involved considerable travel from his home in St.Albans. In spite of

this difficulty he was elected Chairman of the Berwick-upon-Tweed Corporation (Freemen) Trust in 1970 and Chairman of the Guild in 1971 where he served for two years and made a considerable contribution to the Guild.

Along with many of us who are immersed in the history of our home towns he had a love of books. He was understood to have at least 8,000 books in his home

His funeral took place in The Lady Chapel of St. Albans Cathedral, where he had been married 58 years previously. At the time of his funeral the King James Bell, the death bell, was tolled in Berwick. This is tolled to mark the passing of a senior Guild or senior Council member. The peal of bells and the Town Hall are part of the Trust of which he had been Chairman. The bell will be tolled once more when his ashes are returned for burial in Berwick on what would have been his 90th birthday, 24th. March 2017.

David is survived by his wife, Valerie, son James and family who will continue the freemen history in the future.

Raymond George Holl MBE C.Eng MIEE

It is with considerable sadness that I report the passing of another prominent Freeman. Always a good friend and particularly to the Coventry Guild where he was twice elected as their Master.

Raymond, well known to many as Ray, was born and grew up in Coventry where he soon developed a great interest in the history of its civic affairs. He had endured the blitz and bombing of the city, his interest in its past was influenced by the awareness that his great uncle Harry Weston had been Mayor of Coventry.

His career began with an apprenticeship with BTH. Over the years there were many changes within the company before becoming Lucas Aerospace. Ray spent all of his working life with the Company and as was typical of him he wrote a book to chronicle its history. During those years he qualified as a chartered electrical engineer and lectured at the Lancaster Polytechnic before eventually retiring in October 1989. Ray was awarded an MBE for service to industry in the New Years Honours List of 1987.

Raymond's apprenticeship entitled him to join the Coventry Guild of Freemen and he became a member of Court in 1974. In 1981-82 he became Master and in 1988-89 was again elected Master of the Guild. Among his many civic activities Ray was Chairman of the City Centre Crime Prevention Panel and of 'Crime Stoppers'. He was also an active member of the Royal Society of St. George.

Ray's interest in the freedom gathered further momentum in his retirement when he joined the Court of Freemen of the City of London in 1993. It was in the September of that year that Ray indicated an interest in joining my Livery Company, the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths and into which I had the great pleasure of sponsoring his nomination and brotherhood. Throughout his involvement with the City of London, Ray along with his wife Barbara was an ardent supporter of our company and when in 2003 he became Master of the Guild of the London Freemen he proposed a combined dinner for members of the Court that was held at Tallow Chandlers Hall.

During his active life and as a keen historian Ray has produced several books of valuable interest. His 'History of St. Mary's Hall, Coventry' is of classic importance. He has also produced a second history of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London. As an example of all that we strive for in this Freedom movement, Ray has shown a dedication second to none and I hope I have revealed a little more to any that have not been aware of his impressive imprint on our society.

Notes taken at the Open Forum. 2016 AGM

- 1) Derek Austin offered his congratulations to the Association on its 50th Anniversary. Derek then asked if it were possible for Guilds to advertise their particular events in the FEW Journal. The Editor, Tom Gibson, said that this would not be a problem and he is willing to print any information that would prove beneficial to a Member Guild, and stressed that any Member Guild keen to advertise their events should send the information to him with plenty of advance notice to avoid disappointment due to lateness or insufficient allocated space.
- 2) Steve Healy offered his good wishes to our Patron, Lord Bathurst, during his current illness, and hoped that he would soon be enjoying the best of health again. This sentiment was echoed by many other delegates. Steve then enquired as to the process of choosing our Patron, as there appeared to be no written guidelines or criteria notes contained in previous FEW AGM minutes. He suggested that perhaps an agreed procedure should be written down and always be available for guidance by a (distant) future Executive, in the event that a search for a new Patron occurred. Furthermore, he strongly suggested that consideration be given to an approach to a figure from the world of (say) Academia, rather than a figure from the Nobility or the Landed Gentry. A desired qualification, but not essential, could be that such a figure should be a Freeman, and with a commitment to attend AGMs.
- 3) Steve Healy, referring to Viewpoint 11 (The Purpose of the Freemen of England and Wales) by the Officer without Portfolio on the FEW Website, commented that in his opinion the opening words were erroneous ("The Association is an overarching national body, formed in 1966, to represent the guilds and societies of freemen in towns and cities throughout England and Wales") as it could be interpreted that FEW represented ALL Freeman's Guilds and societies even though some of them today were not associated nor affiliated with FEW in any way. He further stated that the word 'overarching' could be take to be totally inclusive, and he suggested that perhaps the term 'umbrella association' could be more appropriate under the circumstances. In reply, the Officer without Portfolio Alan Shelley, said that the opening words do not imply that FEW necessarily takes the position of speaking for all Guilds in Wales and England, or even representing all of them, but only those Guilds that wish to come under FEW's umbrella through joining as Member Guilds. The Secretary said that the points raised would be taken under advisement for possible further discussion.
- 4) Following a discourse commenced by the Secretary, on the desirability or otherwise of retaining the word 'brotherhood' in the first verse of the Freemen's Song/Hymn, and substituting another word of three syllables such as 'fellowship' or 'enterprise', the delegates were asked by the President if they favoured changing the word or retaining it. The delegates, on a show of hands, indicated that the majority preference was to retain the word 'brotherhood'.

Warden for the East.

The first in what we hope will be a semi regular series in which we aim to profile each of the Area Wardens in turn.



At the 50th Annual General Meeting of the Association on September 17th 2016, a new Warden for the East of England was appointed. She is Valerie Pettifer (Pictured above), a Freeman of York who lives in Royston, Hertfordshire. Some of the Member Guilds and Associates that she will liaise with are: Sudbury, Lincoln, Stamford, Southend-on-Sea, and Colchester. Val, an artist, owns and runs the Old School Studio in Whittlesford near Cambridge, where with her husband Dave, they offer tutored workshops to artistically minded people. Val is pictured here shortly after being presented with her Warden's Robe and Medallion by Vice President Steve White at the Merchant Adventurer's Hall in York.

News from the Guilds.

City of Derby.

The Freemen and Freewomen of the City of Derby held their AGM in the newly refurbished Council House building on 1 August 2016. The Right Worshipful, The Mayor of the City of Derby, Councillor Linda Winter, joined the Freemen of the City of Derby after the business of the AGM to hear an interesting historical talk given by guest speaker Jane Whitaker, on the subject of the Walker Lane -Whitechapel area of Derby. Prior to the change in the law which enabled women to be admitted, the number of Freemen in Derby was becoming critical. As a direct result of the change in the law, the first Freewomen were admitted in 2010. A welcome consequence of this has been that their sons and daughters have also become eligible for admission and we feel that we are much better positioned for the future now. We currently have 102 Freemen and

Freewomen in Derby, with another 6 Freeman/Freewomen due to be admitted in December 2016. The new Freewomen are starting to take an active role – there are two Freewomen on the board of Trustees, one of whom has taken on the role of Secretary. The Trustees are now considering how we can open up admissions through the bloodline, so that grandchildren may apply if the line has been broken (for example by a parent who did not become a Freeman). We have been working with Derby City Council to explore the options and await determination of the proposed change to our constitution. A consequence of having low numbers of Freeman for many years has been that the Freeman have had a very low profile in the City - the Trustees are exploring ideas to change this. One idea is to set up our own website, which is work in progress. It will take a lot of hard work for us to achieve this, but several of our new members are keen to see what they can do.

Northampton:

Since the last Journal report, the Freeman Trustees have represented the Freeman at civic events such as the Mayor Making ceremony and Oak Apple Day in May, and the Mayor's Civic Service and Armed Forces Day in June.

On 23rd August the Mayor and Mayoress Cllr. & Mrs Christopher Malpas were joined by Mr David Kennedy, the Chief Executive of Northampton Borough Council, and the Northampton Freeman Trustees for a Hereditary Freeman Ceremony in the Mayor's Parlour. Christopher Simons, Matthew Jones, Zoe Jones and Patrick Jones were sworn in as Freeman of the Borough after they each took the Freeman's Oath witnessed by the Mayor, Chief Executive and Mr Phil Ager, Chairman of the Northampton Freeman Trustees.

The 50th anniversary AGM of the FEW Association in York was also attended by the Freeman Trustees, followed in November by the Remembrance Sunday ceremony and Mayor's Gala Dinner in the Guildhall.

The Chairman and President of the Northampton Guild of Freeman, Mr Phil Ager, requests the pleasure of you and your guests to our 4th Charity Weekend which is being held over Friday 28th and Saturday 29th April 2017. A welcoming supper will be held on the Friday at Moulton College, which is also the venue for the discounted accommodation. Saturday includes a visit to Earls Barton, a charming village on the outskirts of Northampton. It is the home of Barkers Shoes, a 10th C Anglo-Saxon church and our last year's speaker Georgina Jeyes' toy museum. The 11th Annual Charity dinner will also be held at Moulton College in the presence of his Worshipful the Mayor, Cllr. Christopher Malpas. Please contact John Keggins on 01604 696251 keggins@waitrose.com for booking details.

Henley-in-Arden Court Leet:

4th June was Court Leet Day, the annual Assizes, where produce is tested and assessed by robed Officers as to the 'Fitness for the citizens of the Town', with a certificate and sprig of green awarded to mark success. An Artisans Market in the Guildhall Gardens and Jazz band helped to create a memorable event for the Town.

9th November was the annual Court Leet & Court Baron held in the Guildhall, with robed Officers giving reports to the residents of the town and visiting dignitaries, after a rousing opening by the Town Crier. The High Bailiff Norman Kench reported on his year of office, and thanked the Court and Officers for their support. The Steward duly called the

Roll of the Jury, who retired and elected Officers to serve under the re-elected Bailiffs. After robing, the Chaplain invited the Burgesses to the Court Leet Church service on 20th November. This too, was a colourful event, with the robes of the visiting Courts Leet helping to fill the pews, with refreshments afterwards in the Guildhall. A memorial to Dawn Leech, the first lady Low Bailiff, was unveiled in the Guildhall gardens, who sadly succumbed to illness before progressing to the High Bailiff role.

10th December saw the annual Court Leet Christmas window dressing competition in the High Street, with 25 shops being assessed for effort. The Guild calendar was concluded with robed Officers welcoming the Morris Dancers to the Town on Boxing Day.

Bridgnorth.

On Saturday 8th October the Bridgnorth Gild held their 34th Annual Banquet at the Punch Bowl Bridgnorth. 64 people attended including guests and Freemen from Shrewsbury and London. Our after dinner speaker was Mr Peter Slack from the Peak District National Park .Photo of the 4 From L-R Councillor James Gittins, Mayor Councillor Vanessa Voysey, Master Tony Head, Jane Head.



Coventry:

On 21st May the Guild's visit programme included Guy's Cliffe House on the Warwick outskirts. Originating as an Oratory around 600AD, it later became a stately home, with the Percy family as the last occupiers, before falling into ruin after the war. St Mary Magdalen chapel and rooms survive as a Masonic Temple. This was a most interesting visit, our thanks to Senior Warden Brian Jackson.

On 22nd May a Guild wreath was laid in Portsmouth for the annual remembrance service for the Guild's affiliated ship HMS Coventry, as many of the crew perished in the 1982 Falklands war.

On 3rd June Coventry Guild were pleased to support the Leicester Freeman's Gild banquet weekend events.

On 7th June a Guild party had a walkabout literary tour of central Coventry, led by Professor Nesbitt of Warwick University. Over 16 playwrights and novelists had Coventry connections.

On 2-3rd July the Guild had a stand in the 'Life & Times' tent at the annual Godiva Festival, and were able to advise inquirers about the Freedom and Guild membership. In view of the typical 148,000 attendance at this event, it was an opportunity to raise the profile of the Guild.

10th July saw the Master's Garden Party at the usual RAFA venue, where bookstalls – tombola -skittles etc helped raise over £500 for the Master's charity. We were pleased to welcome members of other guilds, such as Oxford and Lincoln.

On 14th July the Guild Court was pleased to welcome the Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Coventry, Cllr Lindsley Harvard as President of the Guild during his mayoral year. After the dinner, Guild plaques were presented to the outgoing President, Cllr Michael Hammon, and Guild Chaplain the Rev David Mayhew, to recognise their services whilst in office.

On 12th August the annual skittles match at Barnacle village hall saw 74 Coventry and Leicester Freeman competing at long alley, bar, and 'devil amongst the tailors' skittles, before a fish & chip supper and raffle concluded an enjoyable evening.

The Guild had a busy Heritage Open Day weekend on 10–11th September, as not only was the Guildroom decked out for visitors, we had a party of 11 Freeman & women from Gloucester on a special visit. The Lord Mayor welcomed the party, and after refreshments the party toured the Council House and St Mary's Hall before lunch. Afterwards a tour of the three Cathedral sites, including a rare opportunity to visit the medieval Priory undercroft excavations, concluded the visit.

On 25th September the Guild's 70th anniversary was celebrated in St Mary's Greathall. Stands from the Lord Mayor's Office, FEW, and Guild history items greeted members only visitors. Guided tours over the Hall complex were popular, and also the buffet. We were also pleased to welcome the grandson of the late antiquarian J. B. Shelton, who still has some of his grandfather's effects to collate and review.

On 26th October the Lord Mayor held a Freedom Admission Court in the Council Chamber, with Guild Officers and Wardens in attendance.

On 28th October the Master's Games Night event moved to a new venue at the Westwood Club. Darts, dominoes, 'bag the bucket' and 'devil amongst the tailors' skittles activity events were augmented by three quizzes, before a welcome buffet.

On 9th November a Guild Admission Court welcomed 19 Freeman & women to the Guild, including our immediate Past President Cllr Michael Hammon.

On 10th November a launch event for the Guild's new book 'Coventry's Medieval Story' was held. This life and times of medieval Coventry includes superb illustrations by Cathy Renken, and all profits from the £5 book go to local charities.

On 9th December the Guild's calendar was concluded with the Christmas Dinner in St Mary's Greathall. This member only event was sold out in October, such is the demand

for this Dinner, which included the Silver Lining Ladies Barbershop chorus entertainment and also the annual charity raffle draw.

Royal Forest of Dean Free Iron Miners.

Picture of ochre mining at Clearwell. Ochre production has been continuous here for over 4,500 years.



Photograph courtesy: Paul Deakin.

York:

2016 saw us welcome almost 80 new Freemen of the City at the main Freedom Court and several private admissions, of those about 20 joined the Gild.

The F.E.W. AGM gained quite a lot of publicity and comment both in the media and on various York facebook pages, raising the profile of both the Association and the York Gild. We are looking forward to seeing the Daffodils planted by the president and on F.E.W's behalf flowering in the next few weeks, we shall take a picture for a future Journal.

It is sad to report that there was a break in at Bedern Hall just before December. Although the burglars managed to take a quantity of wine and a credit card reader belonging to the in house caterer, nothing was taken from the Gild itself. However they managed to topple the antique display cabinet belonging to us in the main hall, causing a large amount of damage to it and the breakage of a commemorative plate given to us by the Leicester

Guild some years ago. Repair of both is being explored.

The court of the York Gild are grateful to Mr. Roger Horsman and his brother who have very kindly donated a unique object into the Gild's care, which has an important place in the History of our City, a delightful hand embroidered tablecloth. The cloth is embroidered with details of the funds and events held in the War Weapons Week of 1940 and was presented by a Mrs. Fisher and the Nursing staff of the City General Hospital on it's opening day of the 5th of November 1941. The cloth was given to Alderman William Horsman Lord Mayor of York 1940 to 41 who kept it, unknown to his family, until his death in the 1970's. It was embroidered by a H. Palfreeman. As well as the events it also lists all Councillors and Alderman of the time as well as the Civic party.

We would be delighted to learn more about the cloth and the events it commemorates and the people involved. If any member has any information then the clerk would be delighted to hear from you. The Cloth was on public display for the first time since 1941, in Bedern Hall at the end of January for the annual City wide Residents Festival.

The Gild is once again hosting the annual Sheriffs Army, when the Sheriff ensures the City can be defended from attack. These days it takes the form of a guided walk round the City walls led by the City Archaeologist, the participants in medieval dress. It is now traditional that your Editor, our Clerk, makes the three mile walk wearing three stone of Chainmail, though we are unsure why. This year the Army assembles on Saturday 22nd April, all welcome. Further details will be available from our Clerk, see the Hon. Editors details.

Our Annual Banquet weekend is Friday the 7th to Sunday 9th April and is once again at what was the Royal York Hotel, now called The Principal York Hotel. On Friday at 7:30pm there will be a Quiz and supper costing £12.50 per person. The Banquet is on the Saturday Tickets costing £45 followed by the procession and Church service on Sunday. Full details and booking form can be obtained on request from Mr. Steve Hornby. 12 Marlborough Close, Rawcliffe Manor York YO30 5WA.
Email:hornby.steven@yahoo.co.uk

Berwick Upon Tweed:

Berwick 900, the celebration of 900 years since Berwick became a Royal Burgh, was successfully completed at the end of the 2016. It attracted a large number of people to the various venues and events throughout the year The Guild was one of the main sponsors. There are two legacies from the year. The families project, also sponsored by the Guild, which has allowed the investigation of several local families and the production of a book covering instructions on how to investigate your own family tree. While this is primarily for Berwick and Berwickshire it is also relevant for other areas. We intend to have a room in our Town Hall, which is part of the Freemen's Trust, showing the various family trees and allowing further research. The second project is ongoing. This is the possibility of turning the Berwick Barracks into a communal hub. The barracks are the oldest stone Barracks in the country and are in the custody of English Heritage. They are at present under utilized.

The Berwick Guild of Freemen have taken part in the Remembrance Day services for many years and laid a wreath during the ceremony. This has traditionally been near the end of the wreaths being laid and the Guild has repeatedly requested that the order should be amended as the Guild was the former civic authority. In 1916 this was achieved and the Guild laid their wreath after the Queen's representative, Mayor, Local Authority and

Member of Parliament. The relationship Between the Guild and Berwick Town Council is very good at the present time.

The Guild continues with a full programme of events. We were pleased to have our Area Warden as our Guest at our winter function. We 'Rode the Bounds', had a trip on the River Tyne and visited the theater in Edinburgh. There were three ceremonies inducting new Freemen as well as our AGM. We are actively looking for a site to build new housing and are carrying out discussion with the Charity Commission regarding the possibility of amalgamating two charities. This has arisen due to the introduction of lady Freemen. One of the two charities was aimed at needy daughters of freemen and the other at needy freemen. Most of the daughters in receipt of the first charity are now Freemen. Berwick was the premier town in Scotland in the thirteenth century. As the closest port to Europe in Scotland much of the Scottish Exports passed through the port. It had a trading post for the Hanzatic League. While the League has long gone following the rise of nationalism in 1980 a new Hanzatic League was formed to promote cultural exchanges. Hull and Kings Lynn who also had Hanzatic League trading posts have joined the new League. Berwick will look at the possibility of joining.

Warwick Court Leet:

15th -16th July saw the second Court Leet promoted Warwick Beer Festival held at Warwick Racecourse. A hugely popular town event attracting many hundreds of people, who were entertained by over 20 different music acts, whilst drinking beer and cider and raising a significant amount of money for local charities.

13th August was Court Leet Day, where assizes of produce by robed Officers probed the 'fitness for men's bodies', before awarding certificates and sprigs of green as a mark of success.

27th October saw the 462nd annual meeting of the Court Leet, held in the Jury Street Courthouse, and chaired by the Lord of the Leet, her Worship Cllr Christine Cross, Mayor of Warwick. Robed Bailiffs from Alcester, Henley-in-Arden, and Bromsgrove Courts Leet were also in attendance. In her report, the Bailiff Janet Honnoraty reviewed the events of the year, and presented cheques to the Sea Scouts and Evelyn's Gift charity. The top table then withdrew, to re-robe in the 2016-7 Officer positions. On re-entry, the new Bailiff Tony Hemming was sworn into office, as was Maureen Sutherland as Low Bailiff. Janet Honnoraty as immediate Past Bailiff was then confirmed as Ealderman. A new Juror Roy Glassborow was then sworn onto the Court, and William Spraggett was confirmed into the vacant office of Yeoman of the Court. Brooklooker, Overseer of Pavements, Surveyor of Buildings, Ale Taster and Constable reports were then presented. Presentments on Parking problems and road markings were then discussed and agreed. The Court was formally closed by the Sergeant at Mace Terry Gardner.

Next public meeting will be the Spring Court on 23rd March in the Jury Street Courthouse.

Leicester:

On 14th May Lynn Roffee as Master represented the Gild at the formal installation of the Right Rev Martin Snow as the 7th Bishop of Leicester in the Cathedral. An international audience and a full Cathedral made for a memorable event.

3rd – 5th June saw the Gild's premier event: the annual banquet weekend. Friday 3rd saw a sizeable number of visiting Guilds attempted a challenging quiz by PM John Tolton,

which was won by Coventry Master Steve Morson's team before all enjoyed a hot supper at the Freeman's Holt. On 4th June Honorary Gild member and Blue Badge Guide Bob Gregory showed visiting Guildsmen around the city. The banquet at Devonshire Place, with the Lord Mayor, High Sheriff, and Gild Patron as principal guests saw the good attendance by visiting Guilds including Coventry, York, Lincoln and Oxford, enjoy a four course meal. As the Gild Patron Col. Martin OBE DL remarked, Leicester has seen a new resurgence with the discovery and reburial of Richard III, and also winning the Premier League Football trophy. 5th June saw a colourful procession of attending Guilds to Leicester Cathedral for Eucharist Service.

On 24th June the Lord Mayor escorted by robed Freeman processed through the city to the Damask Rose Ceremony at O'Neill's. This dates back to 1636, when the then Crown & Thistle was ordered by the Corporation to pay an annual rate of four pennies and a Damask Rose on the Feast of St John the Baptist, collected by the Mayor personally. Although not continuous since 1636, this is a colourful and probably unique local custom.

A Making Free Ceremony was held on 8th October 2016 at Leicester Town Hall in the presence of The Right Worshipful Lord Mayor of Leicester, Councillor Stephen Corral. A total of seventeen people were Made Free, twelve ladies and five gentlemen.

After the Ceremony, Liz McKenzie, from the Lord Mayor's Office, handed a birthday card to Keith Harding (a Leicester Freeman) for Lilian Wignall (nee Harding). Lilian, who took her Freedom in 2014, had just celebrated 109th birthday, is the oldest person in Leicestershire and the 27th recorded oldest person in the UK. Lilian has lived through two world wars, five reigning Monarchs and twenty-one different Prime Ministers. What an achievement!



Other religious services where the Gild was invited to attend included: St George's Day; the Queen's 90th birthday; Armed Forces Day; commemoration of the Somme Centenary; and the Leicester Civic Service.

The usual Pantomime outing and Carol Service concluded the Gild year.

Please make a note in your diary: The Leicester Gild Banquet weekend this year will be held on Friday 2nd June, Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th June.

The Friday evening supper will be held at Freeman's Holt. The Banquet will be held at Devonshire Place on London Road in Leicester, the price has been maintained at £40.00 per head. The Sunday morning Annual Freeman's Service will be held at Leicester Cathedral at 10.30am. Booking Forms and further information on the weekend can be obtained from Jeff Lewitt on 0116 283 4357 or at jeffrey618@btinternet.com

Rochester Oyster and Floating Fishery:

At the Civic Room in Gun Wharf at Chatham, Kent on Monday 24th October 2016, the Admiralty Court of the Mayor of Medway appointed the noted actor Mr Dean Caston as their new Principal Water Bailiff. Dean will have jurisdiction of the River Medway between Sheerness and Hawkwood, and he has the power to seize wrecks, flotsam and jetsam, and any other goods found floating within his jurisdiction. He also has the power, along with other Water Bailiffs in his charge, to seize all boats, nets and equipment used by unlawful dredgers and fishermen. Coupled with a power of arrest, Dean holds a warrant to execute the powers of his appointment, as do all the Water Bailiffs. Dean is pictured here with (on the left) Freeman Chamberlain Shane Hales of the Rochester Oyster and Floating Fishery who is also a Water Bailiff, and (on the right) Freeman Nick Johnson, the Secretary and South East Warden of the Freeman of England and Wales. In addition, the Court admitted two Apprentices to the Freedom of the Fishery when Sophie Hales and John Spencer were appointed Freeman.



Sudbury:

The Annual Meeting of Sudbury Freemen's Society and the Payment of Common Money was held at 7pm on Tuesday 5th July 2016 in Sudbury Town Hall.

Pictured in the photograph are Freeman Roy Alston - Clerk, Freeman Alan Shelley - FEW Officer without Portfolio, Freeman Michael Wheeler - Chairman, Freeman Barry Hibble - Treasurer, Freeman Nick Johnson - Secretary of the Freemen of England and Wales.



Under a Charity Commission Scheme of 1987, the Sudbury lands are managed by a body of trustees consisting of the trustees of the Sudbury Municipal Charities and four elected freemen. By a contract between the trustees and the Freemen's Society, acting on behalf of the freemen, their grazing rights are sold annually, and half the proceeds paid to the trustees as the fee due, while the Society distributes the other half to the freemen and widows (who receive half the amount payable to the freemen).

Alcester Court Leet:

The annual Street Market on 12th June included this year a street party to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday, with competitions for fancy dress, best stall, and shop window displays, plus music and entertainment. Alcester knows how to party!

3rd September saw the Court Leet Family Fun Day at the Scout Hut. Whilst a great day out for the children, it does remind them that Alcester has a long Court Leet tradition that hopefully they will uphold in due course.

The MOP fair on 4th October was the usual colourful cacophony, with robed Leet Officers braving the rides.

Two days later the annual Court Leet Meeting and Elections filled the Town Hall, with several residents taking the Oath of Frankpledge and joining the Jury. With FEW

President & Past Alcester Bailiff Ron Leek elected once again as Forman, the Jury then retired to elect the new High Bailiff Ian Whitehead, Low Bailiff Steve Brown, and Leet Officers. Outgoing High Bailiff Tim Forman thanked the Court and Officers for support during his term of office, with over £4000 being distributed to local charities from the years' activities.

On the 15th October the traditional robed Assizes of bread, fish, flesh and ale were in action in the High Street for the Alcester & Forest of Arden Food Festival. The next day the church parade along the High Street to St Nicholas, with accompanying local Courts Leet and Alcester organisations, filled the church.

On 11th December the Court were invited to the Lord of the Manor's Ragley Hall, for a mince pie reception and tour, followed on Christmas Day by visits to local Care Homes. Dates for your 2017 diaries include the 28th February Shrove Tuesday Pancake races in the High Street, and the 15th April Heart of England Town Crier Parade & Competition. See website www.alcestercourtleet.co.uk for details of other forthcoming events.

Montgomery:

The Gild of the Freemen of Montgomery met on Monday 6th June 2016 at the Activity Centre in Montgomery to discuss sundry matters and to distribute their annual share of the funds to resident Freemen, who include the current Mayor of Montgomery and Chairman of the Freemen, Eric Fairbrother. The resident freemen number among their privileges a share in the rents and emoluments of certain lands, in which also their widows participate during widowhood, if they continue to live within the borough.

The new Certificates of Admission to the Roll of Freemen with new frames were displayed to the meeting.



Guild Events.

21 March Coventry Charity Awards Dinner St Mary's Guildhall Brian Jackson
024 7641 5792

7 to 9 April York Banquet weekend, see item from York in News from the Guilds.

22 April York Sheriffs Army Guildhall see item from York in News from the Guilds.

28 April Northampton Fish & Chip Supper Moulton College John Keggins 01604 696251

29 April Northampton Charity Dinner Moulton College John Keggins 01604 696251

5 May Coventry Friday Supper Days Hotel* George Wilkinson 024 7646 3203

6 May Coventry Annual Banquet St Mary's Guildhall George Wilkinson 024 7646 3203

7 May Coventry Freeman's Service Holy Trinity Church George Wilkinson 024 7646
3203

2 June Leicester Friday Supper Freeman's Holt Jeff Lewitt 07963 002182

3 June Leicester Annual Banquet Devonshire Place Jeff Lewitt 07963 002182

4 June Leicester Church Service Cathedral Jeff Lewitt 07963 002182

*Subject to confirmation

Executive Meeting at Leicester, Gallery.

Photographs by Nick Johnson.



Secretary's notices.

Notice Of Forthcoming Court Meeting

Saturday 18th March 2017 2pm until 4pm (Refreshments - 4pm to 5pm)

Henley-In-Arden Guildhall 141/142 High Street, Henley-In-Arden, B95 5BD

An email with an agenda will be sent out to all FEW Court Members (Guild Representatives), three weeks before the meeting.

For catering purposes, and the provision of biscuits, cakes, tea and coffee - Officers, Wardens, Guild Representatives and FEW members are requested to advise whether or not they will be attending the Court Meeting by no later than **February 25th 2017** please, by telephoning 07939 519325 as soon as possible.

Nick R S Johnson. Hon. Secretary

Nominations For Few Executive Officers 2017-2018

Nominations are requested for FEW Executive Officers for 2017-2018. All positions are open for nomination, and must be submitted on the correct Nomination Form accompanying this notice (photocopies are acceptable). The positions are:- 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 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 **18 May 2017**, in order that they can be published in the Summer 2017 Journal.

NOMINATION FORM **2017-2018**

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 2017-2018

Proposer. Name..... Signature.....

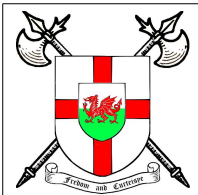
Seconder. Name..... Signature.....

I.....declare that if elected, I am willing to serve as
.....of the Association of Freemen of England and Wales
for the period 2017-2018.

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.
4. For those not wishing to spoil their copy of the Journal, a photocopy of this form is acceptable.
5. Please return completed Form and any supporting documents to The Hon. Secretary Nick Johnson. 37 Stanhope Gardens Ilford Essex IG1 3LQ



Freemen of England and Wales

An association of Freemen and Guilds in England and Wales

Patron: The Right Honourable, The Earl Bathurst

REGISTERED CHARITY No. 293536

Application Form for Full Individual Membership of the “Freemen of England and Wales”

I declare that I am a Freeman of

since

I hereby apply for membership of the “Freemen of England & Wales”

Do you have senior officer experience within your own Guild? **YES / NO** (*delete as appropriate) If YES, please state what position/s you hold or have held.....

*My cheque for the **Annual Subscription** (minimum £10.00 per annum) is enclosed*
£

OR

I am prepared to sign a Standing Order Mandate and a Gift Aid Declaration – please supply forms It is preferred that membership subscriptions are paid by Standing Order. This will reduce our administration costs. delete as appropriate

Surname.....DoB

Full forenames.....

Address.....

.....

..... Post code.....

Email address

Phone(landline).....Mobile

Signature.....Date

This form should be returned to the Honorary Membership Secretary,
Ms Eileen Forth,
88 Whitethorn Close,
Huntington,
York,
YO31 9EU
(Phone - 01904 638361)

For those not wishing to spoil their copy of the Journal, a photocopy of this form is acceptable.

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Hertfordshire, SG8 6B 01763 220430 val.pettifer@icloud.com

Warden for London and the South East: Nick Johnson. (See Hon Secretary above)

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

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

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

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Cover Picture: The Guildhall Henley in Arden.

Photograph courtesy. Norman Kench, High Bailiff.

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Tel. No. 01904 423153

Email: thomasg624@aol.com

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. 187) is the 19/5/17.

If you would like to receive future editions of this journal by email (as a PDF) rather than through the post, please contact the editor with your details.

Registered address of the Freeman of England and Wales Association:

**F.E.W.
37 Stanhope Gardens
Ilford
Essex
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Printed by: Focus 4 Print. 1James Street, York. YO10 3WW Tel:01904 673030

Email: office@focus4print.co.uk

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY SOUVENIRS

Beginning with the highly decorated Marlborough-style mugs manufactured by the Heraldic Pottery in Stoke-on-Trent, our celebratory souvenirs are superb quality commemorating F. E. W.'s fifty years of existence, and make ideal presents for family members, friends and fellow Freemen.

Suitable as birthday presents, thank you gifts, and as collectors items, such treasured possessions will serve as a reminder of the valuable links that Freemen have through membership of F.E.W, and the unique bond that each Member Guild has with their F.E.W. sister Guilds throughout England and Wales.



The deep red enamel label and robe badge is 3cm in diameter with the FEW coat of arms, and is secured with a butterfly clip, whilst the gunmetal pen is triangular for improved grip, with a detachable cap, and inscribed with the FEW Coat of Arms.

The bone china mug shows the FEW Coat of Arms in full colour, as well as the armorial Coat of Arms of our Patron, the Right Honourable the Earl Bathurst, together with a celebratory inscription.

Prices do not include postage. Mugs - £10 each, Badges - £8 each, Pens - £7 each. To place your order, please contact 07939 519325. Delivery by package through Post Office Mail.

Cheques should be made out to: "The Freemen of England and Wales", and posted to : Mr Stephen White, FEW Treasurer, 11 Manor Avenue, Great Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire, DN32 0QR.