



Freemen of England and Wales.



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With Compliments.*

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President's Letter.

In this, the first journal of 2011 I wish you all a happy new year and convey my hope that the promised constraints will not be too much of a burden.

Following the excellent AGM in Berwick, Val and I were pleased to be able to attend the annual banquet at Chester and the annual dinner at Durham, both of which we enjoyed immensely. Congratulations to all involved in these excellently organized events.

The admission of daughters to the Freedom has continued to exercise our minds, but I feel confident that we have now covered all possible queries (famous last words) and should now be able to advise any last-minute questions arising from the Local Democracy.....Act 2009. Any queries please call me.

Land Registration Act and Commons Rights queries are almost completed although a new problem has just arisen with a Gild member. This may affect the outcome so we will not report further until our Officer without Portfolio completes his advice on this development.

Having just completed our first executive meeting of the year I am pleased to advise that the website is fully active and has a diary page for all Gilds events. Please let Steven White or Tom Gibson know the details of any of your Gild events as soon as available so they can enter them on the diary and hopefully get you extra support. NB Shrewsbury annual dinner and service 16th and 17th April.

Following requests after admission of daughters I can also report having received approval from Harry Wards grand-daughter for a change of wording to the Freemens Hymn to refer to children and not just sons.

This is turning into a "Presidents Blog" so I will close by just confirming that I look forward to meeting as many members as possible on their own turf over the next two years and offer my best wishes to you all.

Officer without Portfolio.

This executive officer position was not filled at the AGM in Berwick, but the executive supported the Presidents proposal to nominate Alan Shelly to the position subject to confirmation at the next Court Meeting.

Alan has extensive previous experience within FEW and has expert knowledge of Freemens lands and Commons. Detailed overleaf is Alan's profile printed in order to give all Gilds the opportunity to verify his suitability for the post in which he is already

providing invaluable assistance.

Alan Shelley BA (lions) MLA FSTD FRSA

Freeman of Sudbury and London (Liveryman & Guildsman)

With over 31 years personal membership (via Harry Ward) of Freeman of England [& Wales] Alan has been dedicated to the heritage and traditions of our Country. The patronage of the freedom of Sudbury is well understood by all who know him. Historical family connections with London are maintained with the City Livery.

A retired Industrial Manager, born March 1940, he lives at Cheltenham with Kathy to whom he has been married 43 years. They have two daughters, Angela and Caroline, both free of Sudbury. The Shelley family have been freemen of fourteen recorded generations, and dating back more than 450 years at Sudbury.

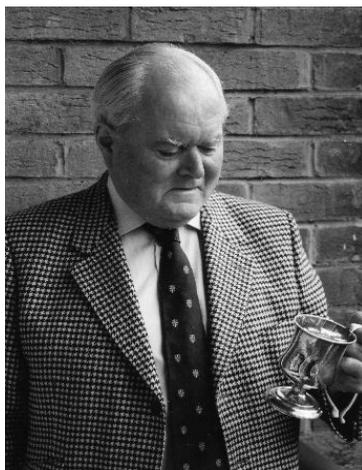
Alan is Hon. Conservator of Highleadon Green and common lands in the Forest of Dean. He also represents commoners with their rights and the commons owners of Gloucestershire as a member of the County advisory 'Local Access Forum'.

As Deputy President of FEW from 1991 to 1995, Alan was involved among other things with the organisation of Wardens, their territory, changes to the constitution and with the adoption of the Welsh badge into the FEW logo. He was also responsible for producing the FEW promotional leaflet which was then printed and distributed by Duplitype of Leicester.

While Alan has worked tirelessly in support of the tradition of customary rights, he also holds to the views stated by Jim Evans, Chairman of Berwick Guild (p.9, FEW Journal No.150) "The Freedom should always be a dynamic force, not just preserving tradition but looking outwards as well"

Joseph William Norman Petty MA (Cantab)

24th January 1934 – 4th June 2010



Joe Petty was a well-known and highly-regarded Freeman of the City of

Newcastle upon Tyne, in which he was a member of both the Company of Hostmen and the Company of Scriveners, and a Freeman of the City of London, being a member of the Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers. He was likewise a long-serving and respected member of our Association, for which he was serving as a trustee at the time of his death in June 2010.

Joe's passing was followed by a well-attended service at the West End Crematorium in Newcastle upon Tyne, with representatives of FEW in the congregation, including the then-President Colin Hardcastle, Past President Alan Robson, the Warden for the North Captain Stephen Healy and Joe's close and long-time friend Peter Dale. Kind words were said about Joe that day (and rightly so), but it was not until 8th October 2010, at a memorial service in the Cathedral Church of Saint Nicholas, Newcastle upon Tyne, that we learned how much more there was to this remarkable man. Indeed, Joe's sons have since confirmed that they too discovered things for the first time that day – a testament to the quiet, unassuming and often anonymous way in which Joseph William Norman Petty MA (Cantab) went about adding value to the world and the lives of many, many individuals.

The institutions, organizations, businesses and groups of people, into contact with which Joe came during his life were numerous and hugely varied – some predictable, others not so. Nor would you have guessed the extent of his commitment and generosity, much hidden from the public eye.

Joe was a solicitor by trade and had a long and successful legal career, spending almost all of his working life with the well-known law firm Dickinson Dees. He had always been quite a political man and was elected to Newcastle City Council in the late 1950's. Not content to just sit in the council chamber however, Joe threw himself into the wider community, becoming an Alderman, later filling the historical role of Sheriff of the City of Newcastle upon Tyne in 1972 and, on a more practical line, chairing the "Watch Committee" (the title then applied to what is now the Police Authority). I can record personally that Joe watched with some dismay as tensions latterly mounted in both Newcastle upon Tyne and FEW over the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill and deeply regretted that a City which had contributed so much to the founding of the Association found itself at odds over issues related to parts of this piece of legislation.

Many of us knew of Joe's love of Newcastle silver – to help hike that famous old suitcase around, so that Joe could decorate the tables at some dinner, or lovingly pull the pieces from its depths one by one during one of his frequent talks, relating not only the provenance and the details of its construction and history, but often some memorable anecdote, was both educational and pleasurable, invariably being the highlight of an evening. Joe's immaculate flat in Gosforth in Newcastle also contained a huge collection of Wedgwood porcelain, with pieces large and small seemingly occupying every shelf and table.

And then there were dogs... Dachshunds to be precise – a huge part of Joe's life, that of his family, his friends, his neighbours – you get the picture. He kept Dachshunds for over 30 years and was happiest when walking out with a dog at his heels. Typically, in lieu of flowers at the funeral, Joe had asked for donations to the Dog's Trust. Joe attended two colleges in his "second home" – Cambridge, one a venerable and ancient institution and the other a "new" college in that renowned seat of learning. Speaking at

the memorial service, the Deputy Director of Development from Gonville and Caius College related how Joe was described in 1952 as possessing “a maturity beyond his years” and was “always remembered for his collar, tie and umbrella”. Continuing, he explained that, after graduating and returning to the north-east, Joe continued to journey south regularly for college events and behind the scenes became an active fund-raiser, privately funding a law scholarship in 1978, as well as two academic prizes. Joe also seemed to have donated quite a sizeable portion of that college’s silver collection, including a valuable Georgian 2-handled Loving Cup and, in recent years, one silver table bowl to mark 50 years since his matriculation and a second to mark 50 years since his graduation. The ex-Bursar of Wolfson College had also made the journey to Newcastle and described Joe as an “Ambassador for the North-East”. He recalled how he could talk cricket with enthusiasm and authority, likewise supported law students in that college and again donated pieces of silver, including a soup ladle to commemorate the bicentennial of the Battle of Trafalgar in 2005.

I took over from Joe as Warden for the North in FEW and was eternally grateful for the kind, measured and freely-given advice on matters Freelage that I was able to call on right up until days before he died. And whether it was at FEW functions, partaking in local Freemen’s business and social events or even just calling in on him at his home, I will always want to describe Joe in terms rarely heard today – “dapper”, “witty”, “unassuming” and “generous”. Indeed, part of his legacy may be said to be the example which he has left to the Freemen of this land and for which he will be fondly and widely remembered.

SCH.

News from the Guilds.

Gloucester.



It was an historic day for the women in the City Of Gloucester on November 5th 2010 when two women were enrolled as Freewomen of the City, the first for over 180 years.

Mrs Julia Cale Matthews-Lundin and her daughter Katarina took the Oath before the Mayor of Gloucester Councillor Jan Lugg and the City High Sheriff Councillor Geraldine Gillespie at the ceremony which took place at the Civic Centre, The Docks, Gloucester. At the same ceremony Sir James Christopher Guise and eleven members of the Smart Family were also enrolled. I suspect we will see many more women taking the freedom as a result of the implementation of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill 2009.

The Guild's Annual Dinner also took place on November 20th 2010 at the Mercer's Hall, Cross Keys Lane, Gloucester at which the principal guests were the Mayor and her Consort. Mr Howard Crapper Warden for the West and his wife Shirley. Mr Philip Moss a local Historian gave a most interesting illustrated talk on parts of Gloucester following the dinner, which was enjoyed by all those present.

Terry Aubrey
President.

Haverfordwest Gild of Freemen's Annual Weekend 2010.

Civic welcomes were accorded to the Gild by the chairman of Pembrokeshire County Council, Cllr John George, and the Mayor of Haverfordwest, Cllr Chris Blakemore, when the Gild held its AGM in County Hall.

Cllr George said the use of the Council Chamber for the Gild's annual meeting was an example of the friendly relationship the Council enjoyed with the Gild. The meeting opened with a silent tribute to members who had passed on since the last meeting, including the most recent Freeman Warden Roderick Thomas.

After endorsing the minutes of the last AGM, dealing with matters arising and adopting the healthy accounts presented by the Clerk, Mr Paul Lucas, the Master, Mr Malcolm Green, referred to the fact that the Pembroke Gild, whose Master Mr Roy Folland was present, would host next year's AGM of the Freemen of England and Wales. Urging members to give full support to this important event, Mr Folland outlined the programme and gave a brief history of the Pembroke Gild.

New Burgesses

The Master reported that three new Burgesses had been sworn in the summer: the chairman of Pembrokeshire County Council, the new Vicar of Haverfordwest and incumbent of the Gild church, St Martin of Tours, Father Paul Mackness, and the new Commanding Officer of the 14th Signals Regiment at Cawdor Barracks, Brawdy, Colonel Jonathan Townsend. He reported with regret the retirement for health reasons of Freeman Warden Lewis Thomas and welcomed the succession of his son William, who, he said, had already proved of great benefit to the Gild by using his expertise as a Civil Engineer in the preparation of documents concerning the conservation strategy at Haroldston ruins, birthplace of local benefactor Sir John Perrot, and the preparatory work for a bid for lottery funding and other grant aid to achieve the Gild's aim of turning the ruined Tudor mansion and grounds into a public park and amenity area.

Mr Thomas reported good progress and added that, once the strategy was complete substantial work could be started.

The Master said that Lottery funding was difficult at the moment as it seemed

priority was being given to the 2012 London Olympics. He applauded the County Council for instigating Town Improvement Group meetings, chaired by Burgess Cllr Peter Stock, on which several Gild members sat. "We have seen a remarkable change in the appearance of the town and the County Council is to be congratulated for the work they have done," he said.

He announced his intention to relinquish the Master's role in May when the Deputy Master, Freeman Warden Charles Davies, ends his year as Town Sheriff, and his son, Col Martin Green becomes Deputy. He thanked everyone for the support he had received during his 14 years as Master.

He congratulated Pembroke Gild Master Roy Folland for keeping his Gild in being, doubtless at considerable personal expense as they did not have the good fortune of having the revenue from an estate as Haverfordwest does. Stressing the importance of maintaining the Gild and continuing to influence local affairs, he thanked the Clerk, Mr Paul Lucas, for his hard work in organising the weekend and for his efforts throughout the year.

The Estate

Chairman of Trustees, Freeman Warden Malcolm Thomas, mentioned the new rule to allow ladies to apply to be Hereditary Freemen and said six applications had already been received.

Reporting on the Estate he said its seven tenants brought in £16,660 annually in rents and it had been agreed to sell a parcel of land to the owner of Palmerston Farm.

The Charity Fund had decided to donate sums of £450 to St Mary's Church Restoration Fund and to Cawdor Barracks for the Help the Heroes Fund. Burgess Warden John Warren, accepting the cheque for St Mary's, said the Gild had been very supportive of its £750,000 First Phase Restoration Scheme seven years ago and now for the second phase on the tower. If the church managed to raise £80,000 it would be match-funded by the HLF, and then there would be a third phase to replace lighting and heating.

The Master said there were now some 280 Freemen from all over the world, including Australia, New Zealand and Canada, and this would increase when women were admitted. Burgess Warden Warren referred to the fact that Burgess Dr Sian Rees of CADW, the Welsh Ancient Monuments department, had been awarded the CBE and it was agreed to send a congratulatory letter.

Refreshments were provided by the County Council after the meeting.

Lord Lieutenant speaks at Banquet

Over 100 members of the Gild and their guests attended the Annual Banquet at the Wolfscastle Country Hotel where County Council chairman, Cllr John George, in the toast to the Gild, paid tribute to the work the Gild did for the town. He was sure the admission of women would strengthen the Gild and ensure its prosperity.

Responding, the Master said: "We have a really strong relationship with the County Council and appreciate the impressive way they induct the Freemen. I am sure the new Freemen will always remember the occasion."

The town was this year celebrating its 900th anniversary and until the 1830s the Freemen and Burgesses had run its affairs. Since there had been democratic elections and a costly bureaucracy, but the Gild could still influence change and he encouraged Freemen

and Burgesses to stand for election to the County Council. As chairman of the 900 Committee he said its main objective was to persuade organisations and individuals to become involved and to do something to mark the anniversary. He was pleased with the efforts of the many organisations who had arranged tremendous events and he hoped what had been started this year would continue into the future for the benefit of the town. He hoped the new Master would receive the same support he had enjoyed.

Deputy Master Charles Davies proposed the toast to the guests in place of the Chaplain, Father Paul Mackness, who was away at a Diocesan meeting. He welcomed the guests who included the Lord Lieutenant The Hon. Robin Lewis, the High Sheriff Mr David Pryse-Lloyd, the Dean of St Davids and former Gild Chaplain the Very Rev Jonathan Lean, civic dignitaries and other guests. Also welcomed was local teenager Bethan Davies who entertained with songs from the shows.

The Lord Lieutenant, responding, said the Gild reflected the strength of Haverfordwest in surviving for 900 years. He recalled student days attending the Quarter Sessions courts, presided over by his late father Lord Merthyr, in the town's Shire Hall, and admiring the magnificent coats of arms decorating the walls, and the atmosphere of power and glory of the town and county.

The town was unusual in that it was one of only two towns in the country with Town and County status, the other being King's Lynn. Both had been busy ports trading with the outside world and this had been an important part of their history. It was not stones that made a community, but people, and the Gild carried on that important tradition.

The Benefactors' Service

A large congregation attended the annual Benefactor's Service in St Martin's Church on the Sunday when Gild Chaplain Father Paul Mackness conducted the service and gave the address. Members of the Court of Wardens were joined by civic leaders in a short and colourful procession to the church where Master Malcolm Green and the chairman of Trustees Malcolm Thomas read the lessons. Father Mackness said the Freemen came from Gilds which sprang up in medieval times to protect the crafts and trades. They had earned their freedom from tilling the land in feudal times: their freedom from slavery. The ideal of freedom was very important but something which, in a progressive democracy, had all too often been taken for granted. TV images of conditions in such countries as Zimbabwe emphasised the value of freedom.

"It is important we are not seen as some elitist club, but that we make a difference to the community in which we live," he said. "The Gild of Freemen has contributed immensely to the life and heritage of this community and this town and county. The generosity of the Gild to charitable organisations is well-known and long may it continue.

The Gild, he added, was a repository for so much knowledge of the town and must continue to show a sense of freedom, justice and equality.

Norwich Freemen.

2010,-an eventful year for the Freemen of Norwich. The year began with the Common Hall of Freemen, held on 18th January 2010 at the City Hall. 25 Norwich Freemen were elected to serve for 5 years on the Norwich Freemen's Committee. 8 of

those elected were then also elected to serve a 5 year term as a Trustee of the Norwich Town Close Estate Charity, the Norwich Freemen's charity.

The Honorary Secretary presented his report into the affairs of the Freemen's Committee, outlining the work of the Committee over the past five years. Freemen's outings to St John's Cathedral including trips up the tower, The Marble Hall and R.A.F. Neatishead were all well attended. The Bill which had just passed through Parliament allowing daughters of Freemen to be admitted was covered. Mr Nigel Back, Chairman of the Norwich Town Close Estate Charity spoke of the asset value of the Charity, and of the expenditure in grants to projects providing for the people of Norwich & Norfolk, that are within a 20 mile radius of the Guildhall. Special mention was made of the remarkable 70 year service of Tom Eaton, (who sadly died peacefully on the night the Common Hall was held.) the sad death of Ronnie Brooks who served 20 years on the Freemen's Committee, and the retirement of Peter Colby after 20 years as a Trustee Michael G. Quinton Chairman of the Freemen's Committee, on behalf of the Freemen present, thanked the Lord Mayor for convening and presiding over the meeting. He thanked the Secretary for his continued commitment and work over the past five years. Thanks were given to the City Clerks and the Lord Mayors office staff, -Linda, Maxine and Gavin, and to the Charities office staff, particularly Jean Browne, for all their assistance with Courts of Mayoralty and other Freemen business, since the last Common Hall.

By far the biggest ever Court of Mayoralty in Norwich, and perhaps the most historic, was held on 19th March 2010 in St Andrew's Hall, when more than 250 new Freemen were admitted, including 220 Daughters of Freemen who became entitled, for the first time on 700 years, to apply for the Freedom following the change in the law a few months previously. There were two Courts of Mayoralty, one in the morning with about 150 new Freemen admitted and one in the afternoon with just over 100 admissions. Linda Lindores, Maxine Pooley and Gavin Thorpe, the City Council's Civic support staff worked very hard to ensure the events ran smoothly, nearly 1000 persons had to be correctly seated, and the day was an absolute pleasure that will forever live in our memory. A pin lapel badge bearing the Norwich Freemen's logo was specially commissioned and the first delivery of 250 sold out on the day.

Next year, the Freemen and the City Council's Civic Dept. are planning to hold three Courts of Mayoralty, in March, July and October. And already some 200 potential applicants have made enquiries. The full details of dates and times will not be published until early in the New Year when all the planning is complete.

The Norwich Freemen's annual outing was a most informative visit to the Masonic Lodge, for an illustrated talk on Freemasonry. About 60 freemen attended and we were shown Regalia and told of the Customs and Rules that are still adhered to in the present day. Portraits of the past Provincial Grand Masters adorn the walls of the Lodge. The influence of the Provincial Grand Masters on the well being of the City was explained. A most enjoyable evening. Chairman Mike Quinton thanked Mr John Rushmer, Provincial Grand Master for all the arrangements and hospitality.

M.J.Quinton. Hon. Sec
Norwich Freemen's Committee

Shrewsbury.

Shrewsbury Gild confirm that their annual St. Georges Dinner and Service will be held on Saturday and Sunday 16th and 17th April. The dinner will be at the Lord Hill Hotel with the Sunday Service at the Abbey Church followed by lunch at Abbotsmead Hotel (hopefully processing between. NB no hills) Anyone wishing full details when confirmed please let me know on alan.fallows@talktalk.net or tel: 01743 358495 and we will write individually.

Would your Gild like an organized tour of Shrewsbury's' historic town centre? Just contact the clerk Roger Cole on 01952 510360 and we will be happy to help.

Best wishes from Shrewsbury.

Leicester.

We wish to start our first report for 2011 by wishing all members of the FEW a Happy and prosperous New Year.

Since the last Leicester Gild report in October we have been involved in the following activities.

Friday 10th September-Games evening with Coventry Guild, eleven skittles' made their way through the winding country roads to Barnacle Village Hall to represent the Gild at this annual event. Out of eight teams, we came third. After the various skittling challenges we sat down to enjoy a fish & chip or chicken & chip supper, very palatable.

Tuesday 14th September- Visit to the Jain centre on Oxford Street in Leicester. Fourteen people attended this interesting and informative tour of the Jain Centre conducted by Dr. Mehta, the Centre, the first consecrated temple in the western world, was opened in 1980. The temple is a magnificent piece of Jain architecture containing elaborate marble carving, ornate staircases and a spectacular domed roof.

Saturday 18th September- Visit to Northampton. Only twelve people due to the limited numbers ventured on our first trip to visit the Northampton Guild of Freeman. They had arranged a tour of the Guildhall, which is also the current Northampton Town Hall, built in the 1830's. We were met and welcomed at 11am by the Freeman, who took us into the Guildhall to meet the Northampton Mayor, Councillor Marianne Taylor and her Consort. After a welcome cup of tea she kindly gave us an informative talk about the Mayor's chamber rooms and a detailed summary of the articles that had been presented to the various Mayors' over the years.

After our tour of the Guildhall we were taken to lunch in a café located in the precinct of an adjacent church and in the afternoon we had a tour of the Rennie Macintosh House, the only one built outside Scotland.

It was a very enjoyable day and we thank the Northampton Guild for their warm welcome and hospitality on the day.

On the weekend 8th -10th October Twelve persons travelled to the City of Chester to attend their annual Guild Banquet in the Guildhall, we were made very welcome and it was a very enjoyable weekend.

Saturday 16th October Eighteen lady Freeman were made free at a ceremony at the

Leicester Town Hall, since the act of Parliament sixty nine ladies have taken their oaths.
Saturday 13th November Forty five people enjoyed a fish and chip supper held at Freemen's Holt, after supper our brains were tested to light-hearted quizzes set by the quiz master Roger Allen.

Saturday 4th December A further fifteen lady Freemen took their oath in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall in the presence of the Lord Mayor of Leicester Councillor Colin Hall, the number of Leicester ladies who have taken their oath to date is eighty four.

Wednesday 15th December The Lord Mayor of Leicester held his annual Carol service in Leicester Cathedral when forty five Freemen and ladies attended.

Friday 17th December We once again booked forty eight seats at the Little Theatre for the pantomime Aladdin, again the grandparents enjoyed themselves more than the children. Nothing changes!

Over the weekend of Friday June 24th-Sunday 26th June the Leicester Gild wish to invite you to their Banquet weekend, the Banquet on Saturday night will once again be held Devonshire Place.

Booking forms will be sent to all guilds in the next few weeks.

For further information you can contact Roger Allen at rogerallen8@ntlworld.com

Michael Ayres

Warwick.

The 456th annual meeting was held on 28th October 2010 in the Court House, with Bailiffs from Alcester and Bromsgrove in attendance, together with the FEW Area Warden. The Mayor, Cllr Michael Kinson OBE, welcomed all in his capacity as Lord of the Leet. New candidates Mrs Janet Honnoraty and Mr Ron Everett were duly sworn as Jurors. The Court was advised that on going health problems sadly meant that Bailiff Higgins would be stepping down in December for a replacement to be elected at the January 27th meeting. Whilst the Surveyor of Buildings was able to report that the Town's East & Westgate's were under repair, the Leper Hospital, Old Gas works, Shire Hall and the Northgate Street redundant council offices did give rise to concern – which was endorsed by the Court. Other local issues such as potholes and parking, and closure of the Fire Station were also reviewed. The biannual Town Crier Competition, a splendid audiovisual spectacle, is scheduled for Saturday 14th May 2011 in Castle Street. Following formal closure of the Court, members and guest retired to Lanes Restaurant for a convivial meal. The Steward Derek Maudlin urged all to visit the website www.unlockingwarwick.co.uk to help secure Heritage Lottery funding to restore the Jury Street Court House, which was built in 1725.

Coventry.

On 10th September we were pleased to welcome almost 100 Coventry and Leicester Gild members to the **Barnacle village skittles and supper event**. This is a very popular informal social event, with three types of skittles and quoits, followed by a fish & chip or chicken supper. A raffle raised over £200 for Guild charities. The weekend of 11th-12th September saw the Freemen's Guild Room open to the public as part of the National **'Heritage Open Days'** initiative. Visitors were keen to hear some of

the history of the Guild, and inquiries for the Freedom and Guild membership will be followed up.

On 28th September the Lord Mayor held his first **Freedom Admission Court** in the Council House Chamber, some 23 new Freemen and women took their Oath and received copies of 'The Guildsman' and details of free Guild membership for a year. The new Freemen's badge, produced by the Lord Mayor's Office, was also on sale.

The 8th-10th October was the **Chester Guilds Banquet weekend**. A sizeable party of Coventry members were pleased to enjoy a Friday night supper, a Saturday banquet, and robed church service and parade on the Sunday, besides the opportunity to peruse the many attractions of the Chester area. Our thanks to the Clerk and Junior Warden for organising tickets and accommodation respectively.

On 14th October the annual **Guild Admission Court** was held in the Council Chamber, with 26 new members receiving their badge and booklet from the Guild President Lord Mayor Brian Kelsey.

14th November was the 70th anniversary of the **Coventry Blitz**, and was characterised by large attendances at the Remembrance events, and also civic representatives from Kiel and Dresden. The Guild was represented at the morning War Memorial Park service led by the Lord Bishop, and I was able to lay a wreath on behalf of the many Freemen of Coventry who made the ultimate sacrifice for King, Queen, and Country. The new Cathedral was the venue after lunch for the Coventry International Prize for Peace & Reconciliation, this year a joint partnership promotion between Coventry Cathedral & Diocese, Coventry University, and the Lord Mayor's Office. Three organisations had been short listed, and the winner was the Leamington faith-based group **CARD** – which supports communities displaced by conflicts such as in Chad, Burundi, and Cambodia. The annual Communal Grave service then took place at the London Road Cemetery. The special evening 70th anniversary service at the Cathedral was oversubscribed, and besides addresses by the Dean and Bishop, an eight year old boy read the recollections of the Lord Mayor when he was an eight year old during the Blitz. 1085 handmade flowers by Coventry Children to remember the 1085 deaths in the Blitz were then distributed as tokens of remembrance. The congregation then processed to the shell of the old Cathedral, where searchlights and sirens were powerful reminders of the blitz scene. The City of Coventry, its Freemen and their families were all irrevocably changed by the 1940 Blitz – and this 70th anniversary event was a fitting tribute to those dark days when hope was scarce.

On 30th November a special **Lord Mayor's Admission Court** was held solely for Whitefriars Housing Group ex-apprentices. It was also special in that 12 of the 15 candidates were ladies!. My thanks to the Court Members on hand to distribute Guild information packs to the new Freemen. I should add here that whilst the term 'Freewomen' is now legally recognised, the ladies seem to prefer use of the masculine term.

On the 3rd December at the Civic Heads Dinner, the Guild Clerk Jim Parry and I were pleased to congratulate Councillor **Ken Taylor**, the Guild President in 2002, on the award of the **OBE** in recognition of his many years of local government service to the city.

On the 10th December we had the best attended **Xmas Dinner** yet in the Guildhall, with 129 Freemen and guests enjoying the festive menu. The choir from the

Guild Church of Holy Trinity, led by Chris Howard, then entertained us with carols including the evocative medieval 'Coventry Carol'. I was able to present Guild member Doug Squires with a cheque to celebrate his recent 3396 mile sponsored cycle ride across America in aid of the RNIB Rushton School & Children's Home for handicapped children. The Lord Mayor then drew the first six winning tickets for the Guild's annual charity raffle.

Derek .A. Austin, Guild Master 2010-2011

York.

The York Gild has continued to be active in that City and in its fund raising activities for the Master' chosen charity, the Yorkshire Air Ambulance (YAA) appeal.

The three Gilds who share Bedern Hall {Builders, Cordwainers and Freemen} held the annual 3 Guilds Quiz on September 29th.. Following an enjoyable pie and pea supper, the quiz was won by a team from the Guild of Building. The raffle raised £74 for the YAA.

A Freedom Court was held on October 4th in the Guildhall and the Lord Mayor, Councillor Sue Galloway, admitted 45 new Freemen - 23 males and 22 females. The Gild entertained the new Freemen to drinks after the ceremony.

The Christmas lunch was held on December 12th. and the dinner on the 18th. Both were well attended, despite the inclement weather, and thanks were expressed to the caterers [Roger Lee, Past Master, and his staff] for superb fare. Raffles and auctions were held and raised in excess of £200 for the YAA.

The annual Carol Service was held on December 15th at All Saints', Pavement, the Gild Church.

Forthcoming events [make notes in your diaries!]

February 17th Harry Ward lecture - Bedern Hall - speaker from Fairfax House

March [Date to be confirmed] Race night - Bedern Hall

April 8th - 10th Annual Banquet week-end.

Further details can be obtained from the Clerk to the Gild - Ms June Parker-Smith whose address is to be found in the Gazette.

Can You Believe It ??

Well, it's true - the ancient City of York is not a world heritage site despite what we all may think, but there are people working for change and recognition. If you believe that York is worthy of being a world heritage site, please 'sign up' to support the bid at www.facebook.com/YorkWorldHeritage.

The application for world heritage status was launched in June 2010 and successful applications will be announced at the end of March 2011. There are 38 site applications for possibly as few as five places so your support is vital. For more information on the Bid, please visit the web-site at www.yorkworldheritage.org.uk or write to the steering group at World Heritage for York Steering Group, c/o City of York Council, 9 St Leonards Place, York, YO1 7ET or via e-mail at worldheritageyork@googlemail.com

COLIN HARDCASTLE. IPP and-Warden for North East

Great Grimsby.

Court Meeting on Saturday 12th March. The venue is to be the Skills Centre situated in the rear of the Market on Freeman Street which is owned and operated by the Freemen. This will give attendees the opportunity to see the regeneration work that the Freemen are involved in within the market and more broadly within the Freeman Street/East Marsh area of the town. The area is easily accessed from the motorway, being at the end of the M180/A180, and the Freemen have their own car park a short walk away on Albert Street West, off Freeman Street. For those of you with “sat-nav” the post code for the market is DN32 7DS. Grimsby Docks Station is also nearby but if you are arriving by train please ensure that yours is a service which actually stops here! Anyone with particular difficulties in finding their way please contact Stephen White, Vice President/Treasurer. It would be useful to know in advance who will be attending, please let Steve know. You can also go to the FEW website and follow the links to the Grimsby Freemen.

Monday, October 4th, 2010 was a very historic day for the Freemen of Grimsby when an additional two Mayor’s Courts were called in order to admit 140 new Freemen, predominantly women, who had become eligible for entry onto the Pastures Roll following the legislation which had received Royal Assent earlier in the year. The Mayor, Councillor Norma Lincoln, (who had been Mayor when the AGM was hosted in Grimsby in 2001), was admitted herself, being the daughter of a Freeman. Because of the importance of the event, the Courts were attended by Stephen White (Chairman), Stephen Wakefield (Vice Chairman), Stephen Savage (Clerk) and Richard Bellamy (Pastures Committee Market Chairman and photographer!). Because of the close relationship which now exists between the Freemen and the Local Authority we have been invited to be present at all subsequent Admission Ceremonies. This might be common place elsewhere but had not been the situation in Grimsby. It was a particularly proud moment for Stephen White since his wife Bridget, son Matthew, daughter Emma and sister Susan were all admitted as Freemen thus promulgating a line which stretches back to 1674.



Left to right, Liz Conolly – Council Solicitor, Cllr Norma Lincoln – Mayor of North East Lincolnshire Borough Council, Stephen White – Chairman, Stephen Savage – Clerk,

Stephen Wakefield – Vice Chairman, Matthew White, Susan White, Bridget White.

GREAT GRIMSBY MAKES HISTORY

On Monday 4th October 2010, the town of Great Grimsby 'scrapped' the 800 year old Rule, following recent Parliamentary Legislation, that only males could be enrolled as Freemen of the Grimsby at a ceremony at the Town Hall.

The Mayor, Councillor Norma Lincoln, presided at the admissions Court and handed out certificates to the candidates, including our own Vice Presidents' wife, son, and daughter and several dozen other daughters of Freemen. As Cllr. Lincoln said, "This is the daughters of the Grimsby Freemen's heritage, which they were not entitled to until today". Although the daughter of a Freeman could not previously be made a Freeman, they could make their husband a Freeman! - a curious tradition!!

It appears that the first Freeman of Great Grimsby was admitted in 1202 and all benefited from income from businesses built upon Freemen's lands, including the Freeman Street market, that site having been granted to the Freemen in 1341 by King Edward III. In recent years this income was £180 a year but since the influx of the ladies, this income will perforce reduce. There are now some 1350 Freemen split between the two genders, up from 850 men alone.

The photograph below depicts the Mayor and our Vice President presiding at the event. The photograph is published by courtesy of, and copyright to, the Grimsby Telegraph newspaper whom we thank for their permission to reproduce it.

COLIN HARDCASTLE
IPP and-Warden for North East



The Status of the Freemen in England and Wales.

Freemen are justly proud of their ancestral inheritance and connection with their home towns. From time immemorial the freemen had been responsible for the governance and regulation of the old and ancient towns. Advantages that came from the exclusive position of being a freeman was seen by less fortunate 'non-freemen' as undemocratic privilege and in some restrictive practices, as corrupt. The monopoly of control by some corporations (of Freemen) led to their reference as "Rotten Boroughs". Investigations resulted in the Great Reform Act of 1832 and subsequent Municipal Corporations Act of 1835.

In an attempt to remove all and any undemocratic monopoly, the position held by the freemen was changed in as much that they no longer had sole control over government or regulation. An important advantage held by freemen was their access to designated pasture (freemen's common lands). Rights were held individually (personally) by freemen, over lands, of income from property and investments and were determined in English law to be privately owned by the freemen. In many towns it was left to the Guilds or corporate bodies of the Freemen to argue their ownership. This resulted in some cases where new councils, created under the 1835 Act, transferred freemen's property rights into the administration of the newly formed borough councils. In many cases Freemen and their guilds were abolished altogether.

The report from the Select Committee on Freemen of Cities and Boroughs, 1840 listed 35 Boroughs where no freemen existed, 97 where freemen had no possessions or property and 46 where they enjoyed property and privileges of various descriptions. (Harry Ward 1975).

While freemen clearly have legitimate 'rights' they are no longer entitled to profit from them. This became absolutely clear in the landmark verdict of 'Peggs v Lamb' re the Huntingdon Freemen in 1993 who were advised that any payments distributed from freemen's funds must be seen to provide public benefit.

During the intervening years before the present day, legislation has restricted the wealth of Freemen's bodies. Most if not all (freemen's) funds are seen today as held under 'perpetual trust' and as such, the Charity Commissioners regard them as charitable and under present law they must benefit a wider public than the individual freemen! In the past, the vast majority of freemen, by custom had been male. A new law, under the briefly named Local Democracy Act 2009, dictates that women should be given equal access to freedom and for these reasons any distribution of income from freemen's funds will be further reduced.

The Charities Act 2006, in reiterating the need for freemen's charitable funds to be for 'public benefit' have severely restricted the uses of any remaining wealth previously held by the freemen. It would be wrong to believe that this should in any way erode the value of being a proud freeman anciently connected with a town. The honourable attachment to their perpetual institution and the connection with a body, of common

origins, representing 'your town' is uniquely exclusive to the freeman of today.

A feature of the Freedom is that of national patriotism. Guilds and associations of freemen can be seen in symbolic regalia attending their ancient cities and towns. The presence of the Freemen adds colour and dignity to civic events. Service and duty remain important in our struggle for survival. 'The Freedom should always be a dynamic force, not just preserving tradition but looking outwards as well'. (Jim Evans, Berwick, 2007)

Alan Shelley, Freeman of Sudbury, 2009

Freemen's Trusts and the Charity Commissioners.

In an attempt to abolish undemocratic privileges and monopoly, the Reform Act and the Municipal Corporations Act intended to abolish freedom outright. However, English law would not prevent the application of individual rights, which were seen as being private property.

In the event, the law recognised the custom and practice of freedom as being-lawful but extinguished monopoly and unfair privileges. Lands and property, previously administered by the old borough corporations were either retained under the auspices of the new ruling councils or partly portioned to within the continuing control of the Freemen's Gilds or Associations.

In many cases land and property previously possessed by the freemen has been sold and the assets invested to form funds held under trust, on behalf of and for the benefit of the freemen. These trusts are referred to in English law as being 'perpetual trusts'. Such a trust is not considered lawful unless the purpose of the trust is "charitable" and in some way for public benefit.

It follows that freemen's pasture rights, property rental or income from investments are treated as 'perpetual trusts' regarded as charitable and accordingly subject to the authority of the Charity Commissioners.

The Charities Act 2006 and the Freemen

Freemen's charities operation and distribution of benefit: For 'Public Benefit'.

"Those who benefit from the charity must not be defined by a personal connection such as a family relationship or common employer" (p26 of Consultation Paper)

The Charities Act 2006 — Aims to

- Enable charities to administer themselves more efficiently and be more effective
- Improve the regulation of charity fundraising and reduce regulation on the sector, especially for smaller charities"
- To provide a clear definition of charity with an emphasis on public benefit
- To modernise the Charity Commission's functions and powers as regulator, increase its accountability and preserve its independence from ministers.

The Act allows easier rule changes and for decision-making. There are more powers to change property, to spend capital and to pay trustees for services or goods. Many of the aforesaid no longer require the Commission's permission.

NOTE: The meaning of Charity and of Charitable purposes — in case law has been reasoned by analogy previously to the new Act — interpretation of the "Statute of Elizabeth" (Charitable Uses Act 1601). This has now been put on a statutory basis. Traditionally the law of charities is part of the law of trusts

The Charities Act 1993 s97 states 'charity trustees' are persons having the general control and management of the charity... 'trusts' in relation to charity means the provisions establishing a charity and regulating its purpose and administration whether those provisions take effect as a trust or not.

Charity - To be recognised as a charity—the trust must have purposes which fall within the definition of charity. The Charities Act 2006 states in 1 (1) 'charity' means an institution which;

- a) is established for charitable purposes only
- b) falls to be subject to the control of the High Court in the exercise of its jurisdiction with respect to charities.

2 (2) Charitable Purpose (under the 2006 Act)

- a) the prevention or relief of poverty
- b) the advancement of education
- c) the advancement of religion
- d) the advancement of health or saving lives
- e) the advancement of citizenship or community development
- f) the advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science
- g) the advancement of amateur sport
- h) the advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or the promotion of religious or racial harmony
- i) the advancement of environmental protection or improvement
- j) the relief of those in need by reasons of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or disadvantage
- k) the advancement of animal welfare
- l) the promotion of the efficiency of the armed forces of the Crown or the efficiency of the police, fire, rescue, or ambulance services
- m) any other purposes within subsection (4).

Advantages of Charitable Status

Motive of the donor: Reasons for donation are irrelevant to the charitable status of the gift.

Charities and the Human Rights Act 1998: The Act makes it unlawful for 'public authorities including private bodies that carry out public functions' to act in a manner incompatible with European Convention on Human Rights. Charities are not 'public

bodies'.

The purpose of trusts must be stated with certainty. This rule does not apply to charities.

Beneficiary principle: The Attorney-General, representing the Crown, appears on behalf of the objects or 'beneficiaries' of charities.

Perpetuity: Perpetual trusts require a limitation expressly stated in the gift. Charities are not bound by this rule and may last forever. Historic charities, where it is never possible to release the capital from the fund. Charities, are though, bound by the rule against perpetuities proper — a gift must vest within the perpetuity period.

Taxation and related advantage: Income Tax—Charities are not liable on any trading profits they make — provided they are spent exclusively on the purposes of the charity.

Requirement of Public Benefit

Donations are given tax relief. Inheritance Tax payments are not liable. Capital Gains Tax is not liable on charitable purposes. Rates are entitled to an 80% reduction in non-domestic rates on premises. Religious buildings are usually exempt. Some VAT relief's apply on certain goods and on income from fund-raising events. The requirement of public benefit is that gifts must be for the benefit of the public.

The 2006 Act s2 (1) (b) states that to be charitable, a purpose must be for the public benefit. (it does not provide a definition). Charities must in general be for the enhancement of the wider society.

Alan Shelley, Freeman of Sudbury, 2009

It's Official!

F.E.W. Annual General Meeting 2012

The Executive received an invitation to hold the 2012 AGM in York over the week-end of 14 - 16 September 2012. This invitation has been accepted and the York Gild have begun planning the event.

It is hoped that outline arrangements will be available to be delivered to delegates at the 2011 AGM at Pembroke.

COLIN HARDCASTLE
IPP and Warden for the North East.

Hon. Secretary's Notices

It is proposed that future editions of the FEW Journal, and also the FEW Website, will each contain a diary section where guilds can advertise details and dates of their various events. To take advantage of this facility, please provide appropriate information as early as possible before any event, to Tom Gibson, FEW Hon. Editor. His address, phone number, and e-mail address can be found at the end of this Journal.

Notice is hereby given to all Guild Representatives, Wardens, and Executive Officers that the next FEW Court Meeting will be held on Saturday 12th March 2011 at 2.00pm in the Skills Centre situated in the rear of the Market on Freeman Street, Great Grimsby. DN32 7DS.

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 19th June 2010 in The Guildhall, Chester.

These minutes were published in Journal No 163, July 2010.

 - 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) Ratification of application for Guild Membership from The Company of Freemen of Trinity House, Newcastle upon Tyne.
- 15) Past Presidents' Medallions.
- 16) Update on website.
- 17) Any Other Business.
- 18) Dates and Venues.

Valedictory Prayer, Closure of Court, and President's Withdrawal Procession

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Closing date for items for the next issue (No. 166) 20/3/11.

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