



GILD OF FREEMEN  
OF THE CITY OF LEICESTER



# Gildhall News



*St Andrews Church, Aylestone*



THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL  
OF THE  
LEICESTER GILD OF FREEMEN



Number 93

February 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

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

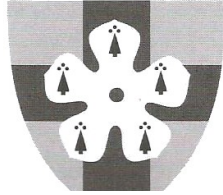
**For more information regarding any of the above please contact  
Jeff Lewitt on 0116 2834357**

# **GILDHALL NEWS**

## **February 2022**

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Number 93

January 2022

# Gildhall News



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,  
B. W. Mudford  
K. Mardon (co-opted)



## Editor's Comments

Here we are in 2022 and hopefully having a better time without so many covid restrictions.

We are hoping to have some trips for us all during the year, but these have still to be finalised.

The front cover picture of this issue shows St Andrews Church, this is where we will be holding the service, on the Sunday after the

banquet.

I have included a photograph on the next page of the dining area at Leicestershire Cricket club, this is where the banquet is to be held this year. I have enclosed a copy of the menu and order form so this can be completed and returned to Jeff Lewitt.

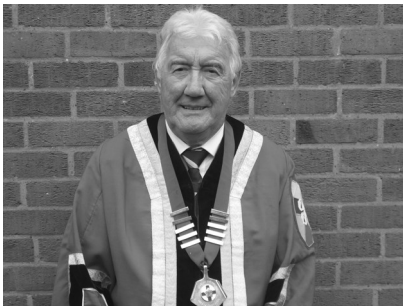
The back page shows a picture of the cast of the pantomime which I understand was a great success.

*Malcolm Ballard*

**Deputy Master of The Leicester Gild of Freeman**

## Report by Jeff Lewitt Master of the gild

With the continuance of the Covid pandemic there hasn't been a great deal of events involving



Freemen. The Lord Mayor of Leicester invited robed Freeman and their partners to attend the

Remembrance Day Service and parade on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021. It was somewhat

different this year as the parade to the War Memorial was restricted to invited dignitaries only.

Somehow the robed Freeman led the parade from the De-Montford Hall to the Memorial. Definitely a first, and most welcome considering the amount of Freeman who gave their lives in the wars.

The annual visit of the Gild to the Pantomime took place on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December. The theme this

year was Cinderella. It was a very enjoyable evening. Because they had 2 years to get ready, the

costumes, jokes. Although I don't think some were meant as jokes, by the looks on the casts faces

they came out that way. The usual ghosts etc. caused great excitement and noise, but made it all a great evening.

The Gild Christmas Carol Concert was held again this year at St Andrews Church Aylestone on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December. There was an excellent turnout, and I think everybody really enjoyed it.

either that or it was the mulled wine, mince pies, sausage rolls afterwards at the Holt. Many thanks to the Rector Rowena for letting us hold it in the church The Organist Bruce for showing us

what the refurbished organ was capable of. Also to those who helped with the refreshments. It made the evening very successful and pleasant.

We have a Skittle night planned for Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February, at the Wheatsheaf Thurcaston. The Coventry Guild will be bringing a team as usual, and we shall certainly be expecting a reversal of the result from the night at the Barnacle Hall last year.

The open morning will be on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 1030am at the Holt. Freeman and associates wishing to pay their subs and meet others are welcome to come along.

The Common Hall ( our AGM ) will be on Wednesday April 13<sup>th</sup> . We will be holding it at the Holt

Community Centre again this year. Please try to attend as it is important that the affairs of the Freeman of Leicester are discussed and agreed on. If anybody feels they could be willing to join the Court, please inform the Clerk Hazel Lake. New ideas will be most welcome.

The Gild Banquet this year is on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> June. We are holding it at The LCCC, Charles Palmer Suite. We normally have the Banquet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sat in June. This year it is the Queens Platinum Jubilee. The 11<sup>th</sup> is the Holt open day , so the 18<sup>th</sup> it is. I do hope many of you will support the Gild at our showcase event. I think you will find it greatly enjoyable.

We have received an invitation from the Gild of Freeman of the City of York to attend their Banquet on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup> to join their Annual Church Service. This event is popular and fills up quickly, so if you want information please contact Jeff Lewitt promptly.

I would like to thank members of The Gild Court for their input and hard work. Also Members/ Associates that have supported the Gild through these difficult times.

*Jeffrey Lewitt*

**Master of The Leicester Gild of Freeman**

## Report by Chair of the Board Barry Daniell

On behalf of the Board, I hope you are all keeping safe and well. We managed to have some of the usual Christmas celebrations last year including a lovely trip to Kilworth Springs Golf Club for Christmas Lunch. It was nice to go back there, as we had to cancel the trip the previous year.

We expect 2022 will be a busy year for us at the Holt. Building work will soon begin on the extension of No.24, the extension will add another room and w/c. We were delighted to allocate two standard bungalows to new residents. We wish them many happy years here.

The current weekly maintenance contributions residents pay are £155.33 for a 'standard' bungalow and £217.43 for an 'extended' bungalow.

***If you would like to apply for the extended bungalow, please submit your application by 1<sup>st</sup> March at the latest.***



We would like Freeman and their widow/widowers to be aware that you may be eligible to receive 'charitable payments' from the charity. If you would like more information about this please contact our office.

Please be aware of the following meetings which all Freeman are welcome and encouraged to attend, all meetings take place at the community centre at Freeman's Holt.

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 19:30 – Board Meeting

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 19:30 – Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 19:30 – Board Meeting

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 19:30 – Board Meeting

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 19:30 – Board Meeting

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](mailto:office@leicesterfreemen.co.uk)

Take care and stay safe,

*Barry Daniell*  
**Chairman of the Board**

## Chamberlain's Report

Once again, I can report good news with the situation appearing to gradually getting back to normality.

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December 7:00pm was the Freeman's Carol Service at St Andrews Church (next to the Holt) and afterwards in the community centre for mulled wine, sausage rolls etc.

What a wonderful evening it was to welcome Christmas.

I can report that a most enjoyable evening was had by all. It was very rewarding to see so many people socialising once again.

Prior to the evening it became very close to being cancelled again with rumours that the Vicar was requesting masks be worn during the service plus various people with health and pandemic worries. What to do with 54 mince pies and 80 sausage rolls? Once again plan B was prepared with suitable containers being accumulated to enable the food to be confined to the deep freeze if necessary.

However, a quick visit to the coffee morning at the Holt and a chat with Jeff indicated it was a goer.

I can report that all the food was eaten and my thanks to all who rallied round to help in serving food and drinks, selling raffle tickets and clearing up afterwards.

The next event we have arranged is the annual skittles night at the Wheatsheaf Inn Thurstaston on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> February.

At date applications are slowly starting to be received, but indications are many more have yet to confirm including those from Coventry.

If you have not already reserved your place, please do so asap a booking form is included in this issue. The open morning at the Holt will be held on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 10:30 – 13.00 hrs this is mainly for members to come and pay their subscriptions, but is also a social event, so enjoy coffee and biscuits, try your luck in the raffle, chat with other Gild members and take the opportunity to take a look around the Holt.

In the mean times we are carrying on finalising and identifying future events, including the Banquet and possible bus trips.

Personally, I'm now deeply involved in organising the Bi-annual Holt Garden Party due to take place on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

*Maurice Hill  
Chamberlain*



## 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 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

Membership .....at £9.00 = £.....

Associate Membership .....at £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**

**Skittles Night**  
**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022 7.30pm**  
**The Wheatsheaf Inn, Thurcaston, LE7 7JN**  
**Supper Included**

Please reserve for me .....places at £9.50.00 each

My name is.....

My address is.....

.....

Post Code.....

Telephone.....

Email address.....

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*

*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

## **Skittles Night**

To be held at the Wheatsheaf Inn Thurstaston LE7 7JN  
7.30pm with a supper included this is the return leg against  
the Coventry Guild.

## **Garden Party**

This is to be held at The Holt on Sunday 12th June which is  
being finalised at present but will be an enjoyable afternoon.

## **The Annual Banquet**

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 the  
Sunday a church service will be held at St Andrews Church  
Aylestone, next to the Holt.

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. Arrangements  
have not been finalised as yet and the cost etc will be  
announced in the next edition of the Gild Hall News.

## **Day Trips**

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



**The Guild 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,<br>(includes delivery) | ..... price on request   | = £..... |

plus postage\* @ £3.20 second class  
@ £3.95 first class

**TOTAL = £.....**

I enclose cheque for the above total, made payable to:  
**"Guild 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](mailto: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**

Arthur Albert Spencer was born in Leicester in 1876. He took his freedom in 1897 and his occupation at that time was shown to be a Commercial Traveller and took his freedom from his father, John. Later Arthur was to become a Corporate Accountant. Perhaps nothing unsurprising about that but according to an article in the Leicester Mercury, in 1956, Arthur who was aged 80 had never missed the making the weekly cash payment of grants to Cottagers of the Leicester Freemens' Estate in almost 60 years, except for one occasion whereby he was Presiding Officer at an Election and had to get another Deputy to deputise for him and in his entire service as a Deputy, having joined the Board prior to 1900, he had never missed attending a Committee Meeting. At that time there were over 50 meetings a year so his service to Leicester Freeman was exceptional. At the turn of the century there were 2,040 surviving Freeman and/or Freeman's Widows and by 1956 there were just 549. Today, that latter figure is probably just a few hundred higher. In comparison today, there are significantly less meetings that Deputies are required to attend Looking back into the lives of Freeman, such as Arthur, shows how much social change that has taken place when comparing with society today. It's inconceivable today, that anyone would be in a position to make such commitments as Arthur and others did. In the same year as the Leicester Mercury article the Chair of the Board was Albert Wade who had served on the Board for 44 years. The Clerk to The Deputies was Reginald A Moore, who was also a Freeman.

L A Roffee

## ***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 Freeman of the City of Leicester  
The Malthouse  
The Maltings, Ashley  
Leicestershire LE16 8HW**

*and*

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

Telephone: **0116 283 4017**

E-mail: [office@leicesterfreemen.com](mailto:office@leicesterfreemen.com)

***Copy for the next issue should reach the Editor  
by April 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](mailto:romalc@btinternet.com)

**Leicester Freeman website:** [www.hazel.lake-leicesterfreemen@outlook.com](http://www.hazel.lake-leicesterfreemen@outlook.com)

**Gild e-mail address:** [leicester\\_gild@outlook.com](mailto:leicester_gild@outlook.com)

**Facebook:** search for "Leicester Gild"

CINDERELLA  
10th December 2021





**Leicestershire County Cricket Club  
Grace Road Leicester**