



GILD OF FREEMEN
OF THE CITY OF LEICESTER



Gildhall News



Foxton Locks



THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL
OF THE
LEICESTER GILD OF FREEMEN



Number 94

May 2022



Gild Banquet weekend 18/19th June 2022
at
Leicestershire County Cricket Club
Grace Road, Leicester. LE2 8EB

Arrival at the venue is 7pm for 7.30pm where there will be a pre-dinner reception which will include a glass of wine/soft drink.

Car parking is available at the venue and there are hotels in the vicinity . We have an appetizing four course menu which includes vegetarian options. A copy of the menu is enclosed along with a form to place your order.

Dress : Black Tie /Dark Lounge Suit

The cost of the evening will be £40 per head with 10% discount for paid up Members & Associates of Leicestershire.

All freemen , their friends and relations are welcome.

On Sunday the 19th of June at 10.30am you are invited to join the service in St Andrews Church Aylestone which is next door to the Holt.
LE2 8ND

**For more information regarding any of the above please contact
Jeff Lewitt on 0116 2834357**

GILDHALL NEWS

February 2022

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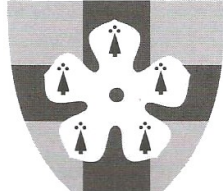
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THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL
OF THE
LEICESTER GILD OF FREEMEN



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,
K. Mardon (co-opted) & Jean Mardon



Editor's Comments

Spring is in the air and all the trees are getting their leaves back for the new year and this is a time when gardeners are digging and planting their new crops.

We are looking forward to warmer days and getting out and about, we are trying to arrange some excursions for us to enjoy during the summer months. We already have the Queens platinum jubilee, the

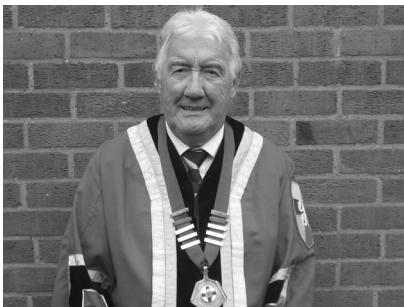
banquet and the garden party arranged these all being in June. Please let me know if you have any suggestions of places to visit or things to do that may be of interest during the rest of the year.

Malcolm Ballard

Deputy Master of The Leicester Guild of Freeman

Report by Jeff Lewitt Master of the gild

Report by Jeff Lewitt, Master of the Gild.



I like the May Edition of the GHN, because it means we're heading towards summer. Long hot days hopefully. First a bit of rain every night for the allotments and flower beds, well we can wish can't we.

The skittle evening took place on February 18th at the Wheatsheaf, Thurstaston. Our friends from the

Coventry Guild came, but had 2 short due to the dreaded Covid. It actually worked out alright as we were able to have 3 teams of 10. Chris and myself made up their team, and guess what, Coventry won. How annoying. Ron Robinson, Coventry Guild Master won the trophy with the highest individual score. The food provided was it's usual high standard,

and plenty of it.

The Gild Open morning on the 3rd of April was very poorly attended. This is an opportunity to pay the Gild Membership fee, but even more so to meet other Freeman. So, it was a bit sad really, especially as The Chamberlain Maurice, puts a lot of effort into it.

The Common Hall was held on Wednesday 13th and we managed enough members to form a quorum. This is another great chance to meet other Freeman, our President The Lord Mayor, and to understand the role of the Gild in Civic affairs. The Lord Mayor, Deepak Bajaj was pleased with the Gild cufflinks presented to him and also a cheque for the charities he was supporting this year. Jean Mardon offered to join the Court and was elected. Lynn Roffee offered to work with John Tolton with a view to taking over as Archivist. This was accepted, and John will be showing Lynn the ropes with a view to her taking over as soon as she feels ready. Hazel, the Gild Clerk, has a full time, very demanding job that takes a lot of time. If anybody thinks they could take her place as clerk please contact us. It would ideally suit a retired member. This is an important job, so please consider it. Hazel has everything organized, so it would be fairly easy, with her help, to take over.

The Banquet is now finalised and as this is our show piece we need your support so that the other guilds can see it's success. We have changed the venue, reduced the cost, organised some entertainment and as a thankyou for supporting it we have a 10% reduction for paid up Gild members and associates from Leicestershire.

We have reintroduced the Friday night get together at the Holt for residents and visitors to the Banquet.

On Sunday the 19th there is the Freeman's service at St Andrews Church, Aylestone, All are welcome.

Chris and Myself attended the York Banquet on 2nd April and the church service at the All Saints pavement church on the 3rd. We were well looked after and enjoyed ourselves. It was nice seeing old friends after 2 years.

As Master I have received an invitation to the Annual Meeting of the

City Council and Election of the new Lord Mayor. Owing to the restrictions still in place they can only invite one of us.

The Lord Mayor's office has informed me that there will be a making free ceremony this year. So, any eligible family member's names and documents need to be in place.

Any Leicester Freemen can join the Gild Court and contribute towards the running of the Gild, please contact us if you are interested.

Derek Austin FEW warden for the South has agreed to represent the Leicester Gild at the FEW court and AGM meetings. He already provides details in their journal for us. We have made him an honorary member so he can carry on representing us.

We have reserved 34 tickets for this year's Pantomime, Aladdin, on the 15th of December. Those that want to see Abanazar fail and Aladdin rescue the Princess (Hoorah) book now. Once the 34 are taken we will be unable to get any more.

I would like to thank all who have helped during these difficult times.

Jeff Lewitt

Report by Chair of the Board Barry Daniell



On behalf of the Board, I hope you are all keeping safe and well. Preparations for the Garden Party are well under way, it promises to be a wonderful event for all the family. The Garden Party Committee, led by Maurice Hill, are doing a fantastic job and I would like to thank them in advance for their efforts.

We recently wrote to all Freemen to explain the Board's concerns with certain issues, one of which was the recruitment of new

Deputies (trustees). I'm very pleased to report that four Freemen have put themselves forward to become Deputies, I would like to thank them on behalf of all Freemen of the City of Leicester.

We also asked for suggestions for ideas or changes. I would like to thank everyone who took the time to get in touch with us; all of the responses were collated and given to the Board for discussion. The Board will be considering the suggestions over the coming months and we will keep you updated with any changes or improvements. You are very welcome to get in touch anytime with any more suggestions.

We recently welcome two new residents onto the estate into 'standard' bungalows. We wish the many happy years here at Freemen's Holt.

The project to extend No.24 was due to start in April, but unfortunately, for reasons out of our control, the project will need to be delayed. A planning permission request to extend No's 4, 9 & 10 is currently with Leicester City Council, these bungalows are currently vacant.

The other bungalow vacant is No.8, which is a 'standard bungalow'. This bungalow will be extensively renovated before it is allocated. If you would like to apply for No.8 please get in touch with the office.

From June, the monthly maintenance contributions will be:

Standard Bungalow - £158.44 Extended Bungalow - £221.78

If you would like more information about living at Freemen's Holt please get in touch with the office.

The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday 1st June at 19:30. All Freemen are welcome and encouraged to attend. If you would like to attend please inform the office so we can let you know how to access the estate.

Take care and stay safe,

Barry Daniell

We have lost contact with the Freeman and widows/widowers listed below. If you can shed any light on their whereabouts, please contact Adam at the estate office.

You can contact us at the Holt by:

Phone: 0116 283 4017

Address: 32 Freeman's Holt, Old Church Street, Aylestone, Leicester, LE2 8NH

Email: office@leicesterfreemen.co.uk

ABBOTT	GUY DAVID & ELIZABETH
AGAR	GILES ALEXANDER
AGAR	ROBERT DANIEL
ALLEN	ALTHEA
ALLEN	SIMON JOHN
AYRES	LEE
BALLARD	ANTHONY JAMES
BALLARD	WAYNE KARL
BOSWORTH	PETER ALLEYNE & ILEAN M
BURDETT	NELLIE MAUD
BURNS	JAMES
BUSKO	RACHAEL
CAVE	FRANK PETER & JEAN GAIL
CAVE	NICHOLAS RUSSELL
CHAWNER	ANDREW
CLARKE	HORACE
CLEMENTS	NIGEL JOHN
CLEMENTS	R A
CRAWLEY	JANET MARY
DALBY	PHYLLIS

DALBY	MATTHEW
DEAN	JOYCE OLIVE
DUDGEON	P J
ELSON	DORA EDNA MAY
ELSON	MICHAEL JOHN & AMELIA DOREEN
ENGLISH	NICOLAS
ENGLISH	STEVEN PAUL
FINDLEY	EVELINE
FINDLEY	ALAN MALCOLM
FINDLEY	GRAHAM BARRY
FOX	PHILLIP PERCY
FREER	JOHN COOPER & DIANE
FREER	MARK
FRENCH	ALICIA & NATHAN
GADSBY	MICHAEL ARTHUR
GOODMAN	ADAM
GREASLEY	JOHN CLEAVER
GROOOCK	ROBERT DONALD
GUERRA	PAULA JAYNE & NATHAN
GUMLEY	SIMON WHYATT
GUMLEY	DENNIS JEFREY ARTHUR
HADFIELD-HILL	SUSAN
HARGRAVE	JOHN WILLIAM
HARGRAVE	ANDREW CHARLES
HARGRAVE	SIMON
HARRIS	STEVEN
HARRISON	GEORGE ROWLES
HARRISON	STEPHEN

HARRISON	GUY WILLIAM
HIGGINSON	ANDREW JOHN
HILL	ROWLAND STUART & TINE LORRAINE
HIPWELL	RONALD FREDERICK
HOLYOAK	GARETH ANDREW
HOUGHTON	DAVID GEORGE
HOUGHTON	RICHARD CHARLES & CLAIRE
HOWE	HERBERT SAMUEL ERNEST
HULL	MICHAEL FRANK & BARBARA MARGARET
HULL	PETER MICHAEL
HURST	KENNETH A
HURST	LIAM MICHAEL
JINKS	SHANNON
JOHNSON	GRAHAM CHARLIE
JONES	ARRAN JAMES
JUBA	GLEN WILLIAM
JUBA	EDWARD
JUBA KELVIN	SANDRA
KELLETT	REX ARTHUR & SARAH JANE
KELLETT	ANTHONY JAMES
KENNEY	JOHN
LANGTON	JAMES MATTHEW DAVID
LEACH	DAVID JEFFREY
LEHANE-FLOWERS	SUSAN
LESTER	CHRISTOPHER JOHN
LEWITT	ADRIAN BADEN
LEWITT	RHONA
LEWITT	NEIL ANTHONY

LEWITT	GAIL M
LITCHFIELD	GEOFFREY WILLIAM
LLOYD-SMITH	MARJORIE WAUGH
LOSEBY	DAPHNE HELEN & PHILLIP
MANSHIP	JEFFREY ROBERT
MANSHIP	GARY JOSEPH
MANSHIP	IRENE MARY
MORTIMER	CYRIL HENRY
MORTIMER	EMMA
NOON	WINIFRED
ORME	MARY PEUTRILL
ORTON	MICHAEL WALTER
OVERTON	ALEXANDER JULIAN
ROBERT	ETHEL MARY
ROBERTS	JANICE MAY
ROBERTS	NICHOLAS MATTHEW
ROFFEE	JAMES ANDREW
ROSS	PETER BURFIELD
SMITH	ALAN AMOS & MARGARET ELIZABETH
SMITH	ANTHONY DAVID
SMITH	HENRY RICHARD
SMITH	MARK RICHARD
SMITH	JOSEPH ANDREW
SMITH	MICHELLE LOUISE
SMITH	OLIVER CHARLES
SQUIRES	PETER GRAHAM
SQUIRES	PHILLIP JAMES
STORER	ELAINE
TAYLOR	CAROLINE

TAYLOR	RACHEL BEATRICE SUSAN
TAYLOR-HIGGINS	OLIVER
TEBBUTT	GLEN COLIN
TEEAR	MARK ANTHONY & ANGELA
TOWE	ROGER CLIVE
TOWNSEND	MAY
WARREN	FREDERICK RALPH
WILLIAMS	DAVID JOHN & JULIE CAROLINE
WILLIAMS	MARION
WITHERS	ERIC GEORGE
WOOD	PARVETI ELIZABETH JANE
WILSON	JOHN BARRIE
WITHERS	ERIC GEORGE
WOOD	PARVETI ELIZABETH JANE
YEARBY	PHILIP JOHN

Barry Daniell
Chairman of the Board

Chamberlain's Report

We continue to move closer to near normal times although the pandemic has now been replaced by the terrible war in the Ukraine plus very rapid rising inflation.

In April I audited the Gild's accounts and the result is shown elsewhere in this issue. The opportunity was taken whilst carrying out the audit to try and tidy up the situation caused by the pandemic.

With events planned since March 2020 then cancelled, rearranged and then taking place at a later date or even now still being outstanding resulted in the Gild acquiring some £460 of debtors and £239 of creditors.

By virtue of reclaiming and refunding monies the above figures have been reduced to £208 and £80 respectively.

I have also obtained agreement that from 1st April 2022 forward the Gild's financial year will be from 1st January – 31st December.

This will necessitate me carrying out a second audit this year on the 31st December to enable a clean start for the change taking place on the 1st January.

This change will not affect the banks or how you pay your subs but will make it so much easier to operate our records.

Another change to bring to your attention is the question of concessions to Gild members.

Wherever possible the charge for events will be reduced by 10% to Gild members and we are trialing the scheme starting with this year's banquet which will now cost members only £36 instead of £40 for non-Gild members.

Of interest during the past 12 months, we staged four events, "The Elephant Man" talk, Panto visit, Carol Service and Skittles night. For these four events we made a total profit of just £20.18.

At the moment we are working to finalise possible future events for this year and we are working on the following possibilities

- Trip to Trentham Gardens near Stoke
- Loughborough Bell Foundry and the Carillion
- Royal Army Veterinary Corps Melton
- Barge Trip
- Nottingham Castle or Sherwood Forest
- Visit to Pantomime
- Possible Talk

Finally, I was on the Welford Road recently and looked in amazement at the sight of the old Freeman's Cottages surrounded by multiple towering tower blocks. I was reminded of a film I saw many years ago but can't remember its title and also thinking I'm so pleased that I was able to get the cottages Listed Status to protect them.

Maurice Hill

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: The 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 22.....,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 2022

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 Mosssdale road,
Kingsway,
Leicester LE3 2UT

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

The Charles Palmer Suite
Leicestershire County Cricket Club
Opening Partnership

A *Pork Apple & Calvados Terrine*
With warm olive Breadstick

B *Twice Baked Goats Cheese & Beetroot Souffle*
Set on a herb and rocket salad

C *Cream of Leek and Potato Soup*
With herb croutons

Middle Order

D *Lemon and Lime Crusted Delice of Scottish Salmon*
Served with a shallot and pinot grigio sauce.

E *Pot Roasted Blade of English Beef*
With a fresh sage, onion & horseradish mash

F *Seared Breast of Chicken*
With a portobello mushroom and Port wine sauce

G *Cumin Butternut Squash and Lentil Wellington*
With a spiced tomato sauce

Herb Roasted Potatoes
Selection of Market Vegetables

Programme of Future Events

Garden Party

2.00 – 5.00pm Sunday 12th June 2022

The Prime Event of the Year

THE HOLT GARDEN PARTY

Don't Delay Phone Right Away

We're back with new and old attractions. Punch and Judy, bouncy castle, rodeo bull, circus, face painting, Smudgy the clown balloon modelling, tombola, free Hog Roast, Wigston Enterprise Brass Band playing during the afternoon, competitions for adults and kids (see elsewhere in this issue) and of course our raffle this year to raise money for breast cancer research.

Because of the rising cost of postage, we are not sending out tickets and request that you contact the office by telephone (0116 283 4017) during office hours, or by email (office@leicesterfreemen.com) and give your name, how many persons will be in your party, if any special dietary requirements and if you require disabled parking.

When you arrive at the gate you will be checked in against a prepared list directed to parking and given tickets for the hog roast.

Remember the event is open to all Freemen, Freemen's widows and widowers and their families.

Please do contact the office as soon as possible because we need your information to finalise things like number of parking spaces required and type, Hog Roast numbers, and conformity with the event Licence etc.

So do come along and enjoy a good afternoon out, meet old friends and have a look around the Holt including a bungalow which will be open for you to inspect at your leisure.

All we ask is that you bring your own seats and money for the raffle etc. we cannot accept cards.

Day Trips

We would like to organize some day trips for everyone to enjoy but these are in the early stages at present.

Garden Party Competitions

For the Adults: - Make any type of Cake - Bring the cake with you on the 12th June for it to be judged. Cakes will be put on display and judged in the community centre - **£25** prize for the winner.

For the Kids: - Paint a Rock or Stone – We're certain the Kids all know how to do this. The first and most important thing is to find a suitable stone maybe from the garden, the beach or when out walking. You choose the design. – Bring the finished stone with you on the 12th June to be judged, make sure that your name is attached and they will be put on display in the Community Centre. Some tips: - Wash the stone and leave to dry overnight. Next a rub with sandpaper helps. Thin coat of emulsion to prime. Mark out design in pencil and then get to work with paints or crayons - **£15** prize for the winner.

Also for the Adults: - A Wordsearch – It costs £1 to enter and entry forms will be on sale during the afternoon of 12th June. It's intended that the competition be completed at home and the results sent to the office. The winner's name will be in the next issue of the Gildhall News - **£20** prize for the winner.

The Annual Banquet

For the 17th of June it has been proposed that we have a fish and chip supper and quiz night in the Community Centre at the Holt. This will be for any people who reside at the Holt and those who are attending the Banquet. The cost for the evening is £40 per head. With discount of 10% for fully paid up members & associates of Leicester.

This year the Banquet is to be held on the weekend of the 18th and 19th of June, due to the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations being held over the weekend of the 4th and 5th of the month. We have altered the venue to the Leicestershire County Cricket Club on Grace Road Leicester.

We are hoping you will all come along for what looks to be a most enjoyable evening and following the meal, on Sunday the 19th a church service will be held at St Andrews Church Aylestone, next to the Holt.

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. | Cuff Links | At £16.00 per pair | = £..... |
| 4. | Lapel Badge | at £2.50 each | = £..... |
| 5. | Gild Pens | at £3.00 each | = £..... |
| 6. | Gown, made to measure,
(includes delivery) | price on request | = £..... |
| 7. | Register of the Freemen of Leicester 1986 –1996 | £2.50 each | = £..... |
| 8. | Register of the Freemen of Leicester 1931—1985 | £3.50 each | = £..... |

plus postage* @ £3.20 second class
@ £3.95 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

*Please note that any orders at and above £20 will need to be sent by recorded delivery at £7.25 (contact Sue for further details)

A Freeman Remembered

Charles Frederic Bailey was born in 1874 in Leicester. He was the son of Edward, a Veterinary Surgeon, and his wife Mary. The 1881 and 1891 Census's show the family residing at Curzon House, 72 Rutland Street, Leicester. Charles was baptised on 18th November 1874 at St Georges Church and was Made Free on the 29th December 1895.

Both the 1901 and 1911 Census show the family living at 7 Saxe Coburg Street, Leicester. When the First World War started it was renamed Saxby Street in order to remove any German association. The 1911 Census, shows Edward and Mary as having had seven children, two of whom had died by the time the record was taken.

Charles was Gazetted in the Army and Navy Gazette on 21st May 1898 and served as 2nd Lieutenant, 1st Volunteer Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment. The *Record of Service of Solicitor's and Articled Clerks with His Majesty's Service for the period 1914-1919* shows Charles being "Admitted August 1895 as Solicitor practising in Leicester". During the First World War he undertook home service and served as Captain 4th (Reserve) Battalion Leicestershire Regiment (T).

His regimental belt buckle is held at the Leicester Museum in New Walk.

Wright's 1901 Directory of Leicester shows Charles working as Solicitor and Clerk to the Freeman's Deputies at 5 Friar Lane, Leicester. In 1928 he married Alice Laura Taylor, widow of Mr Samuel Taylor, at St Peters Church, though the service was officiated by Rev. Canon C.L. Robinson from St George's. Upon marriage Charles moved to live in Alice's house at "Westdale", 21 Woodland Road, Leicester. His mother died in January 1935 and Alice died 3 weeks later. Alice had a number of beneficiaries in her will. She left Charles "Westdale", her home, £500 and a further £100 as executor. Charles was President of the Law Society in 1935.

The 1937 City Directory shows Charles's practice had moved to 20 Highcross Street, Leicester. Charles died on 11 November 1951 aged 77. His funeral service was held on 14th November at St Georges Church, Leicester and his ashes interred in the family plot at Welford Road Cemetery. He had been the Freeman's Solicitor for 46 years according to the inscription on the "Chairman's Chair" which is located in the Community Centre. It is understood to be part of a former set of chairs and table that Charles presented to the Leicester Freeman. The chair is inlaid with the inscription: - "PRESENTED BY

C.F. BAILEY ESQ.

CLERK TO THE BOARD

FOR 46 YEARS"



His brother, William Henry was also a Solicitor and was the Town Clerk in Taunton, Somerset. William served as a Captain in the Somerset Royal Horse Artillery and saw action in Egypt, Palestine and France. His two sons served in the Royal Navy during the Second World War as Lt. Cmdr. John Savile Bailey OBE DSC and Cmdr. Richard Savile Bailey. Sadly, father and sons didn't take their freedom. L.A. Roffee

The Birth of the Gild of Freemen of the City of Leicester

I was sworn in as a freeman in June 1964 before the Lord Mayor Councillor Archibald Kimberlin and I knew very little about freemen, in fact I only knew two other freemen at that time, my father and his first cousin. So much for my worldly knowledge.

In 1964 there were a number of differences from today's ceremonies; Attending the ceremony before the Lord Mayor would be the applicant freeman and his sponsor, usually his father.

The minimum age of the applicant would be 21.

Freedom could only be gained through the father, providing that the father was a freeman before the son was born.

Daughters were excluded from the freedom.

There were no mass swearing in ceremonies, there was no collective group of freemen responsible for freemen's affairs apart from the Board of Deputies and their role was to take care of the freemen's estate and not to act as a social club for the freemen at large. It was not out of choice, the legislation governing freemen's affairs prevented it. So, was it any wonder that I knew so little about the Freemen of Leicester?

Not so long after becoming a freeman I moved away from Leicester and worked in various places and finally settled in Chester working for Cheshire County Council in a location grandly titled Backford Hall. After I had been at Backford for about 18 months I was approached by someone to buy a raffle ticket, so I naturally asked what it was for only to discover that the sponsor for the ticket was the Freemen and Guilds of the City of Chester. My worldly knowledge did not include knowing about the

existence of freemen in other towns or cities. After some lengthy conversation with my would-be vendor of raffle tickets I discovered that there were, indeed, freemen in towns and cities up and down the country and that there was even a collective body known as the Freemen of England. My curiosity was awakened.

In 1971 I returned to Leicester and later that same year I joined the Board of Deputies only to discover that I was not alone in my curiosity about freemen in other towns and cities. The Board had been approached by the Freemen of England but because of legislation governing the activities of the Board it was felt inappropriate to get involved. There were a few of us on the Board who felt that freemen at large were being excluded from the chance to meet each other socially and that a solution should be found. A year or so later, in 1973 I think, two freemen from the Freemen of England visited Leicester to discuss the benefits of joining the umbrella body and how other towns with freemen created their own guilds. After the Board meeting held on Wednesday 3rd December 1975 an open discussion was held to examine the feasibility of reviving the medieval Guild of Merchants as the Guild of Freemen of Leicester.

A working committee of eight freemen was formed to take practical steps to reviving the Guild, namely: -

Geoffrey Agar

Michael Ayres

Maurice Ayres

Albert Chawner

Harry Dudgeon

Gordon Johnson

Roland Langton

John Tolton

The working party met the following week on Tuesday 9th December to formulate a general policy of the Guild and the first item was the election of a chairman, treasurer and secretary.

Chairman/treasurer – Roland Langton

Secretary - Geoffrey Agar

It was agreed that the title of the gild should be “Gild of Freemen of the City of Leicester.”

The committee agreed that the initial aims of the Gild should be;

To provide a meeting place for freemen of the Gild.

To establish contact with Freemen of Leicester wherever they may reside.

To establish contact with freemen in other towns and cities.

To make it known who the freemen are.

The re-establishment of Ancient Rights and Privileges.

To encourage eligible young men to take up the freedom.

The committee also agreed that the initial membership fee should be £1 per annum subject to review.

A public notice was placed in the Leicester Mercury inviting all freemen, wherever resident, to an exploratory meeting to be held at the Freemen’s Holt on Tuesday the 13th January 1976.

The meeting opened at 7.30 and there were 62 freemen, and that number included the committee, in attendance. Roland Langton welcomed all freemen present and introduced the committee who had volunteered their services in the revival of the Gild of Freemen of Leicester. He gave a potted history of the Gild since its Charter granted by Robert, Count of Meulan in 1107 granting the Merchants of Leicester the right to form a Gild of Merchants, and how by the reign of Queen Elizabeth they became known as freemen. Roland continued by listing the aims of the Gild as agreed at the first committee meeting and how it was up to the freemen at large to make it work.

Forty-seven freemen paid their pound subscription and joined the fledgling gild to be known as The Gild of Freemen of the City of Leicester. And that is how it all started.

*John Tolton,
Archivist*

The Freeman's Charity V The Gild

Introduction

Many people struggle to understand the difference between the Charity and the Gild. I'm going to try and explain the difference if I can.

Essentially, I consider that there are two major differences: -

Since the first Freeman were identified at the Time of Queen Elizabeth 1 the Freedom has been continuous. Whereas the Gild started much earlier and there is evidence that the Gild, originally known as the Gild of Merchants, was in existence at the time of the Norman conquest, 1066 and all that. The Gildsmen rose in power and eventually they became very deeply involved in civic duties and became known as Freeman, and were elected by Freeman. The Municipal Act Of 1835 changed all of this and it finally settled as what we now know as the Leicester City Council. The Gild as such disappeared. In the mid-1970s the only known Freeman lived within the city boundaries, and basically the only Freeman who ever met were those members of the Board of Deputies.

Many Freeman after being sworn in, never met another Freeman. As Freeman moved out of the city they lost contact, sons failed to take up their Freedom and in many cases were precluded from taking up their freedom because they now lived outside of the city boundaries. The number of Freeman began to decline.

Realising that the situation could become quite serious and that the only real vehicle through which Freeman could communicate with each other, the Freeman's Common, had been disposed of, a working party of Freeman called a meeting to explore the possibility of reviving the Gild to reunite Freeman and enable Freeman to meet again. The meeting was successful and in November 1976 the Gild was reformed as a separate entity away from the Board of Deputies with membership being entirely the individual's choice plus the payment of a modest annual subscription.

The other major difference is that the Charity is governed under an act of Parliament known as the Statutory Instruments 1977 which supersedes the Leicester Freemen's Acts of 1845 to 1922 and is overseen by the Charity Commission. The Charity is charged with assisting Aged Needy Freemen of the city of Leicester their wives or widows/widowers by virtue of accommodation and/or financial assistance.

On the other hand, the Gild has its own rules it owns no property relying upon annual subscriptions from its members to survive and its prime task is to establish and maintain a programme of social events throughout the year in which all Freemen and their families can take part. The Gild has also helped to raise the profile of the Freemen by attending many Civic events wearing their distinctive gowns.

The commonality with the Board of Deputies administrating the Charity and the Court of Wardens administrating the Gild is that their work is totally voluntary and they receive no payment. Also the GildHall News is joint effort both in preparation and cost.

*Maurice Hill
Chamberlin*

Have you changed your address?

In the event that it 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
6 The Maltings,
Ashley
Leicestershire LE16 8HW**

Telephone 01858 565826

Email: hazel.lake-leicesterfreemen@outlook.com

and

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

Telephone: 0116 283 4017

E-mail: office@leicesterfreemen.com

***Copy for the next issue should reach the Editor
by July 15th 2022***

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

Gild e-mail address: leicester_gild@outlook.com

Facebook: search for "Leicester Gild"

SUDOKU NUMBER 1

Enjoy having a go at this puzzle

3		6					1	
	1		7	3			5	
		2		4		3	7	
7	2	5			4			
			2			7	4	
	4	8	6			2		
5					1			9
9		1						3
	8			9	5			7

Do you find the Gildhall News interesting to read?

Is there anything you would like to see in your quarterly Issue that isn't already covered each time?

Have you any suggestions for new content in future issues?

Remembrance Day 14th November 2021



In the Demontfort Hall prior to the
Parade to the Memorial



Common Hall April 2022