

## Letter from the President.



**Colin Hardcastle, (1947~2019),**  
**President 2008 to 2010**



Colin (far right) with the President Stephen White, Matthew White and the Hon. Editor in front of Flying Scotsman in wartime Black livery at the National Railway Museum 2011.

Colin was born in Leeds in 1947, the son of Leslie and Margaret.

After completing junior school, he was enrolled at the City of Leeds Technical School in 1958, leaving in 1964 with the (then) usual O & A level GCEs.

On leaving school, he joined the Civil Service where he served with HM Court Service. Upon his retirement, in 2009, he was awarded the Imperial Service Order for "loyal and faithful Service to the Crown".

In 1972, he was made an accredited youth worker with the Methodist Church until his retirement in 2002, on his being made a Magistrate on the Juvenile Bench until 2009. Colin was admitted into the York Guild of Freemen in 1984 and served on the Guild Court in a variety of posts, including Beadle, Treasurer and Membership Secretary, for nearly 30 years before retiring through increasing poor health.

He was admitted into FEW in 1989 Serving on the exec in a number of positions, including Press officer. He was made a Freeman of London in 1996. In 1994, he was elected Master of the York Guild and was so again in 2007. He served as President of FEW from 2008 until 2010. He was subsequently appointed Warden of the North and a Custodian Trustee of FEW.

Colin was a blunt speaking Yorkshireman, with a dry sense of humour, a fan of the goons and Last of the summer wine amongst others. He followed cricket as much as he could, if you called him during a televised match he would often exclaim unexpectedly during the call when someone was caught or a six was scored for example. He was a Railway enthusiast, taking a number of journeys by train in his retirement for pleasure, notably to Kyle of Localsh and from Venice on the Orient Express. He was a keen model builder, in OO scale until he discovered N Gauge in which he built several layouts over the years. His

model making was not restricted to Railways and only a few weeks before his Death he contacted the Hon editor to request the purchase of two Airfix Spitfires to be sent to him, for a Diorama he was working on. He was also a keen supporter of the RNLI for many years.

Colin was a loyal, firm friend to many of us, offering help where needed without a moments hesitation. He had a generosity of spirit which balanced his bluntness making him a man that not all knew how to take. He and his father nominated Your Hon. Editor to the York Gild Court some thirty years ago, Colin remained a family friend for all those years, Toms Children growing up as the Barnpots to Uncle Colin.

He was an enthusiast in everything he got involved in, not least the Freedom and his support of the RNLI. He cared deeply about them, but both his friends and his Family were what he cared about the most. He left a legacy with his character, care and enthusiasm with all he knew. He will be missed with sadness, but remembered with joy by many.

## **News From the Guilds.**

### **Altrincham.**

Tony Collier BEM - Provost Of Altrincham

Tony was born in Altrincham in 1957 and has lived and worked in Altrincham all his life. He was Chairmen of the Chamber of Commerce and a past President as well as being a Committee member for many years.

In 2013 he started to Chair Altrincham Town Plan a Neighbourhood Business Plan that was adopted by Trafford Council in 2017.

He was awarded the British Empire Medal in The Queens 2019 birthday honours for services to Charity and the Community in Cheshire.

Unfortunately he was diagnosed with terminal prostate cancer in May 2017 aged only 60.

He has since become an ambassador, fundraiser and awareness speaker for Prostate Cancer UK. He delivers talks in workplaces, sports clubs and running clubs to help save men's lives. Over the last two years he has raised over £33,000 for PCUK.

Tony is also the North West Regional Champion for 5k Your Way a nationwide cancer support group encouraging people living with and beyond cancer to exercise via local parkruns. He is the local ambassador at Wilmslow parkrun.

Tony also serves as a patient representative for a number of Greater Manchester Cancer steering groups including Prehab4Cancer which mirrors his views that exercise has huge benefits for people's physical and mental well being.

Between 2007 and 2018 Tony ran 20 marathons as well as one ultra marathon and it appears that he had prostate cancer throughout that period. He still runs 3 or 4 times per week and hopes to qualify as a Coach in Running Fitness on January 26th.

### **Berwick Upon Tweed.**

The Guild of Freemen of Berwick had the pleasure of having the President of FEW and the local Warden with their families as guests at the Berwick winter function in December. It is always a pleasure to have visits from other guilds and they are always welcome to attend our functions.

The next function of the Berwick Guild will a Pie and Peas supper on Saturday 25th. April

when the Berwick Archivist will go through the project to catalogue and digitise the Berwick archives. This includes all the Guild records prior to 1835. We have extended the programme to the end of June 2020 to cover the records of the Guild estate and hopefully start on the Guild archives although there will not be time to complete this as we have extensive records post 1835 which include three attempts by the Local Authority to take over the Guild Trust lands. We also have two photographic collections including a photo of all the houses within the wall of Berwick taken in the 1950s, from which we intend produce a booklet. The Guild has given substantial financial assistance to this archives project. We would welcome any Freemen from other guilds who wish to attend this meeting. The Berwick project is one of an initial six projects set up to bring archives within the new National and International Archives scheme. Unfortunately Alan Fallows will not be able to attend on 25th April'

Our main spring event is the riding of the Bounds of Berwick which has taken place for the past 600 years. Originally the bounds were perambulated by then garrison, but since 1604 have been ridden by horseback first by the Guild and since 1843 under the jurisdiction of the Local Authority. In addition to the riders the Guild drives round the bounds by bus and follows this with a traditional meal. The local Authority has now handed over the organisation of the riding of the bounds to a voluntary committee. They have moved the ceremony from the traditional 1st. May to the Saturday of the May holiday. There has been considerable discussion within the Guild as to which day the Guild should ride the bounds. At the present time the Guild has stuck with 1st. May. The Guild has a summer outing. This can vary between visiting another Guild, a place of interest or a theatre.

Freedom ceremonies take place four times each year. The Freedom is conveyed by the Mayor and welcomed by the Sheriff. The Chairman, or representative of the Guild, then welcomes the new Freemen and robes them with the Freeman's robe. In addition to the certificate of Freedom the new freemen receives two booklets about the Berwick Guild and the Guild Trust. They also receive a tie in a choice of colours for men or a scarf for ladies and a lapel badge. These are embroidered with the Berwick Guild badge.

The rules for the Committee and the Trust are laid down in the 1926 Berwick Act. This Act was the result of considerable discussion between the Guild and Berwick Town Council and was a compromise between their interests. The Berwick Trust was set up by this Act with equal number of Trustees from the Guild and the Council. The AGM of the Guild is on 14th. November as laid down in the 1843 Berwick Act, except when this is on a Sunday when the AGM is held on the Monday. The Guild Committee and Trustees are elected annually at the AGM. At the first meeting of the Guild Committee after the AGM grants are made to a number of local charities and for support for local works. The Committee elects the Chairman of the Guild. There have been six chairmen in the past 100 years.

### **Coventry.**

A Memorial Service was held at the Guild Church of Holy Trinity on 25th May, being the 37th anniversary of the sinking of the Guild's affiliated ship HMS Coventry during the Falklands War. Our Master Carole Wilson laid a wreath on behalf of the Guild.

On June 1st, 14 Guild members & partners were pleased to support the Leicester Gild's banquet weekend events.

On June 18th the annual Senior Freemen's Evening at the Westwood Club attracted 44 Freemen for fellowship and buffet. A raffle raised funds for the Master's charity of 'Supporting Dementia Care'.

The Master's Garden Party on June 29th was held at Pailton's Fairfield Lake & Smite Brook railway, with trips on the lake by steamboat, and rail rides too. A buffet and raffle raised over £300 for the Master's charity.

The President's Dinner on July 19th in St Mary's Hall Crypt welcomed the new Lord Mayor Linda Bigham as the Guild's President for her term of office.

On 9th August the annual Barnacle Village Hall challenge match of long alley – bar - and table skittles was the usual busy evening, with a welcome break for a fish & chip supper. Leicester's Malcolm Ballard won the plaque for the highest score on the night.

On 17th August our Junior Warden Steven Morson organised a robed Guildsmen city centre tour by acting Town Crier Paul Curtis – we all learnt a bit more local history worthy of note.

The weekend of 21/22 September saw the Guildroom open for the Heritage Open Days event. The new Guild banners welcomed ~200 visitors to view the medieval crypt, and learn of our heritage.

On 10th October another Guild visit was to Parkside's Microcab maker. Further details of this hydrogen fuel cell vehicle are on the Guild's Facebook page.

On 12th October 18 Coventry members & partners headed north to attend the Chester Guild's banquet weekend event. Six days later the annual Games Night & buffet at the Westwood Club was well attended.

On 17th October the Lord Mayor admitted 20 time served apprentices to the Freedom of Coventry. A Guild magazine and application form was also given to the new Freemen. On 10th November our Master laid a wreath at the Cenotaph in the War Memorial Park on Remembrance Sunday to mark the loss of so many Freemen in the war years.

On 27th November the Guild's visit programme concluded at the Manufacturing Technology Centre on the old Ansty Aerodrome site. Here state of the art techniques for automatic mould production for Rolls-Royce single crystal turbine blades, and Hot Isostatic Pressing of close to form compressor casings, and 3D printing of solid and elastomeric parts were developed. We were pleased to note an apprentice training programme was in hand.

The Guild year concluded with the sell out Christmas Dinner in St Mary's Greathall: the last event here for over a year due to refurbishment. We shall really miss this historic venue during 2020/1.

### **Derby.**

**Admissions** – Following on from an enquiry, the Trustees considered an opportunity to further change the rules in the Constitution to enable admission to the Freemen of Derby

via the bloodline route. Previously admission was only permitted if the parent is/was a Freeman, so if a previous generation had not been admitted as a Freeman, subsequent generations were not eligible. This restriction has now been removed and so long as a candidate can satisfy the rules of admission and prove their bloodline to a Freeman/Freewoman of the City, they are eligible for admission. Our Constitution was amended accordingly in August 2017 and we have since welcomed new Freemen under this rule.

As a direct result of bloodline admissions and the admission of women Freemen, we can report that we now have 130 Freemen and Freewomen in Derby – the most recent 10 were admitted in May 2019 by The Mayor of the City of Derby, Councillor Frank Harwood.



**Website:** Since our last article, we have created a new website for the Freemen of Derby. Take a look at: <https://freemenofderby.co.uk/> to find out more about us. We have received 2 enquiries for admission via our website so it had proved its value.

**Ancient scroll:** Records of the Freemen of Derby were stored at the Guild Hall in Derby on scrolls. Sadly, during the early hours of 21 October 1841, the Guild Hall was destroyed by fire and it had been believed that the scrolls were lost. A new record of the then living Freemen was compiled and a new Roll of Admission was created which is still used today. In more recent times the ancient damaged scroll was discovered, albeit badly fire-damaged. A transcript was made of the part of scroll which was still legible, however the scroll was too delicate to access fully at the time without specialist knowledge and equipment.

Our Secretary and Derby Local Studies Library have been looking at possible ways of retrieving the secrets which the scroll still holds and have discovered there is a possibility of having it investigated through an MRI process by researchers at Queen Mary University London, working with Cardiff University Ophthalmology Department's "virtual unrolling" software. There are 2 sections of the scroll which remain unread and there is a good chance that text from at least one of them can be recovered. There are many challenges to be overcome in this process, including the curvature of the scroll and lead embossed stamps which could block the X-rays. Watch this space!

### Leicester.

On Friday 9th August 2019 a mini-bus of skittlers travelled to Barnacle village Hall to take part in annual skittles competition organised by the Coventry Freemen's Guild. I am pleased to say that the Leicester Gild won the trophy. The trip was organised by Jeff Lewitt.

On Wednesday 4th September a Banquet sub-committee was held in the Community Centre. It was decided that the Gild should hold a Banquet at Devonshire Place on 6 June 2020. There should be some sort of entertainment during the Banquet, to be arranged by Sue Freeman & Malcolm Ballard. The overall cost of the Banquet should be reduced. No flowers (bouquets) should be presented. "Cheese and Biscuits" selection should be part of the Dessert menu. There should be a Friday Night event with "Fish & Chips" and a raffle. On Saturday evening the 12th October, Jeff Lewitt and his wife Christine representing the Gild of Freeman of the City of Leicester, attended the Banquet of the Freeman and Guilds of the City of Chester at the Refectory, Chester Cathedral.

The Gild received an invitation from H.M. Lord-Lieutenant Mike Kapur OBE and The Chairmen of the County Council Pam Posnett MBE to attend the County Service for Leicestershire at St. Mary's, Melton Mowbray on Sunday 13th October 2019 at 10.30am There was a swearing in ceremony at 6pm On Monday 28th October 2019 at the Town Hall. Three Freeman attended along with two spouses.

The Lord Mayor of Leicester invited the Leicester Gild of Freeman to attend the Remembrance Day Service and Parade on Sunday the 10th November 2019 at the War Memorial on Victoria Park. Eighteen Freeman and their spouses and guests represented the Gild.

The annual visit by the Gild to the pantomime at the Little Theatre took place on Friday 15th December 2019. This year the pantomime was Robin Hood and 26 adults and 10 children from the Gild attended. It was enjoyed by all.

The Gild Christmas carol concert was held at St. Andrew's Church, Aylestone on Monday 16th December 2019, arranged by Jeff Lewitt who also prepared the Order of Service. This was followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Community Centre at the Holt, prepared by Sue Cave and Nick together with Maurice Hill who heated the sausage rolls and mince pies and organised a raffle.

The Leicester Gild has received invites from the Leicester Lord Mayor to the Christmas Concert on the 5th December 2019, the Holocaust Memorial Day service on Monday 27 January 2020, and from Angela Priestley-Gibbins for the members to attend the Lincoln Gild of Freeman's Dinner on Saturday 25th January 2020. Copies of the invites have been circulated requesting that they reply direct if they wish to attend.

A Skittles night is planned for Friday 21st February 2020 at the Wheatsheaf Inn at Thurcaston starting at 7:30pm. If you wish to attend and have not booked then contact Maurice Hill without delay.

Common Hall is being held on 15th April 2020 in the Community Centre at the Holt, starting promptly at 8:00pm. Please make a note in your diary and come along. It has been said many times that we need "new blood" in the Gild Court to help run the Gild. Sadly we are getting to the point where we cannot run as many events as we would like. If you can help, then please put your name forward at Common Hall for election. If you want to know more about the role and what is involved please get in touch.

### **Northampton:**

On May 26th 2019 the Trustees joined the Mayor in celebrating Oak Apple Day, which commemorates that Charles II granted the town tax breaks and wood to rebuild after the 1675 Great Fire.

In June the Guildhall AGM confirmed the Officers for 2019/20, and The Trustees supported the towns Armed Forces Day Parade.

In late August the second of the Stoke Bruene informal 'get together' events was held at the Navigation Inn, the good response is likely to merit a similar event in 2020.

The Guild year concluded with Remembrance Sunday services at the War Memorial and then All Saints church, with a Trustees wreath laid by Vice President Dr Matthew Farmer.

### **Warwick**

The 466th annual Leet meeting was held in the Jury Street Courthouse on 24th October 2019, presided over by the Mayor of Warwick Neal Murphy in his role as Lord of the Leet. After formal opening of the Court by the Steward and Serjeant-at-Mace, the call over and oaths by Jury members was followed by the Bailiff's John Atkinson's report and thanks. The Leet then agreed to the level of funding for town grants, and to continue with the Beer Festival and Classic Car events in 2020. The Low Bailiff Gail Warrington was then sworn into office as Bailiff, with Juror Mark Robinson taking up the Low Bailiff role. New Juror Simon Garwood and Leet Foreman were also sworn into office. Outgoing Foremen Tony Hemming was sworn into the new position of Alderman. Following Officer and Constable reports, Presentments were then considered: concern was raised that air pollution meters were showing purple indication; 'leave area immediately'. Following reports from the Grant committee and webmaster, the Court was closed before proceeding to supper. The next Leet public meeting in the Courthouse is scheduled for 26th March 2020. We are also holding a Beer Festival at the Lord Leycester hospital on the 14/15th February 2020 and also our summer Beer Festival July 17/18th 2020.

### **York.**

The Master and Court were saddened by the deaths in one weekend of both Past Master Colin Hardcastle and Past Masters Lady Pauline Helstrip, both of whom will be known to many members of FEW. Both the Gild and the Strays Council along with many of the Guilds men and Women of the City were also saddened by the sudden Death of Pasture Master Richard Hudson, who was one of the longest serving Court Members of any of the Guilds, the Gild of Butchers. Richard was also a freeman, but as the Guild that served his profession he had joined the Butchers court in the 1970's.

The sad news during the last two months of 2019 were tempered by the joy of our Carol service and Christmas lunch events.

We look forward to 2020 with optimism and already the year has brought better news. Our Gild Church, All Saints Pavement, is starting a period of restoration. Scaffolding will be erected both inside and outside the church, but the usual services will continue as usual throughout this period.



Our Gild Chaplain, Rev Chris Culwick, also serves as a City Councillor. He has been elected as the Next Lord Mayor of York, a position he takes up in May.

The Harry ward memorial Lecture this year will take place at 7:30pm on the 27th February, in Bedern Hall. The subject is “The National Railway Museum, Past Present and future, its place in York”. Tickets are available from our Social Secretary, Hazel Hague email: [hazel.hague@btinternet.com](mailto:hazel.hague@btinternet.com) they cost £10 per person. A raffle will be held in aid of the Masters Charity, which this year is Candlelighters.

Our Annual Banquet weekend begins this year on the evening of the 27th March, concluding on the 29th. There are three events for the weekend. A Pre Banquet get together with Supper will be held on the 27th at the Principal York Hotel from 7:30pm. Tickets are £13 per person. The Banquet will be held in the same venue, 7 for 7:30pm of the 28th, with a ticket price of £45 per person. For more information and tickets for either or both of these events please contact Steve Hornby, email [hornby.steven@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hornby.steven@yahoo.co.uk). On the Morning of the 29th the weekend concludes with our Annual service at All Saints Pavement, 10:30 am, followed by light refreshments at Bedern Hall. Robed attendees are asked to Gather at Bedern Hall by 10am ready to process to church. All members of the congregation are welcome to process from church back to Bedern after the service. For more details on this please contact our Clerk using the details listed under Deputy President on the Directory page of this Journal.

On the 18th of April we shall once again be hosting the Sheriffs Army as it patrols the City walls. A unique event to which all are welcome, again further information may be obtained from our Clerk.

We shall also be holding two fundraising days at St Crux church hall at the end of Shambles during the year, on the 20th June and 9th of September between 10am and 4pm. If you are visiting the City on either day please pop in for refreshments we would be pleased to see you.

Of course we will be holding other events in 2020, to which you would be welcome. Keep an eye on our Website or Facebook page to keep up to date as new ones are added to our Calendar. Our Website can be found at. <http://www.freemenofyork.com> And we are on Facebook too, at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/freemenyork>

### **News From our Warden for Wales.**

Following my Election as Warden for Wales at the AGM in Gloucester, my first official duty as Warden was to attend the AGM of my own Gild of Pembroke where I gave a report of the FEW AGM in Gloucester and encouraged Members to join us in Grimsby in 2020. A photo was taken of Roy Folland and myself and it appeared in the Western Telegraph. This will be Roy's final year as Master of Pembroke. Dennis Evans has now been elected as Deputy Master.

I also received an invite to the Gild of Montgomery on 2nd December 2019 and met many Freemen of the Gild. Due to the absence of the Mayor (On duty in the hustings due to the imminent General Election, I was invited to give out cheques to the Freemen of the Gild which I was delighted to do in my capacity as Warden.

## **Profiles.**

### **Continuing the occasional series profiling Executive officers and Wardens.**

#### **Ian Philips. Warden for Wales.**

Ian was born in Pembroke. The family moved to Hampshire when his Father took up a position in the Ministry of Defence. He grew up and went to school in Hampshire. His work career was as a Commercial Insurance Broker with a specialism in Education and Ecclesiastical Insurances. Ian has been Married to his wife Jocelyn for 37 Years and they have 2 grown up Children, Lawrence and Samantha who each have a son of their own .

They live in England so he takes every opportunity to see his Grandchildren.

He returned to Wales in 2011 and now lives near to Pembrey Country Park in Carmarthenshire. His wife works for Swansea Bay Health board as a Medical Secretary.

Ian retired from his working Career in 2015. He Chaired a children's Charity in 1998-2001 as a Volunteer. Providing Activities for Children during the school holidays.

He has been a Rotarian since 1995 and is a Past President of Pembrey & Burry Port Rotary Club and Ripley & Send Rotary Clun. He is currently the District Treasurer. He became a Listening volunteer for Samaritans in 2005 and on his move back to Wales transferred to the Swansea Branch of Samaritans where he held the post of Treasurer from 2012-16 and then became the Branch Director which he relinquished in 2019, returning to his post as Branch Treasurer. He believes in all the principles required of Public Life and has demonstrated excellent skills in running a Branch of volunteers being understanding in the needs of others. As well as being a good listener and excellent communicator. He is also a Qualified Cricket Umpire for the South Wales Cricket Association. He has recently been elected as the new Treasurer.

He is Community spirited and is proud to have been elected a Member of The Hywel Dda Community Health Council. Holding the Post of Vice Chair for the Pembrokeshire locality.

Qualifications include a Diploma holder of the Chartered Insurance Institute and a level 5 Leadership in Management.

In 2017 he took up the role as a Freeman of Pembroke and a gild Member\_ He is delighted to having been selected as the Warden for Wales and looks forward to meeting many Gild Members.



## John Edwards, Warden for the North Midlands.

I was a 'war baby', born in Monmouthshire, (between England and Wales), but in 1974, I was declared Welsh. Fortunately, I learned 'Mae hen wlad fy nhadau' at the age of seven, when George VI visited Newport. Handy for rugby matches!

After A levels, I upset the headmaster by saying I did not want to go to university, but wanted to do a student apprenticeship. They were relatively new, but I eventually settled on English Electric in Stafford. That firm was very good for both work experience and education and I finished up as a Chartered Electrical Engineer. My field was Power System Protection, which is the safety equipment for large generators, transformers, motors, power lines, etc.

After some years in development, during the transition from electro-mechanical to electronic devices, I eventually became the Quality Manager. In that role you are the scapegoat for anything that goes wrong. Hence, I spent a lot of time sorting out things like "The power went off the Kuala Lumpur railway", "Half of Buenos Aires lost its supply", "The world trade centre in Dubai shut off when the Emir was visiting", or "Newfoundland was disconnected from the rest of Canada". Those things, plus trying to standardise the quality standards in the company's many factories worldwide, resulted in visits to 60+ countries on six continents and lots of experience in dealing with people.

I have long been interested in history and tradition, so I took the opportunity to be sworn in as a Burgess of Stafford. Somehow that led to organising a couple of F.E.W. AGMs and appointment as a warden. I have long been a Scout Leader and a Morris Dancer, including my *alter ego* as 'Knotty' the Hobby-horse of Stafford Morris Men. That got me on to the 4th plinth in Trafalgar square at 3a.m. when I did some dancing and even found time to talk about the freedom and F.E.W.

I am married with two sons and a granddaughter and have been much involved in my local community. I have set up and run several web sites for over 15 years and my interest in technology spans the eras from crystal sets to aircraft tracking. I am currently Master of Stafford Burgesses Guild and Scribe to the Freeman's Allotments Trust.

What happened to retirement being a time to put your feet up and watch TV?



## **Alan Shelley. Vice President.**

Alan Shelley BA (Hons) DLA FRSA  
Dip IM (IWM) Eng.Tech. (CEI)  
MCIM FSTD.

Retired Industrial Manager (Linotype  
Co.) Qualified, apprenticed Engineer,  
Bell Punch Co. (Sumlock  
Comptometers)

Born March 1940, Harrow, Middlesex.  
Married, with two daughters and four  
grandchildren.

Chartered Free Burgess and enrolled  
by patrimony, Freeman of Sudbury,  
Suffolk. (Corporate franchise 1554)  
Liveryman of the Worshipful Company  
of Blacksmiths and Guildsman of the City of London.



### **FEW**

1978 – (Admitted by letter from Harry Ward) Individual Member of ‘Freemen of  
England’

(Official Representative of the Borough Freemen of Sudbury).

1988-90 Warden of F.E. (Mercia/Marches)

1990-95 Elected Deputy President of F.E.

2010-17 Elected Officer Without Portfolio, FEW

2017 - Elected Vice President of FEW

### **Relevant Commitments**

Executive and Trustee of the Sudbury Freemen

Member, Gloucestershire Local Access Forum (from 2003) responsible for Common  
Lands and right holdings over Gloucestershire. Hon. Conservator of Highleadon Green,  
Forest of Dean (for life).

Life Member Cheltenham Civic Society

Life Member National Trust and Member of the Open Spaces Society

Hon. Life Member of the University of Gloucestershire

### **Past Commitments**

Member of Cheltenham and Gloucestershire Chambers of Commerce (6 years)

Member of Cheltenham Crime Prevention Panel (10 years)

Member Management Committee, Cheltenham Victim Support, and Trustee (3yrs)

Governor, Cheltenham Bournside (comprehensive) School & Sixth Form Centre (9 years)

### **Clubs**

Life Member, Royal Society of St. George, City of London Branch

Life Member, City Livery Club. Member Wynken De Worde Society, Fleet Street.

Member, Suffolk History Council and of the Suffolk Records Society.

## **James (Jim) Evans. Immediate Past President.**

Jim's family have been Freemen of Berwick for over 400 years. His father, Tom Evans, was Chairman of the Berwick Guild for 40 years and would have chaired the meeting which founded FEW had he not died the month before. He had been a Sheriff, Mayor and Alderman of Berwick-upon-Tweed. Jim is married to Pat. They have three children and a sister, all Freemen of Berwick, and five grandchildren, all waiting to become freemen.

Educated at Merchiston Castle School, Edinburgh, and Durham (now Newcastle) University he graduated BSc in Naval Architecture. Having completed his apprenticeship he joined the Royal Navy for his National Service being commissioned as an Engineer Officer. He then joined the Yarrow Admiralty Research Department working on a number of new Royal Navy ship designs before being

seconded to the UK Atomic Energy Authority as Naval Liaison Officer on the UK Nuclear submarine project. He completed a post graduated course at Manchester University and Harwell Reactor School to qualify as a Nuclear Engineer. When UKAEA created a department to design a UK submarine reactor he was head hunted to join this group He was awarded the silver medal of the Nuclear Engineering Society for a paper on Pressurised Water Reactors. A change of Government resulted in the cancellation of the UKAEA Submarine project.

He took over the family boat building business where he designed and built 125 fishing boats and other vessels and trained 120 apprentices in the boatyard and at college some going on to senior management positions throughout the country. He was Chairman of the Fishing Boat Builders Association and represented the Federation on many National bodies. He then set up his own consultancy and was Safety and Training Officer of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation. He was awarded the Merchant Navy Medal for his work on safety of fishing vessels. He remains President of the Anglo Scottish Fishermen's Association.

He continued in the Royal Naval Reserve after National Service receiving the Reserve Decoration. For the last five years he was head of the Marine Engineering Department of the RNR and retired with the rank of Captain and was Hon ADC to HM The Queen.

He was a Burgh, County and District Councillor, being Chairman of Berwickshire District Council for 16 years. He was a Deputy Lieutenant and JP for Berwickshire. He was awarded the MBE and also the Golden Cross of Merit of the Polish Republic.

He was Chairman of the Berwick Guild of Freemen for 40 years. In 1972 in the reform of local government Berwick ceased to be an administrative area and twice in the next few years the larger District Council attempted to acquire the Freemen's Estate. After 20 years of disagreements Jim explained the position to the Councillors without the presence of



officials. The Council withdrew all their threats against the Guild. In 2009 District Councils were abolished. A Parish Council was formed in Berwick which was the natural successor of the original Berwick Town Council. Relationships between Guild and Council have been good since that time. The Guild has now built up its own resources investing in housing and the stock market as well as supporting local charities. The Trust has also flourished and now gives very substantial sums to both Berwick Town Council and Guild of Freemen.

Berwick was an early member of the Court of Deans of Scotland and Jim has three times been Lord President. He has served as an elder of Eyemouth Parish Church for over 40 years. He has been Chairman / President of many local organisations including Round Table, Rotary, the local festival committee and some 20 other organisations, including the 125 Committee which commissioned the sculptures marking the 107 widows and 263 fatherless children “Widows and Bairsn” left after the UK worst fishing disaster in 1881.

He has written a number of technical papers as well as giving many talks regarding the Freedom in Berwick and elsewhere. For 25 years he has worked on a new history of the Guild in Berwick, now occupying a large section of the memory of his computer. There is a problem that it may never be finished as more and more information comes to light.

He has been an individual member of FEW for 45 years and he and Pat have attended most AGMs. Berwick hosted the FEW AGM on four occasions while he was Chairman of the Guild. He was Chairman of the Custodial Trustees of FEW before joining the Executive, becoming President in 2017. He is a firm believer that FEW is a necessary body to preserve the freedom for future generations. The Freedom shall again be threatened by legislation as in 1972 and will inevitably be challenged on the future. It is essential that all Guilds work and hold together. He has been a strong support of the Archive project and is the Guild representative on the Berwick Committee supervising cataloguing.

## **A new Childe in Oxford**

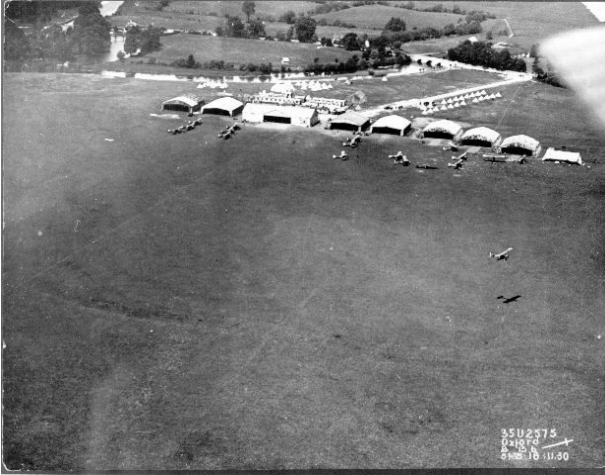
**by Peter Smith.**

In March 2019 I was honoured to become a Freeman of the City of Oxford, courtesy of Councillor Colin Cook, then Lord Mayor, who had invited me to be his Lord Mayor's Childe. I have lived in Oxford since 2001 and while my day job is as a chartered surveyor, one of my hobbies is local history. Since 2013 I have focussed on 2 aspects of history associated with Port Meadow – a magnificent green lung to Oxford and it's “oldest monument”, gifted to the Freemen by King Alfred for military services rendered, and loved by many local residents and visitors. It also happens to be one of the key aspects of what the Freemen do in Oxford,



oversight of this important protected common land site by the Thames, managed by the City Council.

I approached Howard Crapper, our Chairman, in 2013 to see if he would support the idea



of promoting a little known aspect of the Meadow's history – the role the Meadow played housing a large RFC/RAF pilot training aerodrome during WW1, at the Wolvercote end. His enthusiasm was infectious and, aligned to the WW1 centenary commemoration period, in late 2014 we set up a community project group with objectives to raise awareness and also raise a new memorial, very near to the aerodrome site, to 17 young airmen killed in flying accidents during 1917/18 at or near the site.

Over a 3 year period we raised over £11,000, including a generous donation from the Freemen. On 23rd May 2018 the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire unveiled the memorial on a gloriously sunny day, with the RAF present, and 17 primary school children poignantly reading each of the names out. An information board was also provided, and planned but overdue is a geophysical survey of the aerodrome site. The project worked out really well.

I have given lots of talks and written numerous media articles on the topic, and a small book "Oxford's Lost Aerodrome" covering the WW1 period, has recently been published. The 2nd objective of raising awareness seems to be working! The geophys survey may also reveal history going back to the Bronze Age, but a possible future project might be to seek to conserve the WW2 era Bailey Bridge at the opposite end of the Meadow. It's a 100ft long well used access onto the Meadow, but beginning to look rather sorry for itself.



Becoming a Freeman has been the icing on the cake to an interesting 5 year association with the Meadow. Long may that continue.



All Photographs in this article courtesy the author.

## **Membership Update.**

The new database of membership and their payments is mostly completed. In the course of this long operation it has been discovered that :

- There are quite a number of members who did not sign and return the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) sent out in 2018. We do by law have to have a signed copy of this from you to enable us to continue contact you, so will be sending to those members a new form for completion.
- A number of individual members and guilds/gilds are in arrears with their payment of membership fees. So we will be contacting those individuals and guilds as well. We would like for ease of administration and with the decline in the use of cheques, for those who pay by cash or cheque to consider paying by standing order, also if a tax payer if you would gift aid your fees.
- If contacting regarding any membership queries please email [datacontroller@freemen-few.org.uk](mailto:datacontroller@freemen-few.org.uk)

We hope to introduce a new membership card during the course of the year. Thank you for your patience as the paperwork is brought up to date.

Charlotte Yeates  
Hon Membership Secretary

Alex Christison  
Hon Assistant Membership Secretary



## **Hon. Secretarys' Notices.**

Notice is hereby given to all Guild Representatives,  
Wardens, and Executive Officers  
that the next FEW Court Meeting will be held at  
2pm on Saturday 4th April 2020  
in Committee Room 3,  
Council House, Earl Street,  
Coventry, CV1 2RR.

### **AGENDA**

1. Attendees to sign Register and be seated.
  - a) Call to Order, Opening of Court, and Welcome.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Minutes of the last Court Meeting held on Saturday 16th March 2019 at Durham City Town Hall, Market Place, Durham.  
These minutes were published in Journal 193, Summer 2019.
  - a) Approval of Minutes.
4. Matters Arising, not forming any other part of this Agenda.
5. Appointment of warden for The South West
6. President's Report.
7. Deputy President's Report.
8. Vice President's Report.
9. Immediate Past President's Report
10. Hon. Treasurer's Report.
11. Hon. Membership Secretary's Report.
12. Hon. Editor's Report.
13. Hon. Archivist's Report.
14. Officer Without Portfolio's Report.
15. Warden's Reports.
16. Any other Business.
17. Future Court & AGM Venues.
18. Closure of Court.

### **Nominations for FEW Executive Officers 2020 – 2021**

Nominations are requested for FEW Executive Officers to serve for the year 2020 – 2021. The following positions are open for nomination:- Deputy President; Vice President; Hon. Secretary; Hon. Treasurer; Hon. Membership Secretary; Hon. Archivist; Hon. Editor; and Officer without Portfolio. Each nomination must be sent to the Hon. Secretary on the correct Nomination Form accompanying this notice (photocopies are acceptable), and be accompanied by the appropriate statements as detailed.

All nominations must be sent to myself (Hon. Secretary) and received by the closing date of 13th May 2020, in order that they can be published in the Summer 2020 Journal.

# Freemen of England and Wales

## Election of Executive Officers to serve for the year 2020-2021

### NOMINATION FORM

Any nomination, properly proposed on this form, must be submitted to the Hon. Secretary on or before the date of May 13th 2020 in order that it can be published in the Summer 2020 Journal, thereby allowing time for its consideration by Member Gilds/Guilds/Societies before the AGM in September. This form 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 F.E.W.

3) A short statement by the principal proposer, in not more than 100 words, supporting the suitability of the candidate to serve F.E.W. in the nominated office.

The first two accompaniments must be handwritten by the Nominee, then all three are to be attached to the Nomination Form and forwarded together as a set of Nomination Papers.

We, the undersigned propose .....

a Freeman/Freeburgesses of.....

for election to the position of.....

of the Association of Freemen of England and Wales for the period 2020 – 2021.

Proposer .....

Seconder .....

I ..... declare that if elected, I am willing to

serve as.....of the Freemen of England and Wales for the period

2020 -2021 .

Signed .....

**Return to F.E.W. Hon. Secretary, Lee Hensley, 86 Painswick Road, Gloucester, GL4 6PT.**

## Directory.

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

**Deputy President:** Tom Gibson. 79 Tang Hall Lane. York. YO31 0SZ 01904 423153  
thomasg624@aol.com

**Vice President:** Alan Shelley. Wycken End, 16 Bournside Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire,  
GL51 3AH Tel 01242 515739 alan.shelley@ymail.com

**Immediate Past President:** James Evans. Makore, Northburn View. Eyemouth. TD14 5BG  
01890 750701 captjamesevans@gmail.com

**Hon. Secretary:** Lee Hensley 86, Painswick Road, Gloucester, GL4 6PT 07780 680810,  
leehensley@btinternet.com

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

**Membership Secretary:** Charlotte Yeates. 6 Cicester Terrace Moreton in Marsh Gloucestershire  
GL56 0HD 01608 650291 cpdc2000@yahoo.co.uk

**Hon. Archivist:** Alan Fallows. 3 Holborn Drive, London Road Shrewsbury, Shropshire  
SY2 6SL 01743 358495 alan.fallows@talktalk.net

**Officer Without Portfolio:** Vacant

## Wardens

**Warden for the North East:** Stephen Healy. 43 Greenlee Drive, Dalesford Green, Little Benton,  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE7 7GA 0191 2159356 stephen@healy.myzen.co.uk

**Warden for the North:** Roger Sutton. 61 Mile End Park, Pocklington. York. YO42 2TH  
01759 307280 Mob: 07970 468578 Email: sutton727@btinternet.com

**Warden for the The North West:** Denise Laver. 07966 449497 altrinchamcourtleet@gmail.com

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

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

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

**Warden for Wales:** Ian Phillips 3 Cwrt Lando, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, SA16 0YE  
ianphillips9@hotmail.com

**Warden for the East:** Angela Priestley-Gibbins 192 Grantham Road Lincoln LN5 9RZ  
01522 853212 angiepf@hotmail.co.uk

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

**Warden for the South West:** Nic Christison wondergeezer@yahoo.co.uk

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

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Hon. Editor F.E.W Journal.

79 Tang Hall Lane.

York.

YO31 0SZ

Tel. No. 01904 423153

Email: [thomasg624@aol.com](mailto: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 accept images (I can convert to Black and White if necessary) either as hard copy to scan, electronically by email as **JPG** files please. If you require return of hard copies an SAE is appreciated, please indicate if this is desired. Photographs of identifiable individuals, may only be published in the journal if all those individuals included have completed a GDPR permission form for F.E.W. Giving their permission.

**Please note the closing date for the editor to receive items for the next issue (No. 196) is the 16/5/20.**

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 Freemen of England and Wales Association:

F.E.W.  
86, Painswick Road,  
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