

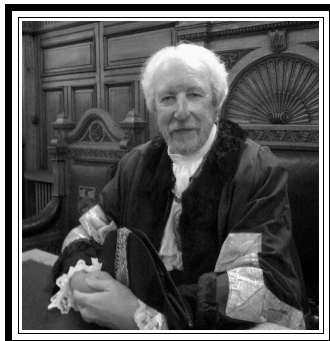
Freemen of England and Wales



**Journal 197 Spring 2021.
With Compliments**

Letter From the President

When I last wrote to you, I finished by wishing you all a Jolly Christmas, at the time it was generally hoped that the COVID restrictions would be sufficiently relaxed to enable us to spend some time with family and friends. As you will all know all such hopes were dashed with limited “meeting-ups” being allowed on one day only, Christmas Day.



So, it is with renewed hope that I write this having listened to the Prime Minister’s COVID Lockdown Roadmap which should see us able to once again enjoy living normal lives, or what will become the new normal if, as we are led to believe, the COVID virus, just like the ‘flu and common cold, will become part of everyday life. The widespread availability of the vaccine was a tremendous step forward, and we anticipate the gradual easing of restrictions. However, for this to continue as planned a degree of caution will still need to be exercised to ensure that plans are not thrown into reverse.

It is quite obvious that physical indoor meetings of any size will not be possible before the end of March, or even April; neither is it clear yet when any sort of social gathering will be possible, nor when pubs, restaurants or hotels will be able to open normally again and so, it is for this reason, we are drawing up alternative arrangements for the Court Meeting, details of which may be found elsewhere in this Journal.

This years’ AGM is also facing some uncertainty, and we are in regular contact with Derek Austin and the City of Coventry Freemen’s Guild regarding developments. We will make an announcement just as soon as possible.

The Executive continue to maintain contact by telephone and e-mail, and we held an Executive meeting by Skype in February which was most successful. Whilst being no real substitute for face-to-face meetings this may well become the norm for the winter months in future.

I was delighted to receive an invitation recently from the Mayor of Northampton to attend (by Zoom) the Investiture of Lord Earl Spencer as an Hereditary Freeman of Northampton, a screenshot appears on the back cover. A recording of the full ceremony, and details of the proceedings, will be posted on our Facebook page once it has been received.

This Journal has deliberately been slightly delayed but as spring is breaking I would like to end by wishing you all a very Happy Easter and hopefully we shall meet up later this year either virtually or in person.

Stephen White, President

News from the Guilds

Guild of Freemen of the Town of Berwick Upon Tweed.

Along with most Guilds we have been locked down and our social functions have been cancelled which includes our quarterly Freedom ceremonies. These are held on the four ancient Anglo-Saxon changing days. Due to the lock down both the Guild and the Town Council considered that holding Freedom Ceremonies physically was not practical. The possibility of holding these ceremonies electronically was considered, but it was felt that this would lose too much of the solemnness of the occasion. The only time the Freedom has been conferred by proxy was during the First World War. The ceremonies have therefore been cancelled until the summer. There is a backlog of claimants waiting for the conferring of the Freedom which should make it an interesting ceremony. Annually we have the riding of the bounds when about 100 horses complete a ceremony held since the fourteenth century. This was originally ordered by the King's order to "preamble" the Bounds and at a later date horses were introduced. We had to cancel in 2020 and it does not appear that the horses will be able to ride in 2021. The ride has always been accompanied by members of the Guild in a bus. This year we are considering the ceremony will be marked by a lot of cars and other forms of transport as the Town marks its bounds.

Our Committee has continued to meet electronically and the AGM was also held electronically. There have been some lively exchanges although we have been physically separated. These discussions have covered the possibility of building more social housing which is needed in the area, progress with the Archives and Barracks projects, educational grants and death grants to assist with funeral costs. The Guild housing continues to be kept to high standards. The Guild has continued to make grants to local organizations. This year it was not possible to physically hand over cheques and these had to be dispatched by post. It is also hoped to mark the completion of the Archives project in the spring.

The Trust has sold a few acres of land north of the town within the by-pass to extend the retail park. The proceeds have been used to buy a farm to the south-west of Berwick, but within the by-pass which is considered to have a good prospect of being developed within the next 20 years.

The project "Twixt the Thistle and the Rose" was a pilot to catalogue and digitize the Archives of Berwick-upon-Tweed. A large portion of these archives are that of the Guild of Freemen who were responsible for the management of the town up to 1835. The cataloguing is to the new international recommendations. This is the ISAD(G) which was produced in 1966 and revised in 2000. It is a conformity of approach rather than a detailed catalogue standard. The Berwick project was officially completed at the end of November 2020. The catalogue will be available on the National Archives Discovery from sometime early in 2021. The amount of work has greatly exceeded that originally forecast. This was partially due to a delay caused by the up dated version of the computer programme used, "Calm", but mainly by the additional items which were discovered. A considerable portion

of these additional items were stored files referring to Guild records prior to 1835. There was a significant financial input from the Guild, along with input from other sources, to enable the extension of the project. Over 20 volunteers have made a large contribution to the work completed. There is still additional work to be done and the archivist and volunteers will continue with the work. Part of this work will be to translate the early Guild Minute books into modern writing. This would certainly ease the problem of tracing family trees in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

The epidemic has caused disruption and a rethink upon how the work will be publicized. It was originally conceived that there would be a weekend display and talks in the Guild Hall along with some sort of reception for those involved. Consideration will be given to holding this electronically or delaying until we are once again able to meet in public. This project was a pilot programme to start the process of moving all UK Archives to be catalogued, and hopefully digitized, within the new International Archives cataloguing scheme. Of particular interest to the Guild was the initiative started three years ago to provide a framework for Guild archives to become more accessible. Three FEW members went down to the national Archives headquarters in Kew to discuss this before the pilot programmes were announced.

It has been suggested that we could produce a virtual presentation which would be broadly in line with the presentation to the Guild. We could then agree a time with FEW and the Court of Deans of Scotland to make this presentation available to them as an electronic presentation or produce a DVD.

The Guild has been given permission to use a cell in the Town hall as a family room. It is intended to mount family trees on a backing board able to be mounted on the walls of the cell. We will then be able to change boards when required. Obviously these family trees would have limited ability to amend. It is therefore suggest there is a family list showing family members approximately in date order. Quite extensive information about individuals can be placed on the list. These lists would be printed from a computer and therefore additional information could be added.

Owing to the restrictions of the Information Act we could not show Freemen or family members born since 1931 or made free after 1952. This will obviously advance each year by one year. Additional information and literature can be made available in the room. Only a limited number of family trees can be shown at one time. There are over 500 surnames in the Guild records.

City of Lincoln Freemens Gild.

I finished my last report as follows: "However, we do have some positive news. We have an event to attend! The Travelling Medieval Market arrives in Lincoln on the 11th of September. The City of Lincoln Freemen's Gild has been asked to be Patron of the Lincoln Medieval Market and will be opening the Market. It is still hoped that the 2020 Heighington Christmas Market and Medieval Christmas Market go ahead as planned and that life returns to nearer normal in 2021. Whether we shall hold our Annual Dinner in January 2021 is still to be decided."

So, I'm pleased to report that the Medieval Market in September went ahead. It was a well-planned, enjoyable, Covid secure event and everyone felt positive that the Christmas Market would be able to proceed on the same format. Sadly this was not to be and this was the last event the Freemen were officially able to attend.



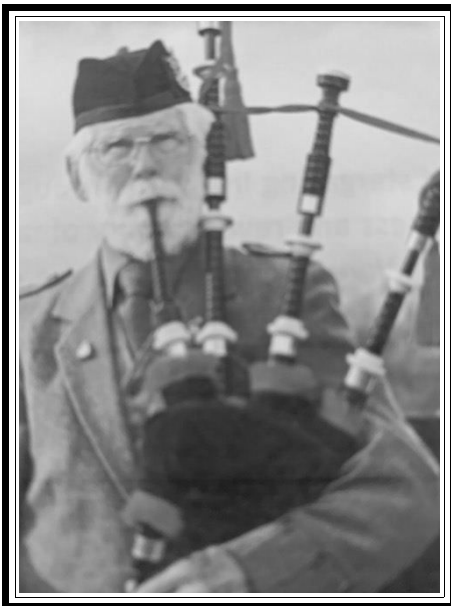
There was no formal laying of the Wreaths for Remembrance Day but the Freemen were allowed to lay a wreath informally (socially distanced). All Christmas events were cancelled and the 2021 Annual Dinner postponed.

On a positive note, The Master of the Gild is attempting the first virtual Committee Meeting with a view to holding a virtual AGM in April. I will report back how this goes.
Angela Priestly-Gibbons, Warden for the East.

Gild of Freemen of Pembroke.

During the national lockdown it emerged that the real heroes were the frontline NHS staff but it was very sad that a number of them did not survive the virus. The whole country were asked to support the NHS by standing outside their houses at 8pm every Thursday night and clap. Neighbours in my street certainly did that with one 90 year old man banging saucepan lids to show his support. In one direction you could hear the hooters from the tugs in the Haven and then turning in the other direction we could hear the skirl of the bagpipes.

It turned out that they were being played by our very own Gild member Graham Phillips (Pictured Right). In appreciation of the wonderful work which the NHS accomplished, Graham played his bagpipes on six consecutive Thursday evenings during May and June. I am sure Gild members will remember that Graham led the procession of the Freemen of England and Wales to the church of St. Mary the Virgin for the annual service of that association in 2011 and 2017. Graham first heard the playing of bagpipes when he was living in Main Street Pembroke and heard the Scottish Regiments performing the “Beating of the Retreat”. Graham joined the RAF at the age of fifteen and marched onto parade lead by a pipe band, he thought to himself “this is for me” and the rest is History. Graham served in the RAF as a piper in the RAF Kinloss Pipe Band.



On Remebrance Day, a wreath was laid on behalf of the Gild by the Deputy Master, who was wearing his Uncles medals for the first time. His Uncle was killed twenty days before the end of World War One, aged 19.

Warwick Court Leet.

The Steward, Jayne Topham, advises that Court Leet meetings are being held on zoom, including a pre-Christmas get together & Quiz. A virtual ale tasting is planned this month, and the formal Spring Court Meeting is also likely to be on zoom.

Northampton Freemen’s Guild.

The current Mayor of the Borough, His Worship Brian Sargeant, will be the last Freeman to take this role, as the Borough will disappear with the replacement Northampton Unitary Councils. On 18th February an on line investiture of the Earl Spencer as a Freeman of the Borough will take place on the Microsoft Teams platform. I understand his ancestors were also Freemen in the past.

Coventry Freemen’s Guild.

All Guild activities suspended at present, but the St Mary’s Guildhall refurbishment is proceeding, with the medieval Kitchen with massive stone arches, traceried windows and finely carved corbels being revealed after 50 years, and a replacement kitchen built outside.

Stafford Burgesses.

It's an ill wind that does nobody any good!

As some of you may be aware, the only asset of Stafford Freemen is now 22 acres of land near the town centre. For centuries, it has been used for small scale cultivation. Originally, an area of land, amounting to well over 100 acres was owned by the burgesses of the town. It was known as "The Coton Field" and was largely a series of 'Burgess plots' possibly amounting to around an acre per burgess. In 1206 King John granted the land to 'My Burgesses of Stafford', which was really kind of him, especially as they already owned it. Now they had to pay him for the privilege, but he did throw in a few things like "scot and lot" and "infangthief", which we will not go into now. He even granted the right, for ever, to travel throughout the land without paying tolls. We are trying to summon up courage to test this out on the nearby M6 Toll Road, but the lawyers probably would have a field day with that.

Anyway, over the past 800 years or so, various claims have been made on the land from the abbot of a nearby monastery in the 1400s to Stafford Town Council in the 1960s. The latter annexed all the remaining land except the current 22 acres. That was on the basis that so few of the allotments were being worked that it was declared derelict. In return the freemen got a fence around their bit and some sheds for the 150 or so plots. Since then, the site has had mixed fortunes. During the second world war there was a good take-up as "Dig for Victory" was a necessity. In more modern times folk preferred to visit the greengrocers or supermarkets to get their veg. This meant that many plots were left to become overgrown and the trustees had a big problem attracting gardeners and making ends meet.

Over the past few years more people have seen the benefits from growing their own, both from knowing that they have high quality produce and the exercise in the open air needed to produce it. That has meant that we have had typically 30 or 40 of the very large plots still vacant. Because few people are capable of providing the time and energy needed to cultivate a whole plot, recently they have been subdivided to more manageable units. However, the site has always had plenty of spare plots, while others have had long waiting lists.

Enter a certain virus that has brought misery to many people. Fortunately, allotment gardening was classed as exercise and as people had more time and could work well away from other folk, there was an upsurge of interest and the vacant plots began to have tenants. We have now reached full occupancy for the first time in possibly 100 years, and we even have a "Waiting List"! COVID-19 has not done much good, but for us it has been a great benefit. Luckily, with the money we gained from allowing a sewage pipeline through the site and selling a couple of plots for a pumping station, we have been able to develop the site. We have even bought a tracked digger that will permit us to put areas back into cultivation that have been fallow for many years.

It has been a lot of work, ensuring that the tenants are COVID safe, but quite rewarding to see folk aged 7 to 90 and from as many as 40 nationalities gainfully employed in

horticulture. Bearing in mind that this site has survived both the Black Death of the 1300s and the Plague of the 1600s, it is sobering to think that in the current pandemic it is still serving the community, thanks to the work of freemen over the centuries.

John Edwards, Master of Stafford Burgesses and Scribe to the Trustees.

The Gild of Freemen of York.

Despite the continuing Pandemic the York Gild has in fact managed regular court meetings, of sorts, via email and have even co opted a new member to the court during the first Lock down. In fact, we have two new court members, the other new addition was co opted at our last meeting prior to restrictions, it is always good to welcome new faces to the court.

Sadly, in common with many other Guilds, we had to cancel our Banquet in 2020, and our most of our events since then, including our AGM. This meant that all officers, including the Master, have carried on for another year as have all the Court members. We did manage to arrange our Annual Carol service, albeit in a very different way. The readings being videoed and sent for editing together with the choir members recording their parts separately, then the whole being edited together. The complete service was then posted on the YouTube page of our Gild Church, All Saints pavement.

Unfortunately we have already had to make the decision to cancel our 2021 Banquet which was due to take place in mid April. We are however beginning to plan the Banquet for 2022, in the hope that it can be held on the weekend of 1st to 3rd April 2022.

We are supporting our local council (a unitary authority) in its proposal for the governments planned devolution in North Yorkshire, which is also shared by the county council, but opposed by the district councils. The district councils favour an idea for an East, West split of the county, which would see York merged with three district authorities of vastly varying character. York would lose its self-governing status and be governed as part of a mostly rural area stretching to the coast, if this idea is adopted. This model also puts the future of Freemen of York under threat as there would be no role for a Lord Mayor of York, and it is the Lord Mayor who creates Freemen in the City. The proposal we are supporting is that York retains its unitary status, within its existing boundaries with the rest of North Yorkshire, a very rural county, becoming a single unitary Authority. There is an online petition supporting the retention of York as a Unitary Authority, which can be found here if you wish to sign; <http://www.change.org/Webackayork>

Of course with these devolution proposals, either one would be under an elected Mayor for North Yorkshire, including York, but could the timing of this be any worse.

The York Strays Council.

The Strays' council have not met since last March, however the use of the Strays has increased this year as open and spacious places to take exercise and maintain social distancing. When allowed, they have been meeting places for families of different

households as well. However, more recently the weather has ensured that all four strays have been waterlogged, with the Knavesmire being used by Canoeists, windsurfers and even a jet skier, although there have been no volunteers to swim there, yet.



We have also been informed that the old Herdsman Cottage, (above) a grade 2 listed building, on Micklegate Stray is likely to be sold after a number of years in use for social housing. It has no vehicle access despite it forming a traffic island at the junction of Knavesmire road and Tadcaster Road. Sadly it is over a Century since the Freemen had any say in Micklegate Stray which was the only one taken from us by act of Parliament (The 1907 Micklegate Stray Act) so we shall not benefit from any sale,

Recently, two petitions were raised regarding Grass cutting on the City end of Monk Stray in Heworth, which is maintained as a playing field and has not been used for grazing since the 1960s. Some want it mown for continued use as a playing field, while others want it left to be mown only once a year for the benefit of wildlife. In the end with equal numbers signing each petition, the decision has been taken that the areas next to the hedges would be mown just once a year in the late summer, the rest would be mown to maintain availability for other uses.

Long time Pasture Master of Bootham Stray Dennis Dawson has retired from his post. Dennis had been involved in the Stray all his life and was our longest serving Pasture Master 1 with an encyclopedic knowledge of the Stray which he was happy to share with any who asked. Before his retirement Dennis did help new Bootham ward Pasture Master, Keith Isaac to get to know the Stray. We are still looking for volunteers for Walmgate Stray and to Assist Tom and Donna on Monk Stray.

Freemen of the City of Oxford.

I would like to thank all Freemen and supporters in the West who have kept in touch with me during this unbelievable last twelve months of Pandemic disease in the United Kingdom . I am so grateful for the resilience and support for the policies designed to keep us safe . Devastating to see over 100,000 of our nation population lose their lives to this savage Covid Coronavirus .

It was in early January 2020 that I became aware of sickness and death spreading from the far east. Today, we all know far more but not everything.

Oxford features in the great vaccine development which is transforming our prospects for an exit from this medical nightmare and the magnificent vaccine programme will be celebrated in the fullness of time.

The weather has been cold, even for February, but daffodils and snow drops tell us that Spring is not too far away. In Oxford, the Port Meadow has been flooded, as is expected at this time but the recent scientific research into the historic flood plain tells us that there is far more interest here to explore and reveal.

The Oxford Airport project, which many of you have shown great support, has raised significant monies from the sale of Peter Smiths fantastic book and local charity donations have been made.

There is room for growing optimism for some opening up of some of the current COVID Restrictions. Return to classrooms for our school children is so important both for knowledge and mental health.

Personally I am very keen to meet up with fellow Freemen for some near normal Freeman activities and resume our calendar routine. Send me an email or phone call.

Howard Crapper. Warden for the West.

The Enrolled Freemen of Grimsby.

As with most Guilds our activities, particularly within our market, have been severely curtailed over the last year.

Our AGM, which is set by Statute to be held at noon on the first Monday of June, was arranged but members advised not to attend owing to the social distancing rules in operation at the time. Our Annual Report and Accounts were made available on-line but with hard copies available upon request for those without access to the internet. It was hoped that there might have been an opportunity to re-arrange the AGM on an alternative date but this has not been possible; our annual dinner also had to be cancelled.

Our market has fared differently under the varying lockdown conditions. Some “non-essential” stalls have had to close (temporarily) as have eat-in cafés but otherwise the market has remained open throughout. Special events, particularly those which have become a feature in the run-up to Christmas, all had to be cancelled. Our business units have also remained almost fully occupied although we lost a fitness centre which had to cease trading and another client had to move out and into larger premises so that their clients could maintain physical distancing.

Our local MP has one of our units as her Constituency Office.

We were awarded a Smart Energy Grant through the Local Authority which enabled us to add a further 96kWp of Solar PV panels to the market roof taking out total generating capacity to almost 300kWp.

Meanwhile, the re-development of the (3 acre) former shopping centre site next to the market continues. Half of the site has been demolished and a new £8m YMCA building, due for completion in August, has been under construction since the end of March 2020. The Freemen have undertaken to fund the provision of a new shared service road across the site and the building of a replacement electricity sub-station which we hope will form part of a new district community energy distribution system.



We are also drawing up plans for the wider area around the market comprising up to 21 acres in total to include a school, Health & Wellbeing Campus, indoor Sports facilities, retail and housing, open parkland and, hopefully, a new community stadium which would be home to Grimsby Town FC.

The annual Mayor's Court was held in October attended by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk of the Enrolled Freemen but presided over remotely by the Deputy Mayor via "Teams". There were only 18 admissions to The Roll which meant that each person could be seated a minimum of 6' apart.

We were disappointed that the proposed FEW AGM couldn't go ahead last year and have agreed that we will offer to host it at the next available opportunity.

Your Point of View Required

As members your point of view or ideas are valued by the executive. So, in the two items below please consider any thoughts you may have.

Benefits of being a Member?

The Executive have had discussions regarding what the benefits of membership to FEW are for guilds/gilds and as an individual member. It states in the constitution what it means plus we have all the historical information of why FEW started in the first place and the benefits of collaboration. However, you are the members, is there anything you would have thought of or envision would be beneficial to be a member either as a guild/gild or individual.

Website

The executive has also been working with the website designer to improve the webpage. There are minor improvements to the website but again your thoughts on improving the website would be highly appreciated.

Please note, I am hoping for positive constructive comments. Please email me at membership@freemen-few.org.uk

Profile

Continuing the occasional series profiling Executive officers and Wardens



**Angela Priestley-Gibbins BSc DipPFS CertPAE
Warden For The East**

Angie was born in Stanmore in 1962 (her father worked for Kodak in Harrow) where she first went to school (the same school as Alan Shelley). In 1968 the family moved to Chalfont St Peter in Buckinghamshire and both she and her younger sister went to Dr Challoner's High School for Girls in Little Chalfont. After finishing school Angie studied Chemistry at Nottingham University and has remained in the East Midlands always saying that she would retire to Lincoln.

After University Angie has worked in the financial services arena for more than 35 years. Since the 1990s Angela has specialised in Employer sponsored Pension arrangements and employee benefits. She currently works "in house" as the Pension Specialist for a group of Companies within the Care sector that supports adults with learning difficulties She works

with the payroll and HR teams to deliver compliant pension arrangements and supports those wishing to take their pension benefits calling upon all the skills she has learned as an authorised Financial Adviser and 19 years as a Company Director in Leicester. As part of this role Angie is an Employer representative on the Oxfordshire Pension Fund Local Pensions Board.

Angie became a Freeman of Lincoln (by patronage) in 2010 and moved from Leicester to Lincoln in June 2016 (on THAT Thursday). As a Freeman of Lincoln Angie has been Secretary of the City of Lincoln Freemen's Gild and became Master of the Gild in 2017 until 2019. In 2016 her son, Sam became a Freeman of the City of Lincoln.

Angie currently lives in Waddington with her husband Tony. Between them they have 3 sons, Sam, Adam and Joe. All three sons still live in Leicestershire. It is due to attending the Leicester Annual Banquet that Angie became involved with FEW and started to visit other Gilds/Guilds.

Angie and Tony have made many friends within the Freemen of England and Wales and with their support and that of the President of the City of Lincoln Freemen's Gild Angie agreed to take on the role of FEW Warden for the East. She looks forward to meeting the Freemen of Sudbury and to making more new friends.

Membership Report February 2021

Over the past year we think we have now managed to contact everyone that we have addresses for. Membership stands at 35 guilds and 255 individual members. Thanks to all who have responded to our enquiries as we brought the membership lists up to date.

The replies from the members and Guilds have been encouraging. Many have changed from paying by cheque to standing order, which makes the annual renewal easier, and less likely to be forgotten.

Guilds

The pandemic has caused some guilds problems as they have not been able to meet to pass resolution to continue to pay FEW membership fees, which we fully understand.

Individual Members

All those who were paying the old £8 membership rate have been written to and most have now corrected their payment to a new standing order for £10. There has been a good uptake on members gift aiding their payments.

As of September 2020, we have started to send out individual membership cards again. These are being rolled out monthly as membership payments are received into the account.

There are fourteen members who have not paid since 2019, most of whom we have already written to, but we will be contacting again to ask if they wish to continue their membership.

There is a minor problem with GDPR which requires us by law to have your permission to contact you. At present, we can find no record for 67 members completing and returning the requisite permission.

As we send out your membership cards, we will include a GDPR form for those we have no record. We urge you to fill it in and return it. When completing the GDPR consider whether you want the journal in print format. As we have had members prefer the print format but tick email only.

Roles of the Officers of the Association.

President

1. Take the chair at A.G.M. and Court Meetings.
2. Promote the Aims and Objectives of the Association.
3. Approve the Agendas for A.G.M. and Court Meetings.
4. Approve arrangements made by Host Guilds for A.G.M.'s.
5. Approve the draft Newsletter/Journal and any additional content carried.
6. Liaise with the On Counsellor on all matters in which Guilds seek the Counsellor's advice.
7. Liaise with Parliamentary Agent, Privy Council and the Department of the Environment on any matters as appropriate.
8. Arrange Officer's Meetings prior to A.G.M. and Court Meetings and any other time that such a meeting is deemed necessary.
9. Present a report on the President's activities to the A.G.M. and Court Meeting.

Deputy President

1. To deputise for the President as and when necessary.
2. To further the Aims and Objectives of the Association.
3. To prepare and give a vote of thanks to the Host Guild and Civic Dignitaries at the A.G.M. weekend.
4. To take responsibility for the activities of the Hon. Secretary, Hon. Membership Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, and advise the President of important matters. (Nb In the event of the Deputy President also holding one of these positions the responsibility that office will be delegated to the Vice President)
5. Present a report on the Deputy President's activities to the A.G.M. and Court Meeting.

Vice President

1. To arrange and chair Warden's Meetings.
2. To find Wardens for vacant territories.
3. To take responsibility for the activities of the Wardens, Hon. (Newsletter) Editor and Hon. Archivist, and advise the President of important matters.
4. Present a report on the Vice President's activities to the A.G.M. and Court Meeting.

Honorary Secretary

1. Prepare and arrange distribution of Agendas for A.G.M.'s and Court Meetings, together with any special statement/documents relevant to a particular item.
2. Prepare and arrange distribution of Minutes of A.G.M.'s and Court Meetings.

3. Prepare and arrange distribution of Notes, Reports etc. on the informal Discussion at the A.G.M. and any other specific topics.
4. Day to day administration of the affairs of the Association.
5. Report to the A.G.M. and Court on any interesting developments concerning Freemen's affairs.
6. Generally, apprise the President of any matters arising day to day.
7. Present a report on the Hon. Secretary's activities to the A.G.M. and Court Meeting.

Honorary Membership Secretary

1. Maintain good and efficient communications with Guild and Individual Membership.
2. Maintain up-to-date records of all F.E.W. Members, (Guild and Individual), and record their subscription payments.
3. Issue notices to Guild Members when their subscriptions are due.
4. Follow up for non-payment of subscriptions from Guilds and Individual Members.
5. Acknowledge applications from new Members and enter their details into the F.E.W. records.
6. Notify, periodically, names and addresses of New Members, changes of addresses of Existing Members, deaths and resignations, to the President, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. (Newsletter) Editor and the distributor of the F.E.W. Newsletter/Journal.
7. Ensure good communications with the Hon. Treasurer and advise him/her of all banking of subscriptions and other receipts.
8. Maintain stocks of all membership goods, (i.e. Ties, Badges, etc.), and ensure that members receive goods that they have ordered in reasonable time.
9. Present a Membership Report to the A.G.M. and Court Meeting.

Honorary Treasurer

1. Remit all cash and cheques to the Association Bank Account as and when necessary and ensure that no large amounts are held on a day-to-day basis.
2. Draw cheques in payment of accounts for goods and services bought and ensure that payments are made in reasonable time to take benefit of all available discounts.
3. Maintain cash books and record all receipts and payments in accordance with the requirements of the Auditor.
4. Communicate with the Inspector of Taxes (HMRC) and ensure that all claims for allowable tax under Deeds of Covenant/Gift Aid are available for inclusion in the year-end accounts.
5. Control all day-to-day moneys and ensure that the maximum benefit is derived by transfer of excessive daily balances, as and when prudent, to the Deposit Account or Investment Account with the Charities Official Investment Fund, (COIF), but not so stringently as to incur any unnecessary bank interest or service charges.
6. Communicate regularly with the Hon. Membership Secretary to ensure that all subscriptions received by Standing Order are duly notified and recorded.
7. To communicate with the Auditor — and apprise him/her of any financial changes which should be communicated to the Charity Commission.
8. Prepare accounts at 31st December for presentation at the March Court Meeting, and Annual Accounts at 31st March for presentation, with all necessary reports, at the Annual General Meeting in September.

Honorary Archivist

1. Receive, index and store correspondence, documents, printed papers and books concerning Freemen's affairs.
2. Make, and from time to time, issue notes, comparisons and monographs on Freemen's affairs, based on the Archives.
3. Make, and periodically promulgate, lists of holdings in the Archives.
4. Upon request, provide and advise whenever possible, information from the Archives relating to matters and questions on Freemen's affairs.
5. Present a report on the Hon. Archivist's activities to the A.G.M. and Court Meeting.

Honorary (Newsletter/Journal) Editor.

1. Edit material received from guilds concerning their activities, problems and history.
2. Edit random material received from a variety of sources, both home and abroad, including publications and organizations of interest to the Freemen, concerning the Freedom and Freemen's affairs.
3. Include in the Newsletter/Journal, as written contributions from the President, Hon. Secretary and other Officers as and when required.
4. Assemble all material in accordance with the established and accepted format and forward the proof to the President or, in his absence, the Deputy President in sufficient time to meet the publishers' deadline.
5. Ensure that the publisher is informed of all mailing changes, and that the necessary material is in his hands by the 9th day of the month in which the Court has directed that the Newsletter/Journal will be circulated.
6. Present a report on the Hon. Editor's activities to the A.G.M. and Court Meeting.

Officer without Portfolio

1. To undertake any specific/discrete piece of work or project as directed by the President or the Court.
2. To act under his/her own initiative to investigate any legislation, or proposed legislation, which may have an effect on Freemen's rights or general affairs.
3. To prepare articles for publication following any such investigation for the benefit of all Freemen.
4. To liaise with the Hon. Archivist in any undertakings in order to avoid error or duplication.
5. Present a report on the Officer without Portfolio's activities to the A.G.M. and Court Meeting.

Area Wardens

1. Encourage admission to the Freedom in towns and cities where it exists.
2. Encourage Freemen to join their Guild where one exists.
3. Encourage the formation, or revival, of Guilds in towns and cities where Freemen exist, but are not organized.
4. Recruit Guilds and Individual Freemen to membership of F.E.W.
5. Update information on Freemen, their history, customs and property within their areas of responsibility.
6. Encourage Freemen to regard their Freedom as a highly valued and esteemed privilege, to be worthy citizens loyal to the Monarchy, their country and their place of origin.

7. Encourage Freemen to communicate and co-operate as frequently as possible with Freemen in other towns and cities.
8. Encourage academic historians, local historians and archivists in exhaustive studies of the origin, history, law and customs of places where Freemen are, or have been, admitted.
9. Encourage publicity of Freemen and Freemen's activities in local press, tourist information leaflets, local guides and on public occasions.
10. Present a report on their activities, and the various activities within their area, to the A.G.M. and Court Meeting.

Notice Of Forthcoming Court Meeting

SATURDAY 24th APRIL 2021. 10.30am until 12.30 Via Zoom

An email with an agenda, supporting documents and the link to the Zoom Meeting, will be sent out to all FEW Court Members (Guild Representatives), before the meeting. 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 27th March 2021 please, by emailing the Hon. Secretary at leehensley@btinternet.com as soon as possible.

AGM 2021

More details are to follow on the format for this year's AGM, currently we are awaiting to see if changes to Government restrictions, allow us to meet as a group. More information will be available in the next Journal.

Situations Vacant.

Area Warden for the North required.

This is an interesting and very important role for a Freeman with some experience. For more information and enquiries, see roles of officers above or please contact the Vice President.

Nominations for FEW Executive Officers 2021 – 2022

Nominations are requested for FEW Executive Officers to serve for the year 2020 – 2021. The following positions are open for nomination:- President; 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 12th May 2021, in order that they can be published in the Summer 2021 Journal.

Freemen of England and Wales

Election of Executive Officers to serve for the year 2021-2022

NOMINATION FORM

Any nomination, properly proposed on this form, must be submitted to the Hon. Secretary on or before the date of May 12th 2021 in order that it can be published in the Summer 2021 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 2021 - 2022.

Proposer Signature:

Seconder Signature:

I declare that if elected, I am willing to serve as. of the Freemen of England and Wales for the period 2021/2

Signed

Return to

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

For those who do not wish to spoil their copy of the Journal a Photocopy of this form is acceptable



Freemen of England and Wales

An association of Freemen and Guilds in England and Wales

Patron: The Right Honourable, The Earl Bathurst

Royal Charity 293536

REGALIA ORDER No 1

Please forward the following items bearing the "FREEMEN OF ENGLAND AND WALES" logo:-

	Please state		Quantity	£.....
.....Tie.	Navy Blue, Green or Maroon	@ £ 13.80 each	.....	£.....
.....Medallion	Silver Gilt (hallmarked)	@ £ 100.50 each	.....	£.....
	Metal Gilt	@ £ 68.00 each	.....	£.....
.....Wall Plaque		@ £ 28.50 each	.....	£.....
.....Blazer Badge	(90mm round) **	@ £ 15.80 each	.....	£.....
.....Robe Badge	(150 mm round) ***	@ £ 21.90 Each	.....	£.....
	** To be worn on blazer breast pocket	*** To be worn on left sleeve		
.....Lapel Badge		@ £ 3.30 each	.....	£.....
.....Car Sticker		@ £ 1.10 each	.....	£.....
.....Book Sticker		@ £ 1.10 each	.....	£.....
.....Membership Certificate		@ £ 2.80 each	.....	£.....
.....Ceremonial Gown (in polyester)		@ £ 195.00 each #	.....	£.....
.....Ceremonial Gown (in wool worsted)		@ £ 280.00 each #	.....	£.....
.....For the gowns please state	Chest size, _____		Height, _____	
# (EXCLUDES BADGES)				
.....Epril Pen (a real must have)		@ £ 3.50 each	.....	£.....
.....Real Leather Wallet for documents and card		@ £ 16.50 each	.....	£.....
.....Enamel Logo Cuff Links		@ £ 13.50 pair	.....	£.....

I wish to make a contribution to the **Legal Fund** to provide for legal advice on Freemen's problems £.....

I wish to make a donation to the **Insignia and Robe Fund** £.....

Total Amount £.....

Name _____

Address _____

Date _____

Tel No: _____

Post code _____

Signature _____

This form should be returned to the Honorary Secretary.

Mr Lee Hensley, 86 Painswick Road, Gloucester, GL4 6PT. Tel No:- 07780680810

All prices include postage and packing. Please make cheques payable to:

"FREEMEN OF ENGLAND AND WALES"

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Directory.

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

Deputy President: Mr. T. 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

The Wardens.

The North East. Stephen Healy Freeman of Newcastle-upon-Tyne
43 Greenlee Drive, Dalesford Green, Little Benton, Newcastle upon Tyne NE7 7GA
0191 2159356 stephen@healy.myzen.co.uk

The North Position Vacant

The North West Denise Laver Freeman of Altincham
07966449497 few.northwestwarden@gmail.com

The North Midlands John Edwards Freeman of Stafford
5 Oak Close, Church Eaton, Stafford ST20 OAQ 01785 823067 john@staffordfreemen.org.uk

The South Midlands Derek Austin Freeman of Coventry
1 Yarrow Close, Rugby, Warwickshire CV23 OTU 01788 547145 4derekaustin@mypostoffice.co.uk

The West Howard Crapper Freeman of Oxford
The Mount, Hinton Parva, Swindon, Wiltshire SN4 ODH 01793 791171 h.crapper@btinternet.com

Wales Ian Phillips Freeman of Pembroke
3 Cwrt Lando, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, SA16 OYE
ianphillips9@hotmail.com

The East Angela Priestley-Gibbins Freeman of Lincoln
angiepf@hotmail.co.uk

London & South East Nick R. S. Johnson Freeman of Hale
37 Stanhope Gardens Ilford Essex IG13LQ 0208 554 5326 monthemers@yahoo.co.uk

The South West Nic Christison Freeman of Berwick upon Tweed
wondergeezzer@yahoo.co.uk

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

Cover Picture: The Saltburn Cliff Tramway opened in 1884 to replace a vertical hoist and is now the oldest water balanced funicular still in operation in Great Britain, linking the Victorian town of Saltburn with the only remaining pleasure pier on the whole North East and Yorkshire coast. Photograph by Tom Gibson.

Back Cover: See Presidents letter.

Hon. Editor: Tom Gibson, Freeman of York. All correspondence, enquiries as to advertising and circulation (including requests for additional copies) should be addressed to: Mr. T. Gibson.

Hon. Editor F.E.W Journal.

79 Tang Hall Lane.

York.

YO31 0SZ

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 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. 198) is the 14/5/21.

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.

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