



GILD OF FREEMEN
OF THE CITY OF LEICESTER



Gildhall News



Bungalows at the Holt



THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL
OF THE
LEICESTER GILD OF FREEMEN



Number 91

September 2021

Gild Banquet Weekend

4th / 5th June 2022



This is to give you notice of the Gild's Banquet Weekend in June. We would very much appreciate your support. The Banquet will be held on Saturday 4th June (7.00PM) in the Holmes Suite at **Devonshire Place, 78 London Road, Leicester, LE2 0RA**. The city's renowned banqueting establishment is located

half a mile from the city centre, near the railway station and close to several hotels. There is a car park at the rear of the building in Prebend Street.

Following a bucks fizz/wine pre-dinner reception, an appetising four-course menu plus coffee and chocolates has been selected, with vegetarian alternatives. Tickets cost approximately £45 per head — please use enclosed booking form.

A wine table offering reasonably priced wines will, of course, be available for dinner.

The Freeman's Service will be held on the following day, Sunday 5th June (10.30AM), at **Leicester Cathedral**.

The banquet is open to all members, their friends and relations. A booking form can be found in the centre pages; don't forget to enter your meal selections.

*If you require any further information or would like details of hotels, please contact Jeff Lewitt on **0116 283 4357**.*



This is not a confirmed booking as yet but keep the weekend free in your diaries.

Gild of Freemen of



The City of Leicester



As we start to resume *normal life*

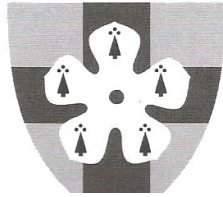
It's time to start planning and looking forward to events.

The Gild Court are *happy* to have you back in our lives.

Please don't hesitate to reach out – come to an event – share with us your news.

We look forward to hearing from you

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Patron: Colonel Robert Martin OBE DL
President: The Lord Mayor of Leicester

OFFICERS 2021–2022

Master: J.D. Lewitt
Deputy Master: M. Ballard
Clerk: H. Lake
Chamberlain: M. B. Hill

WARDENS

N. Cave,
L. A. Roffee,
S. Freeman,
B. Mudford
K. Mardon (co-opted)

GILDHALL NEWS

September 2021

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Standing Order forms for Gild Membership Subscriptions



Editor's Comments

Welcome to the first copy of the GHN since February 2020.

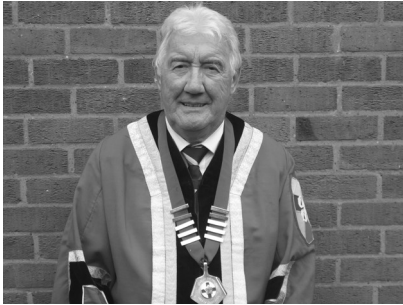
I am the new Editor having taken over from Val Moore, my name is Malcolm Ballard and I thank Val and her husband for their help in getting me started with this task.

I am a Deputy for the running of the Holt and also a member of the Gild and in this role I attend many functions. Whilst I am not a computer genius I will try my best, along with my partner Mary, to keep everyone up to date with all the latest news and forthcoming events. Please feel free to drop me a line with any articles of interest old pictures etc. that could be put into the next issue I am sure there are many interesting stories out there.

Malcolm Ballard

Deputy Master of The Leicester Gild of Freemen

Report by Jeff Lewitt, Master of the Gild



First, welcome back. As you can imagine not much has happened since the last GHN in February 2020. In April, we kept with the 'lockdown' times and successfully held the Common Hall by the virtual platform Zoom. Donning our robes for the occasion, it was nice to see

some new and familiar faces. I'm sure even if you're not used it yourself, you've heard of it! It was also an opportunity for some Freemen to attend that can't usually get to the meeting owing to the distance, timing etc. Our Patron Colonel Robert Martin OBE DL attended. The Lord Mayor was represented by her Deputy, Councillor Deepak Bajaj. Brian Mudford, the Gild Master was finally able to retire after 4 years. Many thanks to him for the sterling work he did for the Gild. I feel proud to be the new Master and hope to keep the Gild moving forward.

On the 29th of April, via zoom, I watched the Election of Councillors and the swearing in of the new Lord Mayor, Councillor Deepak Bajaj, who succeeded Councillor Annette Byrne. Annette had held office for 2 years due to the pandemic. As restrictions continue to start lifting, we happily supported the Lord Mayor on carrying out an old historic tradition. The 24th of June saw myself, Malcom Ballard, The Lord Mayor and Chris the Mace Bearer walk from the Town Hall to the now O’neill’s public house in Loseby Lane to collect the annual ground rent of 4 pennies and a Damask Rose. I think after the miserable year we’ve had people really enjoyed it and took many photos.

Unlucky for some, but not for us! Friday the 13th Aug saw 10 of us travelling to the Barnacle Village Hall for our annual skittles battle against the Coventry Guild. We were heavily outnumbered, but definitely the strongest as we and another team held the other teams up. Still a great night was had by all. David Johnson won the trophy for being the best player of the Leicester Team.

As we strive to re-connect albeit safely, the Court has decided to arrange as many as possible of our events for this year and onwards. They are detailed in this booklet. Please support as many as you can.

I and the Court wish you all the very best.

Jeffrey Lewitt

Master of The Leicester Gild of Freemen

Talk: "The Elephant Man"

by Joanne Vigor-Mungovin

Saturday 6th November 2021 7.00PM,

In the Community Centre, Freeman's Holt

Tea & Coffee included: Bring your own drinks and nibbles

Please reserve for meplaces at £3.00 each

My name

is.....

My address

is.....

.....

....

Post Code.....

Telephone.....

Email ad-

dress.....

I enclose my cheque for £.....

Made payable to "**GILD OF LEICESTER FREEMEN**"

Please send to

Maurice Hill 33 Mossdale Road, Kingsway Leicester LE3 2UT

Applicants are dealt with on a first-come, first-served basis

Visit to the Little Theatre, Dover Street, Leicester, to see

Cinderella

On Friday 10th December 2021, starting at 7pm

Please reserve..... adult seats at **£15** each

..... children's seats (under 16) at **£12** each

Name is (capital letters)

.....

My address is (capital letters)

.....

.....

Post code..... Telephone.....

E-mail address.....

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £.....

Made payable to **“Gild of Leicester Freemen”**

Please send to

Brian Mudford

11 Huntsman Close

Markfield

LE67 9XE

Applications will be dealt with strictly on a first come, first serve basis

GILD OF FREEMEN OF THE CITY OF LEICESTER

Application for Full Membership

Full Name
(BLOCK LETTERS)

Address

..... Post Code

Tel No.: email address

I am a duly sworn Freeman of the City of Leicester and apply to be enrolled as a Member of the Guild of Freeman, for which I enclose the sum of £10.00 (Enrolment fee of £1.00 plus the first annual subscription of £9.00).

Signature.....Date

Application for Associate Membership

Full Name
(BLOCK LETTERS)

Address

..... Post Code

Tel No.e-mail address

I certify that I am the (please delete where applicable)SPOUSE / WIDOW / WIDOWER / SON / DAUGHTER / GRANDCHILD, aged 18 years or over of

Mr / Mrs / Ms(Freeman of Leicester)

Or

I am a full member of the Guild of Freeman of.....(City or Town)

I apply to be enrolled as an Associate Member of the Guild, for which I enclose the sum of £7.00 (Enrolment Fee of £1.00 plus the first Annual Subscription of £6.00)

Signature.....Date

Please make cheques payable to 'Guild of Leicester Freeman'
and send with this application to:

Maurice Hill, 33 Mossdale Road, Kingsway, Leicester LE3 2UT

RENEWAL OF GILD MEMBERSHIP

(Payment by Standing Order)

(Kindly complete where marked by all dotted lines)

To: Maurice Hill,
33 Mossdale Road,
Leicester
LE3 2UT

Date.....20.....

I,

agree to pay my Annual Subscription to the Gild of Leicester Freemen on 1st April each year by means of the signed Standing Order that I have sent to my bank.

I understand that the annual subscriptions at present are £9.00 for a full member and £6.00 for an associate member, and that I can stop or amend this Standing Order simply by giving instructions to my bank.

Signature.....

Address.....

.....

..... Post code

Tel. No.....

email

Please complete the Standing Order form below,

STANDING ORDER-PLEASE SEND TO YOUR BANK MANAGER

To: Thee Manager.....Bank Plc

Address:

.....

.....Postcode.....

Please Pay to:- Lloyds Bank Plc,
 Old Market Square Branch,
 Nottingham NG1 6FD
 (Bank Sort Code 30-96-18)

For the account of the **Gild of Leicester Freeman** (Account
No.01409164)

The sum of £.....,

Commencing 1st April 21.....,and yearly thereafter until further notice.

.....(my surname and initial/s)

Name of Account to be debited.....

Account No.....

Signature.....Date.....20.....

Address.....

.....

Postcode.....

RENEWAL OF GILD MEMBERSHIP
(Payment by Cheque)
FOR THE YEAR 1ST APRIL 2022 – 31ST MARCH 2023

I would like to pay the annual subscription for my membership/
associate
membership of the Gild for the year commencing 1st April 2018

Membershipat £9.00 = £.....

Associate Membershipat £6.00 = £.....

My name is (BLOCK CAPITALS).....

My address is (BLOCK CAPITALS)

.....

.....

Post code.....Telephone.....

e-mail address.....

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £.....

made payable to “**Gild of Leicester Freemen**”

Please post to:

Maurice Hill, 33
Mosdale road,
Kingsway,
Leicester LE3 2UT

Any queries, please phone Maurice on **0116 289 5394**

The Gild of Freemen of the City of Leicester
GILD PRODUCTS ORDER FORM

- | | | | | |
|----|---|---------|--------------------------|----------|
| 1. | Tie | - navy | at £10.00 each | = £..... |
| | | - green | at £10.00 each | = £..... |
| 2. | Gild Scarf | | at £15.00 each | = £..... |
| 3. | Key Ring | | at £5.00 each | = £..... |
| 4. | Lapel Badge | | at £2.50 each | = £..... |
| 5. | Cufflinks | | at £16.00 per pair | = £..... |
| 6. | Gild Pens | | at £3.00 each | = £..... |
| 7. | Gown, made to measure,
(includes delivery) | | price on request | = £..... |

plus postage* @ £2.90 second class
 @ £3.40 first class

TOTAL = £.....

I enclose cheque for the above total, made payable to:

“Gild of Leicester Freemen”

NAME

ADDRESS

..... POST CODE

...

EMAIL ADDRESS

Signed

.....

Please post to:

Sue Freeman, 5 LITTLE MILL CLOSE, BARLESTONE, LEICS. CV13 0HW

Tel: 01455 291771

e-mail: suefreeman10@gmail.com



Report by Chairman of the Board, Barry Daniell

Having been elected as the Chair of Board in 2020 it is great to finally contribute to the Gildhall News. I took over from Wayne Manship, who retired as a Deputy after many years of service to the charity, again I would like to thank him for all the work he did for the Charity. Recently another Deputy, Christine Brookes, retired from the Board

and I would also like to thank her for her service to the charity.

We are slowly getting back to normal now after a difficult 18 months since the start of the pandemic, we hope Zoom will be a thing of the past! Deputies are now back to meeting in the community centre and we are able to host Board Meetings again.

You will have hopefully received a brochure for Freeman's Holt earlier this year. We have several vacancies at the Holt, if you would like more information or would like to arrange a visit please get in touch with the office.

Wiltshire Farm Foods will be at the Holt soon for a taster event. Once we have finalised the date we will put the information on our website www.leicesterfreemen.com, everyone is welcome to come along. Also, we are now able to allow the resident run coffee morning on Mondays, again, all Freeman are welcome to attend.

All of the allotment plots are occupied at present, people growing green fingers is one good thing to come out of the pandemic. If you are interested in a plot, just let the office know and we can put your details on the waiting list. You can contact us at the Holt Tel:0116 283 4017

Address: 32 Freeman's Holt, Old Church Street, Aylestone, Leicester, LE2 8NH Email: office@leicesterfreemen.com

On behalf of the Board, I hope the Gildhall News finds you safe and well. I trust we can all look forward to better times ahead. *Barry Daniell*

Chamberlain's Report

We're Back!!

The effect of the Pandemic on all of us cannot be stressed to highly, personally living alone, classed as clinically vulnerable and shielded, believe me is awful. One of the worse things was having to rely upon others for things like shopping.

We are now heading towards the so called near normal and with caution can now greet people with an open hand rather than giving them the elbow.

From the Gild viewpoint what a time it's been with events planned then cancelled, monies paid as deposits for planned events, and monies received in advance.

The Gild finances were audited in April and the result presented at the video Common Hall 14th April. A copy of the financial account report can be found elsewhere in this issue. Please note it now includes the financial involvement with Debtors (where we have paid money in advance), and Creditors (where we have received money in advance).

Once again, the Gild's bank (Lloyds) is causing me more problems, like so many other banks, they are closing branches and the one I use in Blaby is to close and the suggested alternative is in Wigston.

Now that we are nearing the near normal, we are re-arranging/arranging future events and at date these are as follows:

"The Elephant Man" Talk now Saturday 6th November 2021 at 7.00pm in the Holt Community Centre, A booking form and details of the talk are enclosed. If you have previously paid just turn up if not, and you are very welcome to attend, then complete the booking form and send to me.

Friday 10th December 7.00pm visit to Pantomime "Cinderella" at Little Theatre. Booking form enclosed, don't delay in booking our seat allocation always sells out very quickly.

Monday 20th December 7.00pm Freeman's Carol Service St Andrew's Church next to the Holt

Friday 18th February 2022 Skittles night at the Wheatsheaf Inn provisionally booked. More details and booking form in next issue of GHN.

Sunday 3rd April 2022 10.30am Gild Open Morning Holt Community Centre more information elsewhere in this issue.

Other events are currently being explored for next year and details will be released when ready. However, if you have any suggestions regarding events, outings, trips etc that you feel we should be considering then please send them to me *Maurice Hill*

The Gild of Freemen of the City of Leicester

Income and expenditure account for the year ending 31st March 2021

	2021		2020	
Income	£	£	£	£
Entrance Fees		0		4
Annual subscriptions				
Mem- bers	(125)	1125	(170)	1530
Associ- ate mem- Mem- bers bers	(25)	150 1275	(51)	306 1836
Donations		10		21
Sales of Gild insignia				
Gowns, Ties, Badges etc.	0		91	
Less cost	0	0	0	91
Bank interest		2		2
	Total	<u>1287</u>		<u>1954</u>
Expenditure				
Functions and events				
Expens- es		0	2906	
Income	0	0	2707	199
Printing postage and stationary		90		980

Donation/subscriptions		
FEW subscrip- tion	0	0
Lord Mayor's appeal dona- tion	0	200
Stock devalua- tion	0	0
Miscell. Expenses inc. Insignia pur- chases	0	0
	Total	<u>90</u>
		<u>1379</u>
Excess (deficit) of income over expenditure	1197	575
Add balance from previous year	6896	6551
	Total	<u>8093</u>
		<u>7126</u>
Represented by		
Cash at bank	8359	7052
Cheques awaiting paying into bank	69	92
Petty cash	1	46
Stock of Gild insignia	0	0
Plus - Debtors, cash paid in advance	460	52
Trivia	<u>0</u>	-116
	Total	<u>8888</u>
		<u>7126</u>
Less - Creditors, cash received in advance	239	230
	Total	<u>8649</u>
		<u>6896</u>

The above is a true and fair statement of the financial accounts of the Gild of Freemen of the City of Leicester taken from the books and records of income and expenditure maintained by Gild Chamberlain Maurice Hill 31/3/21

Note:- Because of the Gild's low turnover (less than £10,000p.a.) an Auditor is not legally a requirement but should there be any doubts regarding the validity of the above information then an independent examiner could be appointed to investigate the query.

Programme of Future Events

The Elephant Man

**Talk to be held on 6th November 2021
Community Centre, The Holt at 7.00pm
£3.00 per person**

This talk is being given by local author, Joanne Mungovin who has written a book on Joseph Merrick entitled "Joseph: The Life, Times, and places of The Elephant Man" Joseph Merrick who was born in Leicester in 1862 was also known as the Elephant Man because of his deformities which were caused by an illness in early life.

Joseph's short life has been distorted and exaggerated, to the point where the most well-known depiction-the film starring John Hurt-left an indelible imprint of cruelty and suffering at the hands of his manager to his eventual rescue by Dr. Frederick Treves of the London Hospital "—The truth is quite different....."

This is a social evening for Gild Members and their friends. Please book your place as soon as possible using the enclosed booking form. Whilst tea and coffee will be available you are invited to bring your own drinks and nibbles to enjoy during the evening.

Freemen's Garden Party

Provisional date Sunday 12th June 2022

Plans for the 2020 Garden Party were well underway when guess what came along and stopped everything.

We now intend to pick up where we left off and towards the end of this year will be going all out to finalise the 2022 party seeking help where necessary with physical tasks prior to, on the day and afterwards. One good thing to come out of the delay is that I understand the promised circus show has gained a number of extra performers who are all now undergoing full training.

So, fingers crossed, and everything else as well, we can look forward to a most enjoyable afternoon.

Finalised details regarding ticket applications etc. will be in future issues of the Gildhall News.

Looking forward to seeing you all next year

Maurice Hill

FREEMEN'S ARCHIVES

At the time when I first began preparing a draft for this Gildhall News contribution life was normal and well ordered. However, that was over twelve months ago and a lot has changed since then, During that twelve month period a dreadful virus swept across the globe which, unfortunately, some people seemed to be in denial about. It is worth remembering that in 1918-19 there were more people died in the flu pandemic than were killed in the four years of the First World War.

Sadly, because of the virus I am no longer able to access the archives held in the office so that much of what I now write is from memory or from notes that I had jotted down in preparation for this article.

In my first contribution to the Gildhall News as the archivist I did mention that the Board's Accounts are a good source for peering into the history of the Freeman and it is from those accounts that I write now. The oldest Statement of Accounts that I had access to dated back to a period dating from 9th March 1861 to 8th March 1862, a single fullsize sheet with a balance sheet for the pasture lands on the front face and a balance sheet for the allotment lands on the rear face. At that time the freemen possessed pasture land (known as Freeman's Meadow) where the King Power Stadium now stands along with its surrounding area and allotment land on the Freeman's Common.

On the pasture land the total receipts for the year amounted to £87 19s 6d and consisted largely of income from grazing; 44 horses, 33 cows and an unspecified number of sheep. There was also one house rented on Freeman's Meadow that raised an annual income of £6 5s 3d. A large proportion of the expenditure on the pasture land went on parish rates, £37 19s 3d out of a total expenditure on the meadow of £75 1s 10d. The remainder was mainly materials and labour for the repairs and day to day running of the meadow. There are two items on the payments in the allotment balance sheet that lend themselves to some imaginative thinking. One is for £1 paid to a Mr Buxton as a reward for detecting a

felony and then 3 months later 10 shillings was paid to a Mr Throsby again for detecting a felony. I wonder what the crimes were and why the different rewards. Another item I found curious was clock winding for one year that earned the winder £1 10s for his labours. On the Common were a number of properties built by freemen, although some were rented out to non-freemen, and on the date of the balance sheet there were 22 cottages where the freeman responsible for paying the rates were in arrears to a total sum of £28 14s 6½ p. By 1875 there were 173 cottages on the Common used as accommodation by freemen.

Only freemen could rent an allotment on the Common, a situation that was continued right up to the final portion of the land was sold in 1967. That is not to say that a number of allotments were not worked by non-freemen. A few enterprising freemen would rent not one allotment, but would rent a collection of gardens and sub-let them to outsiders for a figure agreed between the freeman and the sub-tenant.

On the Common were 6 alms houses facing Welford Road built in the middle of the 19th century for the purpose of housing needy freemen or their widows, later extended to 12 cottages in 1888. The above mentioned clock was housed in the cottages. Life in the alms houses was no bed of roses (by today's standards) but at the time they first became available the alternative would have been quite grim. Residents in the houses were given the title of inmates and regulations of residency was quite strict. They all had to take their share of cleaning communal areas which included the shared kitchen and washing facilities, and all lights, what lighting there was, had to be extinguished at 10pm. The last residents of the cottages on Welford Road vacated the premises in 1968.

The cottages are still there and are part of Leicester University campus and are surrounded by new accommodation blocks for university students completely overshadowing the Victorian cottages that once housed poor and needy freemen or their widows.

Recently I had a communication with a lady now living in Cirencester whose grandfather lived on the Freeman's Common and she spent much of her childhood visiting him there. She had many childhood memories of the Common and was seeking photographs of the area. The only photographs that I have in the archives are all press cuttings and they did not reproduce very well so if any of you out there have photos of the Common before it was abandoned, or anything else that may be of interest for that matter, I would be grateful to receive copies for the archives by email to johnton@hotmail.com.

Hopefully by the next Gildhall News I shall have access to the archives in the office and I shall not have to rely on my memory.

John Tolton Archivist. I shall have access to the archives in the office and I shall not have to rely on my memory.

John Tolton Archivist.

Have you changed your address?

In the event that is necessary to inform the Gild or the Board of any change in circumstances, the information should be sent to both:

**Mrs Hazel Lake
Clerk to the Gild of Freemen of the City of Leicester
The Malthouse
The Maltings, Ashley
Leicestershire LE16 8HW**

and

**Leicester Freemen's Deputies
32 Freemen's Holt
Old Church Street
Aylestone
Leicester LE2 8NH**

Telephone: **0116 283 4017**

E-mail: leicester.freemen@talktalkbusiness.net

***Copy for the next issue should reach the Editor
by Friday 19th November 2021***

Write with your suggestions and contributions to:

**Malcolm Ballard
5 Snowdrop Close
Narborough
Leics. LE19 3YB**

Telephone: **0116 286 1507**

E-mail: romalc@btinternet.com

Leicester Freemen website: www.leicesterfreemen.com

Gild e-mail address: leicester_gild@outlook.com

Facebook: search for "Leicester Gild"



Common Hall First & last time Via zoom



