



*Freemen of
England and Wales.*



*Journal, issue no. 162: April 2010.
With Compliments.*

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Presidents Message

After the longest winter for many years, and as we come out of the deep recession that affected many of us, I was pleased to see the profusion of daffodils in our countryside. If Spring is here can Summer be far behind?

As I have said before this is an important year with vital elections coming up – no not those of May the 6th, but those of September the 11th at Berwick upon Tweed. Can I remind you that the A.G.M. Is in fact the 10th to the 12th of September this year and a booking form will be published in the next issue though a *draft* programme is elsewhere in this journal.

The future of F.E.W. Is in your hands, I would encourage all members to use their votes when nominations are published in Journal 163. The nomination form is again published in this issue. I look forward to seeing you at the court meeting in Chester and later at the A.G.M. In Berwick.
CH.P. April 2010



Moot Hall. Berwick Upon Tweed

Gazette Amendments.

Please note, since the last Journal we have received the following amendments to the Gazette and Directory.

Warwick Court Leet Roger Higgins, 50 Myton Crescent, Warwick CV34 6QA Tel; 01926-491343. Email; glosdura@gmail.com

Clerk to the Freemen of Hale Ralph Mills 23 Arklow Drive, Hale Village, Near Liverpool, L24 5RN. Tel : 0151 425 2782
e-mail freemenofhale@hotmail.co.uk

News From Guilds

Coventry. By Derek Austin

Coventry Freemen's Guild activities in the New Year started with the **Apprentice of the Year Award ceremony and Dinner** in St Mary's Guildhall on 26th January. After a three course meal and trumpet fanfare the Master profiled the six finalists before announcing the winner of the £1000 prize as Allan Howling from Jaguar Cars. The other five finalists received £100 and a plaque to recognize their achievements. Our thanks to Enterprise Warden John Wilkinson and his team.

February saw our **Ladies Night dinner** in the Guildhall, with Master's Lady Louise Parry welcoming guests and speaker Christopher Mew, who regaled us with tales of bells and bell ringing. PM Duncan Hall gave the toast to the Ladies – essential supporters to allow the harmonious passage of Guild events.

A notable event for your diaries is the **Coventry banquet weekend**. A Friday night 'get together' on 30th April with £12 meal at the Aston Court hotel can be booked through PM Rod King on 024-7630-3065, who can also advise on discounted hotel accommodation. Saturday 1st May will see the formal banquet in St Mary's Guildhall, with ceremonial change of officers. Tickets at £40 each are available from Raj Bansal on 024-7623-1132. Sunday 2nd May is the gowned procession from the Council House in Earl Street to the Guild church of Holy Trinity for the service and installation of the Guild Chaplain the Rev David Mayhew. We welcome attendees from other Guilds for this weekend's events.

Chester; by Howard Pate

For the last eighteen months the Chester Freemen and Guilds have been anxious regarding the future of the Guildhall, as the world-wide economic downturn reduced bookings, and costly upgrading of facilities was undertaken at the Guildhall. We are happy to report that the renovations are complete, bookings are increasing, and that life at the Guildhall goes on its merry way. Coffee and tea are served at the Guildhall between 10am and noon on Saturdays, excepting Bank Holiday weekends. The next Pentice Court, where the Lord Mayor admits new freemen, will be held this year in the Guildhall, rather than at the Town Hall, as the Town Hall is undergoing large-scale renovations. As is entirely appropriate, the date for the Pentice Court is St. George's Day, April 23.

Leicester; By Michael Ayres

Wednesday 10th February;

We held our usual winter's Skittle Evening with a change of venue this year to the Wheatsheaf Pub at Thurstaston. After a cold and frosty journey the warmth of the skittle alley, the atmosphere in the room and the company made the journey worthwhile. Thirty-two Gild members together with their wives and partners attended and had a very enjoyable evening. After playing two games of long alley skittles, we all tucked into the normal pub supper of faggots, sausages, chips and peas. After two more games, the last one being the beer leg, we made our way home along the cold and frosty roads, feeling much better with the warmth of the supper inside us.

Tuesday 23rd February;

A further Freedom ceremony was held in the Council Chamber at Leicester's Town Hall, in the presence of the Lord Mayor of Leicester Councillor Roger Blackmore. When sixteen daughters and three sons of Freemen, took their Oath before the Lord Mayor, the Town Clerk, the Deputy Master of the Gild, and the Vice Chairman of the Board of the Leicester Freemen's Deputies.

Since the Democracy, Economic Development and the Construction Bill was passed in October 2009, thirty-one daughters of Leicester Freemen have now taken their Oath. The Leicester Council has a third Ceremony planned for 24th April 2010.

The Gild of Freemen of the City of Leicester

Master of the Gild Brian Mudford and the Wardens of the Court invite you to join us and attend our **Annual Banquet** in the company of Distinguished guests at Devonshire Place, London Road, Leicester.

Saturday 3rd July 2010

7.00pm for 7.30pm

Black Tie

Tickets £36.00

BOOKING FORM

Gild Banquet - Saturday 3rd July 2010 at Devonshire Place.

Please reserve places at £36.00 each, I will require
vegetarian meals

..... of us will be attending the **Annual Freemen's Service at St. Mary de Castro on Sunday 4th July 2010 at 10.30am.**

My name
is.....

Address.....
.....
.....

Postcode.....Telephone No:.....

My Guests will be.....
.....

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £....., made payable to
"Gild of Freemen".

Please send to:

**Roger Allen, 8 Dauphine Close, Coalville, Leicestershire
LE674QQ. Telephone: 01530 831151
E-mail: rogerallen8@ntlworld.com**

Applications will be dealt with strictly on a first-come, first served basis. **A photocopy of this booking form is acceptable**

Shrewsbury;

The Shrewsbury Gild will be holding their annual St. Georges Dinner and service on Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th April.

The Roast Beef Dinner (with veggie options) will be held at the Lord Hill Hotel timed at 7.30 for 8.00pm. Dress is Black Tie or dark lounge suits and the price is £22 per head.

The Gild will also hold a church service at the Abbey Church on Sunday morning followed by a carvery lunch at C21 priced at £12. Numbers are very limited for Sunday lunch so early applications are advised.

Applications to the clerk to the Gild, Mr Roger Cole, 12 Shrewsbury Road, Cressage, Shrewsbury, SY5 6AA , e-mail address, cole548@btinternet.com or telephone 01952 510360.

Durham City Freeman:

Annual Dinner 2010 in Durham Town Hall, Saturday 16th October 7.p.m. for 7.30.p.m. Dress code : Lounge Suit : Tickets : £25 each Honoured Guest : Professor Chris Higgins, Vice-Chancellor of Durham University.

Tickets and further details from :Roger Norris Chairman Trustees Durham City Freeman 4 Nevilledale Terrace, Durham DH1 4QG e-mail : roger@cmimusic.com. telephone 0191-384-2949

Church Window Appeal in memory of *Col. John F. Kenyon.*

The family of Col. John (Past President of FEW) have commissioned a stained glass window for Pradoc Church in memory of his life and achievements. John was President of FEW for ten years from 1981 to 1991 and worked tirelessly for the benefit of the Gilds and the Association. He was especially active in the defence against York City Council attempts to take ownership of the Strays which could have created repercussions in many places.

If any Gilds would like to contribute to the cost of the window would they please send their donations to J.R.Kenyon Esq, 140 Fairwater Grove East, Llandaff, Cardiff, C5 2JW.

*Minutes of the Court Meeting held on
Saturday 13th March 2010*

at the restaurant and bar complex "C21" Shrewsbury

1) The list of attendees;

Derek Austin Coventry, Michael Ayres Leicester, Tony Chettle Leicester, Howard Crapper Oxford, Eric Critchlow Leicester, John Edwards Stafford, Capt Jim Evans Berwick-upon-Tweed, Alan Fallows Shrewsbury, Roy Folland Pembroke Eileen Forth York & London, Colin Hardcastle York & London, Roger Higgins Warwick Ron Leek Alcester, Southwark & London, Ray Mason Newcastle-under-Lyme, Lionel Morris Shrewsbury, Howard Pate Chester Eileen Reynolds Coventry, Brian Simpson Newcastle-under-Lyme John Speake Shrewsbury, John Tolton Leicester, Gordon Vardell London, Stephen White — Grimsby

a) Following the Call to Order, the President, Colin Hardcastle opened the Court.

b) The Court was formally welcomed to Shrewsbury by Mr Lionel Morris, Chairman of the Gild of Freemen of Shrewsbury, who wished it an enjoyable and successful meeting.

The Opening Prayer was pronounced by the Hon Membership Secretary, Eileen Forth.

2) Apologies for absence were recorded from the Officer Without Portfolio, Hilarie McNae; Hon Editor (pro-tern), Tom Gibson; Warden for the North West, Leslie Morgan; Warden for the North East, Emma Reid- Chalmers; Andrew Croose of Gloucester; Alf Ely, Ray Spurway, and A.Piddock of Stafford.

3) The minutes of the last Court Meeting held on Saturday 20th June 2009 in Berwick-upon-Tweed, were approved and signed by the President.

4) One matter only, arising from those minutes, was raised by Capt

Jim Evans of the Berwick Guild. He queried the accuracy of the statement in item 14 relating to the progress of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill. The Deputy President, Alan Fallows responded, by stating that the minute as written was a correct record of the situation at the time of the meeting, but that later-events had somewhat overtaken the facts as then presented by Tony Sharp. Alan then continued by reviewing and explaining the current situation now that the Bill had received its assent. A number of queries concerning issues affecting certain guilds were then discussed, with Alan noting that as all processes differed from guild to guild, then if specific queries were addressed to him directly, he would advise as appropriate. It was agreed that any guilds employing legal counsel regarding local ramifications, should desirably notify Alan of the opinion received, and he would then ensure general dissemination of this to FEW members.

5) The President, Colin Hardcastle, briefly presented a resume of his activities since the AGM.

6) A copy of Alan Fallows' Deputy President's Report is appended. Relating to Alan's reference to this year's AGM, Capt Jim Evans reviewed the draft programme of events — copy appended — noting that hotel accommodation would be the responsibility of individual delegates. A full list will be provided together with the booking form.

7) In presenting his Vice President's Report — copy appended — Gordon Varndell was very pleased to announce that John Edwards of Stafford, had agreed to accept the office of Warden for the North Midlands, and John was therefore formally confirmed in office.

8) Wardens' Reports were presented as follows:-
Warden for Wales, Roy Folland. Copy appended.
Warden for the West, Howard Crapper. Copy appended.
Warden for the South Midlands, Derek Austin. Copy appended.

Warden for the North Midlands, John Edwards. John noted that Stafford Guild was experiencing some problems relating to the use of its allotment lands for educational purposes. He pointed out that although a new building and facilities would be provided for the children using the allotments under the agreement, there was no available bus parking space, an unexpected requirement added after

the original agreement. However, John felt that this was likely to be overcome without too much difficulty.

Warden for the North West, Leslie Morgan. In his absence, Leslie's report was read out by the Hon Secretary, Ron Leek. Copy appended. Referring to Leslie's approach to Preston, Ron read out the reply since received by Leslie from Mrs A.Young of Preston City Council, where she details the basic outline of the Preston Guild 2012, and indicates that it would be ideal for FEW to hold its AGM to coincide with part of the proceedings, and join in with one of the civic processions, either on the weekend of the opening of the Court, or the following weekend on the adjournment of the Court. The meeting agreed that it would be appropriate for FEW to hold its 2012 AGM in Preston, and to actively participate in this unique, once in 20 year Freedom occasion, despite the fact that it would have to make all of its own arrangements. The practicalities of the matter will be considered by the Executive.

Warden for the North, Capt Stephen Healy. No report was available in Stephen's absence.

Warden for the North East, Emma Reid-Chalmers. Having apologised for non-attendance today, Emma had posted her report to the Vice President; this unfortunately had not arrived in time for him to bring to the meeting. Copy appended.

Warden for the East, Norman Offield. No report was available in Norman's absence.

Wardens for the South East and South West. Both these offices are vacant. **Volunteers are requested. Names to Gordon please.**

9) Stephen White presented his Hon Treasurer's Report and accounts. A copy is appended. He noted that NatWest, our bankers were still creating problems regarding our mandates, and that as a result, statements were still going to John Tolley who had resigned as Hon Treasurer some two years ago. He was hopeful that with the signing of a fresh mandate by the Executive today, things would improve. In addition, he proposed that for better management of the FEW finances, it would be pertinent to open a deposit account. Seconded by Capt Jim Evans, the meeting gave its approval to this

proposal.

10) Eileen Forth presented her Hon Membership Secretary's Report. A copy is appended. She reported the names of the two deceased members as M.P.Roberts of Chester, and G.W.Poynton of Hale.

11) Alan presented his Hon Archivist's Report. A copy is appended. He proposed the purchase for the FEW archives, of a newly published book on the London Livery Companies, which would be of relevance to FEW. The meeting approved this at a cost of £27.50. Further discussion then followed on the Local Democracy Bill, with Brian Simpson of Newcastle-under-Lyme detailing his guild's opposition to it, and its stance on the way that it had been progressed through parliament. It was agreed that this Bill and its implications for guilds, would feature as an item on future Court agendas, certainly for the next meeting in June.

12) In his absence, the Hon Editor (pro-tern) Tom Gibson's report was read out by the Hon Secretary. A copy is appended. Tom's suggested change of Journal and Gazette printer for expediency, was fully approved by the meeting. On a proposition by the President, seconded by the Hon Secretary, it was agreed that Tom was formally co-opted as Hon Editor until the AGM.

13) In Hilarie McNae's absence, no Officer Without Portfolio's Report was presented.

14) Any Other Business:-

a) Gordon Vandell proposed that in view of their front line positions in promoting FEW to the guilds in their areas, thereby hopefully recruiting new members, serious consideration should be given by the meeting in adopting Capt Stephen Healy's idea of introducing some form of recognition or incentive for bringing new members into the fold. Following discussion, it was agreed that the idea in principal should be adopted, but further thought from members, particularly the wardens themselves, as to what sort of incentive would be appropriate is essential. This subject will be included as an item in the June Court agenda. The observation was made that no recognition should be given, until it was shown that any newly recruited member did indeed remain a member after the first twelve months of membership.

b) John Edwards noted that Stafford had produced a DVD of the last AGM Weekend, and that in view of a slight overall profit made at the weekend, a copy would be provided for each of the participating guilds.

c) The Hon Secretary reminded the meeting of the necessity of nominations for 2010-2011 Executive Officers being with him by the date of the next Court Meeting, provisionally scheduled for 19th June.

d) Derek Austin asked about the website. Stephen White stated that work on it was now almost complete, and that it was hoped to have it up and running by June.

e) Derek then queried the proposed publication of the updated Harry Ward book on Freemen. Alan said that he now had all relevant files on his computer, both for the Harry Ward update, and also the Charles Sparrow addresses, together with Maurice Pickering's essay, but that those provided by Alan Robson were currently unreadable. He would therefore be contacting Alan Robson about this. However, he noted that updated information on several important guilds had still not been provided, and he therefore felt that final publication of everything on one CD, which would be copied and issued free to all members together with a future Journal, was still some considerable way off.

15) The proposed venue for the June Court Meeting, currently scheduled for Saturday 19th June, is unfortunately unavailable. The meeting was therefore asked to suggest possible alternatives. Chester, Henley in Arden, and Leicester were suggested. Howard Pate will investigate Chester, and Alan Fallows will contact Henley in Arden. Michael Ayres stated that June was not possible for Leicester.

The 2010 AGM Weekend in Berwick-upon-Tweed is from Friday 10th September to Sunday 12th September. Suggestions for a venue for the 2013 AGM were requested by the President.

16) The Court was formally closed by the President.

Deputy Presidents Report.

Reference the collection of Gild meeting dates over the year I must report that several Gilds still have not responded. This does not bode well for their ability to convey their members wishes within a reasonable time scale. I will now pursue the matter more forcefully to ascertain and instigate a satisfactory contact regime to be in place for the AGM,

Reference this years AGM in Berwick upon Tweed I have now received the format for the weekend from Captain Evans which as expected appears to be in good order. Jim will wish to up-date you more fully later on the arrangements and web-site www.freemenofberwick.org.uk. This will no doubt be expanded to contain delegates details as received. The president and I will visit Berwick ASAP to view facilities and finalise details for the calling notice to be issued in June.

Vice Presidents Report.

As Vice President I have not had a lot to take on since September 2009. I try where possible at all the functions that I attend to promote the Freemen of England and Wales. It never ceases to amaze me how many people have never heard of us.

The Wardens have been fairly active in their respective areas and their reports will reflect that. They are the front line Officers of this Association we need to take the their ideas and work seriously.

With reference to a letter from Alan our Deputy President outlining the idea of drawing up guidelines for the Wardens. I referred to this in my last report. I have been working on this and to this end I have now got the post codes set up for the new areas of the freedom in obscurity. I will draw up the letters and send them out to the relevant Wardens to investigate the new areas before the next meeting.

I can actually pass on now the information one of these new areas to Roy Folland, Warden for Wales to investigate. I have had a request for help and information from a long standing Freeman of

Swansea on how to set up new Gild of Freemen. I would ask Roy the Warden for Wales to take this on board and follow it through I am sure that he will keep us informed on the progress made. I do know that one or two of the areas have been tried before with little success but who knows, new councils and new ideas can sometimes bring good results.

On the vacancy front. I have tried to get members interested in the North Midlands area but so far with little luck.

With South East This post is also vacant. I have approached one or two but so far there are no takers.

Gordon Varndell Vice President

Warden for Wales Report

Reports of the Gild of Freemen of Pembroke, Haverfordwest and Llantrisant.

The Gild of Freemen of Pembroke;

The Annual General meeting was held on Thursday 22nd October in the Chamber of the Pembroke Town Council. During the election of officers, the Master vacated the Chair for the duration of those proceedings. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all present that all Officers be re-elected on bloc. The Master thanked those present for their continued support.

Following the report by the Treasurer. It was decided that all future donations in memory of deceased members should be £50.00.

All present was brought up to date on the arrangements which is in the process of reaching the final stage for the hosting of the FEW AGM weekend at Pembroke in September 2011.

The Freemen of Pembroke was well represented at the Remembrance Service held at Pembroke's Cenotaph where the Master in the company of the Mayor of Pembroke Cllr. Perl Llewellyn and the Mayor of Pembroke Dock Cllr. Pam George laid a wreath on behalf of the Gild.

On Sunday 15th November the Gild held their Annual Service at St. Michael's Church Pembroke where Canon Roger Jones and the guest minister Revd. Nanette Lewis-Head took the service. This was followed by an excellent meal at the Cleddau Bridge Hotel where the honoured guests included the Chairman of Pembrokeshire County

Council Mrs. Anne Hughes and her consort Mr. Jim Hughes, the Mayor of Pembroke Cllr. Pearl Llewellyn and her consort Mr. Ralph Llewellyn and the Master of the Haverfordwest Guild of Freeman Mr. Malcolm Green and his Lady Mrs. Janet Green. Thanking those present for their support, the Master asked the Mayor of Pembroke to convey to her council our grateful thanks for their continued support of the Freeman of Pembroke without which we would have difficulty continuing as a Guild.

Court Meetings will be held at the Pembroke Town Council Chamber on Thursday 25th March, on Thursday 15th July with the AGM taking place on Thursday October 21st and the Annual Service and Luncheon will be held on Sunday November 21st.

The Guild of Freeman of Haverfordwest;

Haverfordwest is celebrating this year the 900th anniversary of its castle, and the chairman of the 900 Committee. which is co-ordinating all the planned events, is

Mr Malcolm Green, Master of the town's Guild of Freeman. Mr Green, a former High Sheriff of Dyfed, has involved organisations and individuals in the town to come up with ideas to mark this important anniversary. Already a church service, addressed by the Bishop of St David's, The Right Reverend Wyn Evans, has been held in St Martin of Tours Church, which is the Guild's official place of worship. A history lecture by Town Museum Manager and Curator Simon Hancock, himself a Burgess of the Guild, also drew a large audience. Probably the most important celebratory event will be the erection of a memorial stone in the grounds of the castle with a plaque bearing the names of men and women who have helped to shape the town's fortunes down the centuries. It is hoped a distinguished personage will unveil the stone in June. The idea is being promoted by Haverfordwest Civic Society, the chairman and several members of which are members of the Guild of Freeman. It was the brain child of the son of another former High Sheriff, Geoffrey Foster, and a book complementing this event has been written by local historian Mark Muller, the title of which is "People Who Shaped Haverfordwest". A series of celebratory events will be held throughout the year.

The Tri-annual meeting of the Freeman of Haverfordwest of which there are nine Trustees was held at Picton House, Picton Place, Haverfordwest on 4th March 2010. During the proceedings the appointed Chairman for the ensuing three years was Mr. M. V. H. Thomas and the Vice Chairman was Mr. P. R. Higgon. Prior to closing the Meeting the Chairman thanked the retiring Trustee Mr.

Lewis Thomas for the significant support he had given to the Trust over very many years. Following the Tri-annual Meeting an ordinary Meeting of the Trustees was called, during which the Admission of Lady Freemen was discussed.

Llantrisant Freemen, Llantrisant Town Trust;

The Town Trust meet every month at the Guild Hall, the Annual Court Leet Ceremony will take place on the 14th May to enrol nine new Freemen, one family of four will be from Australia.

The Trust's efforts have been centred on the arrangements for the Beating of the Bounds which will take place on the 12th June. The seven mile walk around the Boundary of the ancient Borough marks out the area covered by the 1346 Charter, it was within this area that Freemen could trade freely. The Beating of the Bounds is a custom which takes place every seven years, the procession is led by the mace and the sons and grandsons of Freemen are bumped on their buttocks to remind them of where the Boundaries begin. In 2003 there was 600 Freemen and camp followers who completed the walk and in the town some 11,000 people took part in the Festivities.

Warden for the West Report.

The Freemen of the City of Oxford witnessed the admission of twelve Freemen on Thursday 11th March in the Lord Mayors Parlour . This number included Councillor Susanna Pressell who had been appointed as Lord Mayors Childe , or in modern parlance this is now known as Lord Mayors Nominee. The ancient tradition was revived in 1972 and has been very beneficial to Oxford.

A guided walking tour of the City of Oxford is being organised for June and subsequent tours will be arranged depending on demand . Last November , my wife and I had the pleasure to represent the Freemen of England & Wales in Gloucester at their Annual Dinner. This was held in the Freemasons Hall , located in the pedestrian central area of the City . My wife and I sat with the Mayor and the President of the Gloucester Freemen.

The Mayor of Gloucester spoke warmly of the relationship between Council and Freemen and said how important the Freemen were to the history and fabric of the City of Gloucester.

In September the Chartered Freeman of Gloucester will be making an invited visit to Oxford which will commence with a civic reception at the Town Hall. It is nearly twenty years since Gloucester Freemen made their last official visit.

The recent première of Alice in Wonderland film reminds us that this incredible story was conceived while a maths tutor relaxed on a sleepy summer afternoon picnicking on the Freeman's Port Meadow . He was accompanied by the College Deans daughter and the rabbit bobbing up from a rabbit hole sparked the book which has entertained millions of children.

Warden for the South Midlands Report

As the Coventry, Leicester, and Warwick Guild or Leet events are well reported in the Journal, I shall just highlight a couple of their forthcoming events, and then turn to the other Guilds and Leets,

The Coventry Freeman's Guild banquet weekend will start on Friday 30th April with a low cost 'get together' meal at the Aston Court hotel. Reservations and discounted accommodation details are available from PM Rod King on 024-7630-3065 or e-mail: rodkingster21@gmail.com .Saturday 1st May will see the formal banquet and change of officers in the Guildhall, with 'Freemen's Sunday' on 2nd May having a robed procession to the Guild church of Holy Trinity to install the Guild Chaplain, with a sherry reception afterwards at the Council House.

Banquet tickets are available from Raj Bansal of Bansal Estates on 024-7623-1132 or e-mail: raibansal@bansalestates.co.uk This weekend is always well supported by other Guilds, so we hope to see you there.

Leicester Freeman's Gild big news is the return of the Leicester Gild Banquet on 3rd July 2010 at Devonshire Place on the London Road, with on site parking at rear, and postcode LE2 0RA for the satnay. Tickets will be available from Roger Allen on 01530-831151. A Sunday service the next day at Gild Church St Mary de Castro is also planned.

Warwick Court Leet has their next programmed meeting in the Warwick Council Chamber of the Jury Street Courthouse on 25th March,

Northampton Freeman had their Trustee and Guild meetings on 4th December, and their Trustee Chairman and Guild President Trevor Ward stepped down after 6 years, and was replaced by Richard Collins. A Guild visit to Coventry is a possibility later in the year, and the 4th annual Northampton Freeman's Dinner is expected about mid May.

Alcester Court Leet had their annual Court Leet & Court

Baron on 8th October in Alcester's 17th century town hall. Past Bailiff and FEW Hon Secretary Ron Leek was elected as Jury Foreman for the elections of new officers, which saw retiring High Bailiff Andy Mills replaced by Mike Clark, with new Low Bailiff Nick Dearling. The old year finished with the Annual Dinner on 19th November and St Nicholas Night with mince pies and mulled wine on 6th December. Christmas Day saw Officers and their Ladies out on visits and carols. A welcome innovation for 2010 is the e-mailed Court Leet News for Frankpledge penny payers, and the re-activation of website www.alcestercourtleet.co.uk Pancake Race Day on 16th February was very well supported with 200 competitors from 3 to 50 years old.

Henley-in-Arden Court Leet held their annual Court Leet & Court Baron on 17th November in the half timbered medieval Guildhall on Henley High Street. A good fire in the huge ancient fireplace gave a warm welcome to the gowned Leet members and visiting Officers from other local Leets and the FEW. The usual reports and elections were followed by wine and canapes — and invitation to the Court Leet church service next door at St Johns on 22nd November. This was well attended, and followed by refreshments back in the Guildhall. January 25th was a Burns Night event, with March seeing an intercourt sports evening in the Guildhall. A date for your diaries is 12th June, when the annual Court Leet Day sees formal re-enactments of ancient duties such as beating the bounds - ale tasting - bread and butter weighing - brook looking etc

Finally, my thanks to the Executive Committee for agreeing to publish the numerical results from the last AGM elections.
Derek Austin.

Warden for the North West Report.

I am particularly saddened that I am unable to get along to Shrewsbury owing to the fact that as from lunchtime today, the main West Coast Line is closed north of Preston, which would cause me no little inconvenience on my return journey.

I had hoped to come down by an earlier train, in order that I could have visited Meole Brace Parish Church, where my Great Grandparents Abraham Morgan (1825-1866) married Mary Bedward (1831-1915) on 14th November 1850, as well as visiting the Reference Library as Abraham who died on 7th May 1866 is shown as being a "Master Tailor", and wonder whether he served an

apprenticeship with a member of the Guild of Tailors, and if so, whether he was appointed a Freeman of Shrewsbury by Apprenticeship, not that it would affect me as there is a considerable generation gap.

Since we last met in Stafford, I have attended the Altrincham Court Leet on 26th September, on 20th October the Annual Business Meeting at Hale, followed by another visit on November 26th when the Lancashire Evening was held at the Wellington Hotel, Hale, and once again I was fined for wearing a White Rose instead of the Red variety. At least the fine helps the funds of the Freemen, as well as the good humoured banter; whilst on January 26th the Annual Court was held in Hale, and which was attended by our President who certainly enjoyed the occasion. New Freemen were admitted, and all have been invited to join our Association.

Further engagements include St George's Day at Hale on 23rd April, the Carlisle Freemen's Annual Meeting on 13th May, the FEW Court in York on 5th June (*Editors note: Please note amendment to venue and date for the June court in the Hon Secretary's notes*), Altrincham Trinity Assize the following day, and the Hale Carnival on 12th and 13th June.

I have been in touch with Preston City Council regarding the 2012 Guild, but am still awaiting a reply as to whether on the occasion of the Guild Mayor's State Service in Preston Minster — attended in procession with the Guild Freemen, our Association might be invited to show its support by parading with its Preston colleagues — but I will not, in the interests of good public relations, be pressing the point; and bearing in mind that I shall then be 83 years of age, I will then retire at the 2012 AGM, having been elected Warden at the 1999 AGM which was held in Altrincham.

I must place on record, my sincere thanks to Captain James Evans for securing accommodation for Paul and myself in Berwick-upon-Tweed on the occasion of the forthcoming Annual General Meeting. Leslie Morgan.

Warden for the North East Report.

Following our what must be considered a very successful AGM hosted by Stafford, I managed to get to support/heckle/cheer John on as he stood atop the plinth at Trafalgar Square. It was 4am on Thursday 8th October 2009 and as the clouds parted and rain ceased, a full moon fairly high in the sky lit a man on a hobby horse

with FEW robes to hand. It was romantic, eccentric, uplifting and joyful. John managed to be heard above a few very late night or very early morning hecklers as he not only entertained with the history of Morris Men but also Stafford, its Guild and the Freemen of England and Wales. So it was that Carol (John's wife) and I witnessed John becoming one of 2400 participants of Anthony Gormley's 100-day artwork "One and Other". As "The Times" reported on 15th October 2009, Ekow Eshun director of the Institute of Contemporary Arts said "The headline is that there is a bunch of exhibitionists on a plinth, but beneath that what you have is people talking about the things that move them in a significant way". F.E.W. became one of those significant things that morning-night, adding to its history being part of contemporary art installation. I felt very privileged to be part of John's presentation as he mentioned Warden for the North-East, since I was the only F.E.W. member there with Carol. It was sad you didn't make it. You really should have been there. It was a very special occasion. Magical.

On Sunday 18th October 2009 I accompanied our President at the Annual Service for The City of Lincoln Freemen at St Mary-le-Wigford Church. We were made most welcome with a lovely service, string quartet playing and refreshments afterwards.

Last year the annual Christmas lunch at Bedern Hall, York was held on Sunday 13th December and proved to be extremely popular and was well attended as was the dinner. I was able to let York's hardworking clerk, June, have a copy of "The Journal" a magazine publication of "distinction" which had a full A3 article and photograph of Bedern Hall with mention of the Gild of Freemen. I was also able to obtain permission from the editor for the York Gild of Freemen to copy and circulate the article if they so wished provided the usual credits and acknowledgements were given. The Gild therefore had the edge on Roger who had not seen his moment of modelling glory posed or is that poised on table edge, and I have a feeling is in for some ribbing from his sister who was waiting at table that day! The weather and a bug kept me from the Carol Service, later in the week, with its mince pies but others made it and all managed to get home safely.

The Gild of York Freemen have been their usual active selves with a ghost walk, visit to Chatsworth House with its Christmas decorations, Christmas lunch organised by the Master for the over 80s and Harry Ward Memorial Lecture on 18th February 2010. The 55th Annual Banquet is to be held on Saturday 17th April at

The Merchant Adventurers Hall, and has, I am reliably informed, a heaving top-table of the great and good as well as a lot of us lesser known mortals. I am looking forward to celebrity spotting and reporting back to you all, as well as the different venue and high-jinks on the Friday night.

Grimsby Freemen now have our Treasurer full-time as he joins company with our President in being retired. It has to be said Steven White has taken early retirement whereas Colin managed to retire (they didn't mean it), remain in office and retire a second time (oh, yes they did) some years later. I am looking forward to bugging Steven over the website and hopefully using some of his already over-committed time to progress things further. He has no excuses, some of us are still at the proverbial coal face!

Further news comes from the Beverley Pasture Masters, or rather it doesn't, but comes from the local press. On 1st March 2010 12 new pasture masters and two auditors were chosen by the pasture freemen. On 24th March 2010 in the East Riding Advertiser the following was reported together with photograph and I include some of it for those of you who have followed the "Beverley Bill" up pasture and down pasture until its recent resolution:

"Sisters are certainly doing it for themselves in Beverley. The daughters of C of the town were sworn in to take up the historic role for the first time at a ceremony at Beverley Guildhall. It follows a change in the law in January that has allowed women as well as men to take the hereditary title. Freemen can become candidates to be elected pasture masters – the guardians of the town's 1200 acres of common land, including the famous Westwood. Previously, a freemen had to be born within the boundaries of Beverley, but the closure of the town's maternity unit led to number of hereditary freemen falling dangerously low".

I have liaised with our President as he had some dealing with the Beverley Pasture Masters when he was Warden for the North East. I am writing to their Clerk in the hope of establishing contact again and seeing where it may lead.

There is nothing further from Doncaster save that reported in earlier Journals. I have had no further responses from anywhere else but remain, whilst not holding my breath, as ever hopeful.

Emma L. Reid-Chalmers

Treasurers Report



Freemen of England & Wales

An Association of Freemen and Guilds in England and Wales

Patron: The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Shannon

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
<u>2008/09</u>	<u>2009/10</u>	<u>2008/09</u>	<u>2009/10</u>
£	£	£	£
Note 1		Note 5	
	<u>SUBSCRIPTIONS</u>		<u>ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</u>
1,093.00	Individual 1,041.00	21.53	Postage 65.15
530.00	Guilds 441.00	-	Telephone -
<u>1,623.00</u>	<u>1,482.00</u>	-	Insurance (provision only) -
		-	Archives -
		-	Stationery 19.25
		933.73	Printing/photocopying 58.00
		-	Website -
		<u>350.95</u>	Other 198.99
		<u>1,306.21</u>	<u>341.39</u>
		Note 3:	
	<u>DONATIONS TO:-</u>		<u>PURCHASES</u>
91.00	General Fund 111.00	-	Robes 179.67
99.50	Legal Fund 101.50	-	Ties -
81.50	Regalia Fund 85.50	-	Members Medallions -
		123.38	Robe Badges 117.10
		-	Blazer badges 112.50
		-	Lapel badges 281.22
		-	Wall Plaques 127.42
		-	Pens -
		-	Membership Wallets -
		<u>123.38</u>	<u>797.91</u>
		Note 6:	
	<u>SALES</u>		<u>JOURNAL</u>
-	Robes 175.00	837.65	Production 1,257.25
12.50	Ties 87.50	-	Postage/distribution 485.39
-	Members Medallions 47.50	<u>356.30</u>	<u>1,742.64</u>
57.00	Robe badges 133.00		
14.00	Blazer badges 154.00		
	Lapel badges 3.00		
	Wall plaques -		
	Stickers 3.00		
	Headsquares -		
	Books 5.00		
	Christmas Cards 7.00		
	Pens 5.00		
	Membership Wallets -		
	Aspects of the Freedom -		
	Membership certificates -		
<u>83.50</u>	<u>620.00</u>	<u>524.34</u>	<u>480.42</u>
		Note 7:	
	<u>INTEREST RECEIVED</u>		<u>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS</u>
1,308.90	COIF Deposit A/c 175.21	524.34	2008 -
	Gift Aid Tax Refund -	-	2009 480.42
<u>1,308.90</u>	<u>175.21</u>	<u>323.80</u>	2010 480.42
		Note 8:	
	<u>INCOME TAX RECOVERED</u>		<u>COURT & OFFICERS' MEETINGS</u>
0.00	Re: Gift Aid Declarations 2008/2009 -	-	Court Meeting Room Hire -
0.00	Re: Gift Aid Declarations 2009/2010 60.09	-	Catering - Neit -
<u>0.00</u>	<u>60.09</u>	-	Officers' Meeting Expenses 9.50
		-	President's Expenses -
		<u>-</u>	<u>9.50</u>
<u>3,287.40</u>	<u>TOTAL RECEIPTS 2,635.30</u>	<u>3,471.68</u>	<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE 3,371.86</u>
		-	184.28 SURPLUS FOR YEAR 736.56
		-	142.80 Less transfer to Designated Funds 187.00
		<u>-</u>	<u>41.48 AVAILABLE SURPLUS 923.56</u>

MOVEMENT OF DESIGNATED FUNDS - 2008/9 to 2009/10

	2008/09	2009/10
Legal Fund		
Balance at 30 June	2,717.05	2,727.63
Donations received	99.50	101.50
Tax recovered	-	-
LESS: Costs Incurred	- 323.80	-
Balance at 31 December	2,492.75	2,829.13
Regalia Fund		
Balance at 30 June	1,566.47	315.79
Donations received	81.50	85.50
Tax recovered	-	-
LESS: Purchases made	-	-
Balance at 31 December	1,647.97	401.29
Regalia Self-Insurance Fund		
Balance at 30 June	1,293.00	1,658.00
Amount Provided	-	-
Balance at 31 December	1,293.00	1,658.00
TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS	5,433.72	4,888.42

FREEMEN OF ENGLAND AND WALES

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES AS AT THE HALF FINANCIAL YEAR END

	31.12.2008	31.12.2009
Monetary Assets		
GENERAL PURPOSE FUND		
National Westminster Bank - Current A/C	1,658.65	2,867.44
COIF Charity Deposit Fund	46,000.00	46,000.00
	<u>47,658.65</u>	<u>48,867.44</u>
DESIGNATED FUNDS		
National Westminster Bank - Current A/C	1,433.72	888.42
COIF Charity Deposit Fund	4,000.00	4,000.00
	<u>5,433.72</u>	<u>4,888.42</u>
DEBTORS / CREDITORS		
Amounts owed to FEW at 31/12	615.75	65.62
LESS: Amounts owed by FEW at 31/12	-323.80	-440.89
TOTAL	<u>53,384.32</u>	<u>53,380.59</u>
Other Assets		
Stocks of resale items (cost not realisable value)	1,836.30	1,946.89
Officers' regalia (insured value)	7,319.00	9,142.00
Other Assets	895.00	895.00
TOTAL	<u>10,050.30</u>	<u>11,983.89</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>63,434.62</u>	<u>65,364.48</u>

Liabilities

Short Term

At 31 December 2009, the only short term commitments were in connection with usual ongoing transactions such as printing of Newsletter and purchase of Regalia.

Long Term

At 31 December 2009, the Officers of the Association have not made any long term commitments.

Signed:-

Stephen P. White
Honorary Treasurer
13th March 2010



Membership Secretary Report.

Guilds; Currently we have 40 Guilds on the books. Of these 4 Guilds are in arrears

Individual Membership; The current membership stands at 424. This is an increase since September 2009

Since the Sept AGM 2009; We have had 12 individual new members and 1 Associate member.

Sadly I have to report that since the September 2009 meeting; Two members have died and one member has resigned. two members have been reinstated
Also two members have notified change of address

Current payments; Late payments, again I have to say reminders are being sent out constantly.

The Breakdown; 28 seem to be in arrears, but this figure is not really true. Some members in this number we know paid by standing order in the month of October 2009 but no reference of this is available. We have members that say that they paid by standing order in September 2009, the bank statements show that some payments have been made but there is no reference as to where they have come from. This has been the case since our previous treasurer so as yet things are still not on an even keel. The bank statements have been brought to show the treasurer the problems so hopefully we can sort this out with the banks.
Eileen Forth.

Archivists Report

There have been no calls on the archives since the last meeting. Reference the Local Democracy..... Bill I refer to my article in the journal (161) on which I can (hopefully) answer any concerns as the agenda permits.

Reference the "Beverley Freeman Act 2010" I again refer to my note in the journal and again will try to explain more fully any queries raised later.

Reference Land Registration, papers are ready for Chancery but I am delayed awaiting meeting with our solicitors for them to forward the details. I am determined to complete by the June Court.

Editors Report

Firstly my apologies for being unable to attend the court meeting. Whilst I am happy to be editor of the Journal I do have a difficulty being able to attend court meetings.

I have now put together two issues of the Journal, No 160 and 161, feedback I have received suggests both were very well received. I do not however propose to follow my predecessor's example of reporting the number of words in each, content being more important than how many entries from a dictionary were included to my mind. I hope this is acceptable. Only one article so far has required heavy editing in order to be included, the Guild who sent it stated that they expected this in order to reduce the eight page report to a more reasonable length. This I did in consultation with the president. Otherwise articles have been presented as received.

Following distribution of issue 161 it has become clear, through number of copies returned to me, that there are a number of problems with the distribution list that has, in the past, been held by the Editor (and I assume was compiled by my predecessor). It would appear that copies were being sent to people who neither needed or wanted them. I received this list with the files from my predecessor and it is separate from the one supplied by the Membership secretary and has some 340 entries. It has become apparent that over half those entries may be unnecessary for various reasons. I have met with the Vice president and the membership secretary in order to rationalise and consolidate the two lists into one in order that we avoid unnecessary duplicate mailings in the future and thereby save waste and the association's money.

Communication with the current printers is awkward since the change of editor for geographical reasons, they are in Catford whilst I am in York. Whilst they do a good job for us I have, with the President, started to investigate more local printers in order to ease this problem. If the court is agreeable I ask permission to change our printers if we are able to find a suitable one in York.

In the meantime I look forward to receiving articles for the next issue.

Tom Gibson.

Notices from the Hon Secretary

Nominations for Executive Officers 2010-2011:

In accordance with the 2008 AGM directive, nominations for Executive Officers for the year September 2010 to September 2011, are requested. All offices, including that of the President, who holds office for two years, are open for nomination. A nomination form is included in this Journal. The closing date by which I must have received all nominations, again in accordance with the 2008 directive, is the 19th June, the date of the next Court Meeting, the last before the AGM. This is also detailed on the nomination form itself, which may be photocopied if preferred. All nominations, together with their accompanying statements — see the nomination form for details — will be published in the July edition of the FEW Journal, which should allow sufficient time for full consideration by member guilds prior to the AGM in September.

Nominations received to date are:-

President — Alan Fallows

Hon Secretary — Ronald E. Leek

Hon Treasurer - Stephen White

Hon Archivist — Alan Fallows

2010 AGM Voting Procedure for Election of Executive Officers
You are reminded that this will be by Ballot. Postal votes will be allowable.

Court Meeting June 2010

Notice is hereby given to all Guild Representatives, Wardens and the Executive, that the next FEW Court Meeting (kindly being hosted by the Chester Gild) will be held at **2.00pm on Saturday 19 June 2010 in the Council Chamber of the Guildhall, Watergate Street, Chester.** Gowned and/or badged attendance is preferred.

AGENDA:-

- 1) Attendees to sign register and be seated.
 - a) Call to order, and President's Procession into meeting.
 - b) Opening of Court, Pronouncement of Prayer, and Welcome.
- 2) Apologies for absence.
- 3) Minutes of the Court Meeting held on Saturday 13th March 2010 in "C21" Shrewsbury. These minutes are published in this Journal (No 162). a) Approval of Minutes.
- 4) Matters arising, not forming any other part of this agenda.
- 5) President's Report.
- 6) Deputy President's Report.
- 7) Vice President's Report.
- 8) Wardens' Reports.
- 9) Hon Treasurer's Report.
- 10) Hon Membership Secretary's Report.
- 11) Hon Archivist's Report.
- 12) Hon Editor's Report.
- 13) Officer Without Portfolio's Report.
- 14) 2012 AGM in Preston.
- 15) Follow up on Local Democracy Bill.
- 16) Incentive/recognition for Wardens bringing new members to FEW.
- 17) Website.
- 18) Any Other Business.
- 19) Dates and Venues.
- 20) Valedictory Prayer, Closure of Court, and President's Withdrawal Procession.

Freemen of England and Wales
Election of Executive Officers to serve for the year 2010 — 2011

NOMINATION FORM

Any nomination, properly proposed on this form, must be received by the Hon Secretary on or before Saturday 19th June 2010, being the date of the Court Meeting immediately preceding the AGM. This must be accompanied by the following:-

- 1) A statement from the candidate in not more than 150 words, detailing experience within the Freedom validating the candidate's suitability to fulfil the nominated office.
- 2) A short prospectus from the candidate in not more than 50 words, detailing his or her aims in furthering the constitutional objectives of FEW.
- 3) A short statement by the principal proposer in not more than 100 words, supporting the suitability of the candidate to serve FEW in the nominated office.

We the undersigned propose

A Freeman of

For election to the position of
of the Association of Freemen of England and Wales for the period 2010 —
2011

Proposer..... (sign)

Seconder..... (sign)

I....., declare that if elected, I am willing to serve
as
of the Association of Freemen of England and Wales for the period 2010 —
2011

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

Guild of Freemen of Berwick-upon-Tweed

FEW AGM 2010.Draft Programme.

Time	Item	Location
Friday		
1630-1930	Registration	Guild Hall
1700	FEW Executive	Council Chambers
1830	Wine and Beer	Guild Hall
1930-2030	Hot/cold Buffet meal	Anti room and Guild Hall
2030	Talk about Berwick	Guild Hall
2045	Background music	Guild Hall
2330	Bar closes	

Saturday

Breakfast at lodgings

0930-1020	Registration	Guild Hall
1010	Photographs	Guild Hall
1020	Open Forum	Guild Hall
1050	Coffee break	Guild Hall
1100	AGM	Guild Hall
1300	Lunch	Bernini's Steak Bar
1400-1630	Visit Freeman's Estate, Freeman's Court (Housing), Berwick Walls or street market	
1630	Tea and biscuits	
1900	Assemble order wine	Guild Hall
1915	Seat for Evening Banquet	
1930	Banquet starts	
	Speeches and Entertainment	
2330	Close	

Sunday

Breakfast at lodgings - check out

1100	Robing	Council Chambers
1115	Procession leaves for	Parish Church
1130	Civic Service	Parish Church
1215	Procession to Town Hall	
1230	Buffet lunch	Guild Hall
1300	Speeches and Farewell.	
1330	Tour of Town Hall (optional)	
1430	Drive round Estate (optional)	
1530	End of Programme	

Front cover: John Edwards Freeman of Stafford, on the plinth in Trafalgar square. Picture by Emma Reid-Chalmers. (see Warden North East Report for full story.)

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Hon. Editor: Tom Gibson, Freeman of York. All correspondence, enquiries as to advertising and circulation should be addressed to: Mr. T. Gibson.

Hon. Editor F.E.W Journal.

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York. YO31 0SZ

Email: thomasg624@aol.com

Tel. no. 01904 423153

I can accept text either electronically (email or on disk) or hard copy to Scan. Hard copy preferred in the Ariel font size 10 though not essential. I can also cope with images (I can convert to Black and white if necessary) either as hard copy to scan, electronically by email or on CDR as **JPG** files please. If you require return of hard copies an SAE is appreciated, please indicate if this is desired.

Closing date for items for the next issue (No. 163) 19/6/10.

Registered address of the Freemen of England and Wales Association:

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Richmond House,

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Alcester.

Warwickshire

B49 6PP

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