



Durham City Freemen



Yearbook 2020

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Foreword

Eric Bulmer Chairman of Wardens



One of the tasks of an outgoing Chairman of the Wardens is to look back at the previous year and provide an overview of events and related issues for the benefit of the membership.

2019 was a very challenging year for the Freeman

The use of the Sands to accommodate the new County Council Headquarters has been a major issue throughout the year and the Freeman's determined opposition to the council plans has been clearly set out on our website. Unfortunately our endeavours were unsuccessful and planning consent was granted. Further details can be found in the Chairman of the Trustees report within the booklet.

The continuing difficulty in attracting members to step forward as Wardens and take an active involvement in the management of our organisation, has been a constant concern since I accepted the role of chairman in 2015.

My 3 year tenure of appointment as Chairman of the Wardens was completed in 2018, but unfortunately none of the present Wardens felt able to take on board the role of chairman. To address the impasse, I agreed to remain chairman for a further year so that a strategy could be developed that would ensure the sustainability of the management of the Freeman.

The Wardens addressed the issue by asking the membership to support their strategy to sustain the effective management of the Freeman. This was achieved when members voted overwhelmingly in November to accept the proposed Sustainability Paper and endorsed the wardens approach in dealing with this extremely difficult situation.

I subsequently stood down as Chairman of the Wardens on the 3rd of December.

As a consequence of the implementation of the Warden's strategy, a number of members have since indicated that they wish to be involved. This places the organisation in a much better position to deal with a challenging future that lies ahead. From this group, it is envisaged that we will be able to appoint Deputy Wardens, thereby expanding the management team and sharing the workload. Further information regarding Deputy Wardens can be found within the booklet.

A number of changes in management took place in 2019. Bob Elliott resigned as Warden of the Masons Company and Membership Secretary and Joe McElwee resigned as Warden of the Cordwainers' Company. On behalf of the Wardens I would wish to take this opportunity to thank them both for their past service to the Freemen.

I am pleased to report that Alan Metcalf was elected as the new Warden of the Cordwainers' Company. A profile of Alan can be found later in the booklet. Iain Wilmshurst agreed to continue as a Warden of the Curriers' Company and was re-elected unopposed.

The Annual Dinner was a great success even accounting for a last minute change of venue to the Masonic Hall. My thanks to the Wardens and particularly John Booth for responding so positively under extremely difficult circumstances.

During the year we welcomed 6 new Freemen into our ranks and the current membership now stands at 251.

Sadly, I have to report the death of a number of Freemen in 2019

Arthur Stonebridge (Barbers' Company)

Beverley Renwick (nee Vickers) (Masons' Company)

Thomas Robert Bulmer (Plumbers' Company)

Their obituaries can be found later in the booklet.

I hope you find the Yearbook informative and interesting and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Wardens and Trustees for their support support and most of all to the membership for their endorsement of the work and development undertaken by the Wardens on their behalf, in what has been an extremely challenging year, but I firmly believe that we are now in a position to move forward with a sense of optimism and renewed energy.

A Message from the Worshipful Mayor of Durham County Councillor Katie Corrigan



Whilst the Durham City Freemen predate the Mayor by a few hundred years, the organisation is just as vital today to the life of the City as it ever was. Not only am I truly proud to be from Durham but also to be the youngest ever Mayor in the City's history. I am also just as proud to be associated with the Freemen.

Every year, The Freemen continue to support the Mayor with a substantial donation to their chosen charity. My charity is The Cheesy Waffles Project based in Belmont. This project is a provision for children, young people and adults with additional needs from across Durham; age 6-30 years. The enriching activities they take part in helps raise self-esteem and confidence and supports with the transition into a happy and independent adulthood. Your recent donation to my charity is very much appreciated and rest assured it will be put to good use.

I wish the Freemen all the best for 2020.

Councillor Katie Corrigan

The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Durham

Diary Dates for 2020

All meetings will be in the Guildhall with the exception of Martinmas Guild Day and the Annual Dinner which will be held in the Main Hall. The venue for the Charitable Trust meetings are yet to be arranged.

Guild Days 11:00 – 12:30

Candlemas Monday 3 February 2020
May Day Monday 11 May 2020
Lammas Monday 10 August 2020
Martinmas Monday 16 November 2020

Warden's Meetings 6:00 – 7:30

Wednesday 22 January 2020
Thursday 16 April 2020
Thursday 17 September 2020
Thursday 12 November 2020

Charitable Trust Meetings 1:00 – 2:30

Monday 13 January 2020
Monday 20 April 2020
Monday 14 September 2020
Monday 9 November 2020

Member's Meetings 6:00 – 7:30

Thursday 16 January 2020
Tuesday, 21 April 2020
Tuesday 22 September 2020
Tuesday 17 November 2020

Warden's and Trustees Meetings 2:00 – 4:30

Friday 24 January 2020
Friday 24 April 2020
Friday 25 September 2020
Friday 20 November 2020

History Group Meetings

To be arranged as and when necessary

Annual Dinner

Saturday 24 October 2020

Wardens and Trustees

Wardens

If you have any comments, observations or suggestions relating to any aspect of the work and organisation of Durham City Freemen please make contact with the Warden of your Company who will ensure that the issue is addressed.

Eric Bulmer
Plumbers' Company (0191 3780554)

Fred Snowdon
Barbers' Company (0191 3730077)

John Booth
Butchers' Company (0191 3733381)

Alan Metcalf
Cordwainers' Company (01740657624)

Kathleen Vasey
Drapers' Company (01913868000)

Ann Thurlow
Joiners' Company (01913779706)

Bob Elliott
Masons' Company (0191 383 0934)

Ian Wilmhurst
Curriers' Company (0191 3782011)

Membership Secretary

Eric Bulmer (0191 3780554)
e-mail: eckabulmer@btinternet.com

Secretary to the Freemen

Kathleen Vasey (0191 386 8000)
e-mail: kathleenvasey@aol.com

Trustees

The activity and business of Durham City Freemen is overseen by the Trustees.

Chairman:

P. Conway Esq. OBE. (0191 3868216)

Vice Chair

M. Proud Esq. (0191 3867615)

Clerk and Receiver:

P. Wills Esq. (01388603073)

Treasurer:

S. Atkin Esq. (0191 5238918)

P. Bramwell Esq. (0191 3868066)

P. Dyer Esq (0191 3721650)

K. Howe Esq (0191 3840589)

R. Scothan

New Warden of the Cordwainers' Company



Alan Metcalf

Alan started his working life as an apprentice motor mechanic in the Adams and Gibbon garage in Claypath in 1973. After successfully completing three years training he later went on to work in garages in Langley Moor, Sherburn Village, Esh Winning and Crook before setting up his own taxi business. He left after nearly a decade to take up a job with the National Car Parks in Durham in 2001.

Two years later he was appointed the organisation's supervisor in Sunderland and then their North of England Training Officer, the job also embracing parts of Lancashire, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

There then followed spells in a telephone call centre and a council CCTV centre in Chilton before he took up his latest post, offering face-to-face advice to members of the public on a range of issues including council tax and housing benefits.

Alan and his wife Judith, a county council financial resources co-ordinator, live near Durham. Between them they have two daughters and two sons from their first marriages – and a total of seven grandchildren.

Alan has an interest in men's mental health and in his spare time attends a support group in Spennymoor whose members suffer from depression and other related issues. He also has a keen eye for photography.

Wardens Tenure of Appointment

COMPANY	DATE ELECTED	END OF TENURE
Barbers	Fred Snowdon February 2018	January 2021
Butchers	John Booth February 2018	January 2021
Cordwainers	Alan Metcalf June 2019	May 2022
Curriers	Iain Wilmshurst January 2019	December 2022
Drapers	Kathleen Vasey February 2018	January 2021
Joiners	Ann Thurlow June 2016	May 2020
Masons	Bob Elliott Dec 2019	November 2022
Plumbers	Eric Bulmer Jan 2020	December 2022

Companies will be informed when an election is to take place.

Details of forthcoming elections and the procedure for an election of a Warden will be posted on the website and can be obtained from the Secretary of the Freeman.

New Members Admitted in 2019

Candlemas Guild Day 4th February 2019



Durham City Mayor John Lethbridge and Alan Metcalf

The 62-year-old grandfather's walk, of a little more than 100 yards from his current workplace in Clayport to the Town Hall, completed the circle in a long working life that started as an apprentice motor mechanic just a few yards further away in the Adams and Gibbon garage in Claypath in 1973.

There then followed spells in a telephone call centre and a council CCTV centre in Chilton before he took up his latest post, offering face-to-face advice to members of the public on a range of issues including council tax and housing benefits.

Alan has an interest in men's mental health and in his spare time attends a support group in Spennymoor whose members suffer from depression and other related issues. He also has a keen eye for photography.

Gentlemen Freemen Admitted

The service of three former trustees was acknowledged by the Freemen when they were invited to join the ranks of Gentlemen Freemen.

Gentleman and Lady Freeman is an award conferred on individuals, in recognition of a significant contribution they have already made in supporting the work of the Freemen.

An important point to note is that these awards are granted by invitation from the Wardens .



Durham City Mayor John Lethbridge and Norman Hart

For most of his working life Norman worked as a solicitor in the city, not a stones throw from the Guild Hall. During his long legal career, he was for more than a decade, the city's Deputy Coroner,

Norman resigned recently as a trustee of the Freemen, and for the last two years he held the office of chairman.

He was vice-chairman of Finchale Training College for many years and a trustee of the Durham Union Society. He also sat as a member of two health service trusts and the Abbeyfield Society and remains a Rotarian in the city.

Gardening remains his key leisure activity after he surrendered his interest in motoring racing when he sold his rare 1936 MG which he drove, when occasion allowed, at Brooklands and Croft. The car had appeared at the Goodwood Festival and featured on television in one of the Father Brown Series.



Durham City Mayor John Lethbridge and Alan Ribchester

After leaving the Durham Johnston Grammar School in 1963 with three A-levels, he was articled to a large firm of chartered accounts on Tyneside until he qualified four years later. In the early 1970s he took charge of his own company in Durham, operating for many years from offices in Saddler Street.

When he became a trustee of the Freemen, Alan's experience was immediately called on to steer the organisation through new Charity Act regulations to qualify for charitable status – a move which significantly increased the freemen's ability to offer financial support to a wide range of organisations across the city.

Alan resigned recently after serving as a trustee but continues to support the organisation as a member of the Freemen's Charitable Trust. The Freemen have benefited from his expertise in accountancy for many years and continue to do so.

For 30 years Alan was District Treasurer of the Durham Scouts, the Durham Citizens Advice Bureau and a Director of the Indoor Market where he remains Company Secretary. For more than two decades he has been Treasurer of the Shakespeare Temperance Trust in North Road and a Trustee and Honorary Treasurer for Durham Rotary Club. He has also been a long-standing Trustee of Durham Union Society and member of the Finance Committee of the Governors of Northumbria University.

Alan remains a member of the Mayor's Bodyguard.



Durham City Mayor John Lethbridge and George Oliver

George started work as an indentured trainee journalist in the city in the mid-1960s and over the years his work has been widely published in regional and national newspapers. He has been a contributor to both regional radio and television and was also involved in the BBC's expansion of the local radio network in the late 60s, producing broadcast material and interviews for Radio Durham – the experimental forerunner of current stations on Tyneside, Teesside and Cumbria.

In 1986 he was directly commissioned into the Light Infantry and was one of the first journalists recruited by an expanding part-time specialist unit, now known as the Army's Media Operations Group. Assignments took him across the UK and mainland Europe until he left the Army ten years later.

For 17 years, until his retirement in 2009, he managed Durham Constabulary's Press and Public Relations unit and received unsolicited awards from north-east journalists and a commendation from Durham's Chief Constable.

Although George recently resigned as a trustee where he held the post of official Freemen Press Officer, he continues to offer his valued expertise and support to the Freemen which is very much appreciated,

In retirement George continues to pursue a life-long interest in fishing for trout, sea trout and salmon.

Lammas Guild Day 5th August 2019



Durham City Mayor Katie Corrigan and James and Alex Watson Lee with their parents after becoming Freemen

Following a family tradition Alex and James were honoured to be admitted as Freemen.

Alex and James were born in Dorset and were pupils at Ballard School in New Milton and then at Canford School in Wimborne.

Alex studied History at Birmingham University and is now studying for his Law exams at the University of Law in Guildford, while James took a different path studying management at Warwick University, qualifying as a chartered accountant and now lives in London. When he is not working Alex enjoys music and running, while James pursues several interests including cooking and sport, where he enjoys playing football for his university team.

The family's membership of the Drapers Guild has been passed on for many generations. They have the Admission Certificates going back for five generations to their three times great grandfather Williams Lee who was admitted in 1831 and research shows that they can trace their family back to their eight times great grandfather Roger Lee who was admitted to the Drapers Guild in 1705. It appears many of those admissions took place in the same Guildhall James and Alex's ceremony.

It is possible that the Freemen in their family go back beyond that time and indeed their family folk lore, is that they became Freemen due to an ancestor fighting in the Battle of Neville Cross in 1346.



Durham City Mayor Katie Corrigan and John Latue

John who is the latest city craftsman to join the Plumbers' Company, lives on the outskirts of Durham and started his working life in 1963 working as an apprentice for Fred Dennison. He stayed for five years before moving on to work for other plumbing companies in Durham.

In the late 1970s he changed direction and began supporting specialist security services for Barclays Bank. He worked in branches in Darlington, Durham and Stockton, before switching to the centralised Complex Queries Department based in Middlesbrough.

Both he and his wife Ivy are experienced scuba divers, skiers and John even tried his hand as a crew member on a racing yacht. The couple also completed the Great North Run for ten years.

Their adventurous pastimes are long behind them and they now concentrate on less hazardous adventures.

In retirement they both enjoy hillwalking in the Lake District and the local dales, ballroom dancing and trips to the theatre.

Martinmas Guild Day 11th November 2019



Mark and Rachel Vest

Mark and Rachel Vest's decided to honour their father's memory, by following him into the Drapers' Company nearly 20 years after his death.

They both decided they wanted to honour the memory of their dad Robert, who died in 2000 and grandad Charlie, by becoming Freemen and joining the rest of their immediate family. Their dad was 21 when he was sworn in and he had followed in the footsteps of his own father.

Mark, from Gilesgate, has recently successfully gained qualifications that he hopes will lead to work as a nursery assistant.

Rachel, who lives in a village near Durham works in a dispensing chemist's shop on outskirts of the city.

Members Admitted in 2019

Candlemas Guild Day

Norman Hart	Butchers' Company
Alan Metcalf	Cordwainers' Company
George Oliver	Butchers' Company
Alan Ribchester MBE	Cordwainers' Company

May Guild Day

There were no admissions

Lammas Guild Day

John Latue	Plumbers' Company
Alex Watson-Lee	Drapers' Company
James Watson-Lee	Drapers' Company



Lammas Guild Day

Martinmas Guild Day

Rachel Vest	Drapers' Company
Mark Vest	Drapers' Company

Current Membership at January 2020

Barbers' Company

Anderson	Mark John	M.J.	Mr	Handy	Joyce	J.	Ms
Anderson	Peter Stewart	P.S.	Mr	Kahane	Ahuvia	A.	Professor
Anderson	Jeffrey Rowland	J.R.	Mr	Kitson	Geoffrey	G.	Mr
Atkinson	Carl Alan	C.A.	Mr	Milbourne	Philip John	P.J.	Mr
Atkinson	Kieran Andrew	K.A.	Mr	Milbourne	Richard James	R.J.	Mr
Atkinson	Alan	A.	Mr	Nightingale	Judith	J.	Ms
Brolls	Hilary	H.	Mrs	Nightingale	Craig	C.	Mr
Calvert-Lee	Rupert Guy	R.G.	Mr	Nightingale	Gavin	G.	Mr
Calvert-Lee	Giles Lindsey	G.L.	Mr	Nightingale	John	J.	Mr
Coxon	Kevin Lee	K.L.	Mr	Snowdon	Frederick John	F.J.	Mr
Dufton	Alan	A.	Mr	Weightman	Una Dawn	U.D.	Mrs
Dunn	Dennis	D.	Mr	Wills LLM	Philip	P.	Mr
Faulkner	Kay	K.	Mrs				

Butchers' Company

Bancroft	David George	D.G.	Mr	Hart	Norman Thomas	N.T.	Mr
Bregazzi	John	J	Mr	Howard	David Richard	D.R.	Mr
Chapman	Michael Andrew	M.A.	Mr	Laws	Steven	S.	Mr
Chapman	Robin	R.	Mr	MacDonald	Ian Edward	I E	Mr
Forster	Heather	H.	Ms	Milbourne	Malcolm	M.	Mr
Forster	Guy	G.	Mr	Oliver	George Robert	G.R.	Mr
Forster	Stephen James	S.J.	Mr	Patterson	Thomas William	T.W.	Mr
Forster	Jonathan Paul	J.P.	Mr	Pickering	George Robert	G.R.	Mr
Forster	Heather	H	Ms	Staverley	Susan	S	Mrs

Cordwainers' Company

Davidson	Peter	P.I.	Mr	McElwee	John Denby	J.D.	Mr
Davidson	Richard Peter	R.P.	Mr	McElwee	Jack Denby	J.D.	Mr
Firmin	Carl Granville	C.G.	Mr	McElwee	Davey John	D.J	Mr
Greenwell DL CBE	Arthur Jeffrey	A.J.	Mr	McElwee	Joe	J	Mr
Heron	David	D.	Canon	Minto	Peter Dr	P	Dr
Heron	Peter	P.	Mr	Norris	Roger	R.	Mr
Joicey	Barry	B.	Mr	Ribchester	Alan	A	Mr MBE
Lumley	David Martin	D.M.	Mr	Shotton	Barry	B.	Mr
Metcalf	Alan	A	Mr	Wright	Rebecca Hannah	R.H.	Miss
McElwee	Doris	J.D.	Mrs	Wright	Stuart	S.	Mr

Curriers' Company

Charney	Barbara	B.	Ms	Luther	Richard	R.	Mr
Charney	John	J.	Mr	Marsden	James Robert	J.R.	Mr
Clark	William Henry	W.H.	Mr	Marsden	Nicola Hazel	N.H.	Miss
Crawford	Karen	K.	Ms	McDonough	Adam	A.	Mr
Crawford	Ron	R.	Mr	McMinn	Michael	M	Mr
Graham	Neil William	N.W.	Mr	Ridley	Stuart George	S.G.	Mr
Heslop	Sandra	S.	Ms	Wilmshurst	Fiona Louise	F.L.	Ms
Heslop	Kris	K.	Mr	Wilmshurst	Iain Stuart	I.S.	Mr
Howarth	Michael David	M.D.	Mr	Wilmshurst	Holy Alison Olivia	H A O	Ms
Jones	Derek Newton	D.N.	Mr	Wilmshurst	Rebecca Anne	R A	Ms
Kitson	Leighton	L.	Mr	Wilson	Michael Colin	M.C.	Mr
Luther	Kate	K.	Ms				

Drapers' Company

Adamson	David Ivor	D.I.	Mr	Mullaney	Kimberley	K.	Mrs
Allison	Sandra Anne	S.A.	Ms	Nattrass	Sarah Elizabeth	S.E.	Mrs
Allison	John Stuart	J.S.	Mr	Samuel	Barbara Anne	B.A.	Ms
Allison	Malcolm Nigel	M.N.	Mr	Samuel	Tom	T.	Mr
Allison	John Gordon	J.G.	Mr	Scott	Charlotte Anne	C.H.	Miss
Allison	Peter David	P.D.	Mr	Scott	Vanessa Laura	V.L.	Miss
Angus	Pamela	P.	Ms	Scott	Barbara Jean	B.J.	Ms
Arkley	Gillian Roberta	G.R.	Mrs	Smith	Adele	A.	Ms
Brookes	Gillian	G.	Ms	Snowball	Dorothy Margaret	D.M.	Rev
Crofton	Ted	E.	Rev	Vasey	Kathleen	K.	Ms
Davidson	Vera	V.	Mrs	Vasey	David	D.J.	Mr
Freeland	Leah Felicity	L.F.	Mrs	Vasey	Andrew David	A.D.	Mr
Hayes	Mary	M.	Ms	Vasey	John Frederick	J.F.	Mr
Hepburn	Alan	A.	Mr	Vest	Joanne	J.	Miss
Heslop	Victoria Jane	V.J.	Mrs	Vest	Arthur	A.	Mr
Jackson	Catriona Margery	C.M.	Ms	Vest	Rowland	R.	Mr
Jackson	Richard	R.	Mr	Vest	Derek	D.	Mr
Kingston	Hilda Barbara	H.B.	Mrs	Vest	Steven	S	Mr
Kothari	Ingrid Allison	I.A.	Mrs	Vest	Gavin	G.	Mr
Lee	Jonathan Mark	J.M.	Mr	Vest	Alan Cruddas	A.C.	Mr
Lyle	Susan	S.	Ms	Vest	David Charles	D.C.	Mr
Mackay	June	J.	Ms	Vest	Paul Robert	P.R.	Mr
Magee	Judith	J	Ms	Vest	Richard	R.	Mr
Magee	Stuart John	S.J.	Mr	Vest	Mark	M	Mr
Middleton	Alan	A.	Mr	Vest	Rachel	R	Miss
Milbourne	Stephanie Helen	S.H.	Ms	Watson	Judith Gwen	J.W.	Mrs
Milbourne	Michael Stewart	M.S.	Mr	Watson-Lee	Mark Alexander Strachen	M.A.S	Mr
Milbourne	David Michael	D.M.	Mr	Watson-Lee	Peter James	P.J.	Mr
Milbourne	Alexander	A.	Mr	Watson-Lee	Alexander William	A.W.	Mr
Milbourne	Andrew John	A.J.	Mr	Watson-Lee	James Kenneth	J.K.	Mr
Milbourne	Rodney James	R.J.	Mr	Wilson	Thomas Dobson	T.D.	Mr

Joiners' Company

Bennett	Peter Neil	P.N.	Mr	Fenwick	Alexander	A.	Mr
Brown	Jonathan	J.	Mr	Ford	Theresa Ann	T.A.	Mrs
Brown	Tony Michael	T.M.	Mr	Ford	William	W.	Mr
Brown	Mark Andrew	M.A.	Mr	Ford	Alan	A	Mr
Brown	Robert Dennis	R.D.	Mr	Ford	Regan James	R.J.	Mr
Brown	Rita	R.	Mrs	Ford	Stuart William	S.W.	Mr
Brown	Jonathan	J.	Mr	Gilroy	Peter Andrew	P.A.	Mr
Brown	Darren Ridley	D.R.	Mr	Gilroy	Clifford	C.	Mr
Brown	Adam Ridley	A.R.	Mr	Hesp	Eric	E.	Mr
Brown	Dean Ridley	D.R.	Mr	Jopling	Trevor	T.	Mr
Bryden	Irene May	I.M.	Ms	Morris	Edward James	E.J	Mr
Bryden	Robert Arthur	R.A.	Mr	Morris OBE	Roger John	R.J.	Dr
Clarkson	Robert	R.	Mr	Neale	David Charles	D.C.	Mr
Clarkson	Andrew	A.R.	Mr	Neale	Michael Paul	M.P.	Mr
Clarkson	Christopher	C.	Mr	Neale	Steven Thomas	S.T.	Mr
Clarkson	Ronald	R.	Mr	Peverall	Iain	I	Mr
Clarkson	Steven	S.	Mr	Pritchard	Anthony	A	Mr
Clarkson	Nigel David	N.D.	Mr	Squires	Eric Charles	E.C.	Mr
Dawson	Peter Robert	P.R.	Mr	Swallow	Anthony	A.	Mr
Donkin	Joan Elizabeth	J.E.	Rev	Thurlow	Ann	A.	Ms
Fenwick	Amalia Jane	A.J.	Ms	Trow	Stuart	S.	Mr
Fenwick	Christopher	C.	Mr	Wigham	Claire	C.	Ms

Masons' Company

Browell	Duncan James	D.J.	Mr	Haunch	Nicola Louise	N.L.	Mrs
Browell	Martin Elliott	M.E.	Mr	Hotchkiss	Connie	C.	Mrs
Clark	James	J.	Mr	Johnston	Norman Cyril	N.C.	Mr
Clark	Cyril Douglas	C.D.	Mr	Jones	John Richard	J.R.	Mr
Clark	Peter	P	Mr	Mallen	Ann	A.	Mrs
Cooper	George Richard	G.R.	Mr	Mann	Steven	S.	Mr
Dent	Norman	N.	Mr	Mawson	Nigel	N.	Mr
Dent	Royston Norman	R.N.	Mr	Nicholson	Paul Douglas	P.D.	Sir
Elliott	Elizabeth Grace	E.G.	Miss	Richardson	Allan Elliott	A E	Mr
Elliott	John	J.	Mr	Tindale	Peter	P.	Mr
Elliott	Matthew James	M.J.	Mr	Tindale	Peter John Henry	P.J.H.	Mr
Elliott	Jack Andrew	J.A.	Mr	Wesencraft	Amy	A.	Ms
Elliott	Robert Lennox	R.L.	Mr	Wesencraft	John	J	Mr
Granlund	Alan Campbell	A.C.	Mr	Young	Gordon Frank	G.F.	Mr

Plumbers' Company

Abson	Philip	P.	Mr	Head	David Colin	D.C.	Mr
Allan	Patricia	P.	Ms	Heron	Clive Emmerson	C.E.	Mr
Billsborrow	Patricia	P.	Rev	Heron	Adam Mark	A.M.	Mr
Booth	John	J	Mr	Heron	Leslie	L.	Mr
Brass	Andrew	A.	Mr	Inglis	Sydney	S.	Mr
Brown	Alison Jane	A.J.	Mrs	Johnson	Peter Alan	P.A.	Mr
Bulmer	Jane	J.	Miss	Latue	John	J	Mr
Bulmer	Sean	S.	Mr	McDonough	Alison	A.	Ms
Bulmer	Michael	M	Mr	Oliver	Allan	A.	Mr
Bulmer	Eric	E.	Mr	Pearson	Anne	A.	Mrs
Cain	Elizabeth Ann	E.A.	Mrs	Pearson	Malcolm Neil	M.N.	Mr
Cunliffe	Lisa	L.	Mrs	Todd	David William	D.W.	Mr
Davis	Margaret Ruth	M.R.	Mrs	Walker	John	J.	Mr
Dunnhill	Garry	G.	Mr	Willey	Brian Fawcett	B.F.	Mr
Dunnhill	Keith	K	Mr	Wortley	Katherine	K.	Ms
Gent	Helen	H.B.	Mrs	Wortley	Melvin	M.	Mr

Membership Summary

Company	<u>InDistrict</u>	<u>ExDistrict</u>	Men	Women	Total
Barbers	7	18	19	6	25
Butchers	10	7	15	2	17
<u>Cordwainers</u>	9	11	18	2	20
Curriers	12	11	15	8	23
Drapers	17	45	35	27	62
Joiners	25	19	37	7	44
Masons	17	11	22	6	28
Plumbers	15	17	21	11	32
Total	112	139	182	69	251

Membership Secretary

Eric Bulmer
 2 High Meadows
 Brandon Village
 Durham

Tel: 01913780554
 Email: eckabulmer@btinternet.com

Deputy Wardens Initiative

In a continuing drive towards the sustainability of the Freemen through the involvement of members to support the management of the organisation, the Wardens have decided to introduce the category of 'Deputy Warden' into the management structure of the Freemen.

This strategy is designed to enable Freemen to be targeted, who have the skills, interests and desire, to take an active role in the management and development of the Freemen.

The Important feature of this strategy, is that individuals will be 'targeted' in contrast to the elected position of Warden.

The aims and benefits of this initiative are two-fold;

1. Strengthening and sustaining the management group.
 - a) To increase the numbers within the management team, so that the increasing workload can be shared.
 - b) To enable Wardens to have the support of a another member from their Company, who will deputise when they are unable to attend meetings/ functions.
 - c) To bring fresh ideas, stimulus and skills to support the management team.

2. Engagement and involvement with the membership.

To provide members with an opportunity to witness the management of their organisation and garner experience that will ultimately result in them wishing to apply to become a Warden in due course.

All members within travelling distance to the city of Durham will invited to an induction evening to gather more information about the introduction of Deputy Wardens, this will enable them to decide whether they wish to put their names forward to become part of the management group.

Any member unable to attend the meeting, can still register their interest by contacting our Secretary Kathleen Vasey.

Membership Criteria

Any man or woman who has attained the age of 18 years and has any of the qualifications set out below is eligible for consideration for admission to the Freemen of the City of Durham. The qualifications for eligibility for Freedom of the City of Durham are:

1. Guild Servitude

Completed service in an apprenticeship of at least three years duration in a recognised trade, or equivalent trained employment status deemed satisfactory to the Wardens of the Durham City Freemen with an employer who is a Freeman of the City of Durham.

2. Durham Servitude

Completed service in an apprenticeship of at least three years duration in a recognised trade, or equivalent trained employment status deemed satisfactory to the Wardens of the Durham City Freemen, in one or more trades within the Durham City boundary.

3. Hereditary Freedom

He or she is the son or daughter of a Freeman of the City of Durham.

Customary Freedom

Men and women who have attained the age of 18 years who are not otherwise qualified in accordance with 1.2.3. above, may be admitted as Freemen in accordance with ancient local custom or practice subject to the approval of the Wardens.

All claims to Freedom of the City should be supported by sufficient documentary evidence of entitlement to be submitted for consideration by the Wardens of the Guilds meeting collectively. Following due consideration, the decision of the Wardens in respect of any claim to Freedom of the City shall be final.

Honorary Freedom conferred by the former Durham City Council or by Durham County Council is distinct and separate from the Freedom granted through the eligibility outlined above and the approval of the Wardens. The rights, duties and powers of the Durham City Freemen shall continue in accordance with the provisions of the Durham City Council Act 1985 and associated customary practice.

All applicants should contact the Membership Secretary in the first instance. (Ref. Summary of 'Revision of Admission Criteria' 10 May 2010)

Customary Freedom

Appended - Note of Clarification (July 2019)

These discretionary awards, generally fall into the following three categories (a) (b) (c).

- a)** Personal applications by individuals who do not qualify to be admitted under 1,2, and 3 above, but who can provide evidence of craft servitude or a link with the Freeman through hereditary, (sometimes called patrimony) e.g. via grandfather etc , where a direct route via a parent is not possible.
- b)** Individuals identified by the Wardens who can make a significant contribution by undertaking a specific role/need within the management structure and having personal qualities of integrity, tolerance, and judgment and who are able to demonstrate experience or support relevant to the Freeman's activities, together with one or more of the following;
- A desire and capacity to devote time to the activities of the Freeman.
 - Existing or previous involvement in public or charitable service.
 - Success in their chosen profession or career.

Gentleman and Lady Freeman is an award conferred on individuals, in recognition of a significant contribution they have already made in supporting the work of the Freeman.

An important point to note is that categories (b) and (c) are by invitation only and will not be available upon application. Category b) will only be exercised when the Wardens believe there are areas within the current management function that may not be sustainable and may cause its future development to be blighted. It is anticipated that the number of Freeman admitted via this process will be limited to only a few in number.

Admission on Guild Day

*Guild Servitude, Durham Servitude and Hereditary Freedom
(Admission via 3 calls on Guild Day)*

*Customary Freedom
(Admission via 1 call on Guild Day)*

Data Protection Policy

Who we are

We are Durham City Freemen (the Freemen). We can be contacted via the Secretary
Tel (0191)3868000, email: kathleenvaset@aol.com

1. About this policy

This policy explains when and why we collect personal information about our members, how we use it and how we keep it secure and your rights in relation to it.

- 1.1 We may collect use and store your personal data as described in this Data Privacy Policy and as described when we collect data from you.
- 1.2 We reserve the right to amend this Data Protection Policy from time to time without prior notice. You are advised to check our website www.durhamcityfreemen.org.uk regularly for any amendments or contact the Membership Secretary for a current copy. Amendments will not be made retrospectively.
- 1.3 We will always comply with the General Data Protection Regulation(GDPR) when dealing with your personal data. Further details on the GDPR can be found at the website for the Information Commissioner (www.ico.gov.uk)
For the purposes of the GDPR we will be the 'controller' of all personal data we hold about you.

2. What information we collect and why.

Type of information	Member's name, address. Telephone numbers, Email addresses.
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Purposes	Managing the membership of the Freemen.
Legal Basis for Processing	For the purpose of our legitimate interests in operating the Freemen.

Type of information	Gender.
Purposes	Managing the membership of the Freemen.
Legal Basis for Processing	For the legitimate purpose of maintaining diversity data.

Type of information	Photos and videos of members.
Purposes	Putting on the Freemen's website and social media pages in the Yearbook and using in press release.

Legal Basis for Processing	Consent. We will seek the member's consent on their application form and the member may withdraw their consent at any time by contacting us by email or letter.
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Type of information	Details of family history and/or apprenticeship details as appropriate.
Purposes	Managing the membership of the Freeman.
Legal Basis for Processing	For the legitimate purpose confirming the criteria for Membership.
Type of information	Name, address, telephone numbers and email addresses of each
	Trustee, Warden and Official.
Purposes	Information published on the Freeman's website, in yearbooks And other publications in the Freeman's marketing materials.
Legal Basis for Processing	For the purposes of our legitimate interests in operating and Promoting the Freeman.

3. How we protect your personal data

- 3.1 We will not transfer your personal data outside the EU without your consent.
- 3.2 We have established generally accepted standards of technology and operational security in order to protect personal data from loss, misuse or unauthorised alteration or destruction.
- 3.3 Please note however that where you are transmitting information to us over the internet this can never be 100% secure.
- 3.4 We will notify you promptly in the event of any breach of your personal data which might expose you to serious risk.

4. Who has access to the information you provide us

- 4.1 We will never sell your personal data. We will not share your personal data with any third party without your prior consent (which you are free to withhold) except where we are required to do so by law or as set out in 2. above or paragraph 4.2 below.
- 4.2 We may pass your personal data to third parties who are service providers, agents and subcontractors to us for the purposes of completing tasks and providing services to you or on our behalf (e.g. to print newsletters and send you mailings). We do this for the purpose of our legitimate interests in operating the Freeman. However, we disclose only personal data that is necessary for the third party to deliver the service and we have a contract in place that requires them to keep your information secure and not to use it for their own purposes. It is possible

that third parties may themselves engage others (sub-processors) to process your data. Where this is the case third parties will be required to have contractual arrangements with their own sub-processor(s) that ensure your information is kept secure and not used for their own purposes.

5. How long do we keep your information

- 5.1 We will hold your personal data on our systems for as long as you are a Freeman and for as long afterwards as it is in our legitimate interest to do so or for as is necessary to comply with our legal obligations. We will review your personal data every year to establish whether we are still entitled to process it. If we decide that we are not entitled to do so, we will stop processing your personal data except that we will retain your personal data in an archived form in order to be able to comply with future legal obligations and the establishment or defence of legal claims.

6. Your rights

- 6.1 You have rights under the GDPR:
- (a) to access your personal data
 - (b) to be provided with information about how your personal data is processed
 - (c) to have your data corrected
 - (d) to have your personal data erased in certain circumstances
 - (e) to object or restrict how your personal data is processed
 - (f) to have your personal data transferred to yourself or to another organisation in certain circumstances.
- 6.2 You have the right to take any complaints about how we process your personal data to the Information Commissioner:

<https://ico.org.uk/concerns> 0303 123 1113
Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane,
Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF

For more details please address any questions to the Secretary.

Obituaries

Beverley Renwick (nee Vickers) - Masons' Company

Died 8th September 2019



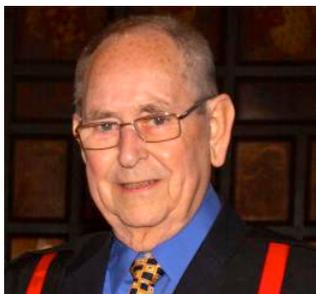
Beverly Renwick made history when she became one of the first women to be admitted as a city Freeman in February 2012– ending a 700-year-old men-only tradition.

Beverly served an apprenticeship as a stonemason with Durham University and for part of her training she was seconded to Durham Cathedral.

While most women will be sworn in through patrimony, Beverly qualified because she served her time as a crafts person and entered the Freedom through servitude.

Thomas Robert (Tony) Bulmer - Plumbers' Company

Died 24th December 2019



Tony was proud to follow a family tradition of four generations of Freemen when he was admitted in November 2018.

Tony was born in Durham City before moving to Framwellgate Moor where he attended the local school.

Although only a freeman for a short time his family legacy will continue through his daughter Sheila who will be admitted as a Freeman at Lammas Guild Day in 2020.

Arthur Stonebridge - Barbers' Company

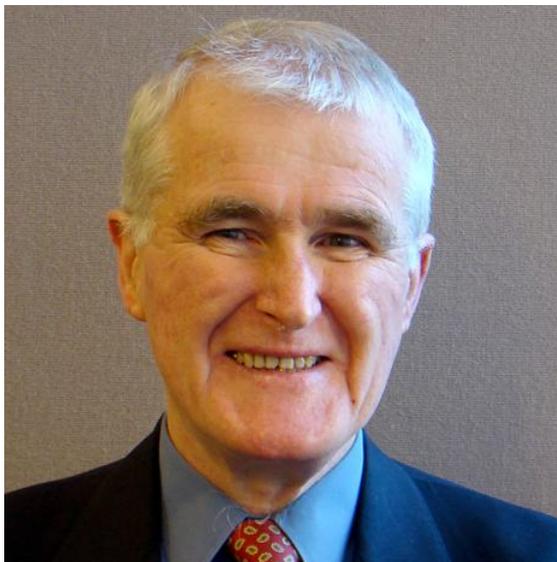
Died 17th February 2019

Arthur Stonebridge a Framwellgate Moor lad was an apprentice with Billy Fenwick who had a painting and decorating firm based in Crossgate. Arthur developed into a very skilled decorative craftsman , specialising in signwork and heraldry.

He went on to become an acknowledged expert in heraldry not only in Durham but extended his expertise beyond the county.

He will be remembered for his encyclopedic knowledge of the history of the county families of Durham.

Chair of the Trustees Report



Twelve months ago, I suggested 2018 had been an eventful year. It is probably fair to say 2019 has been challenging for trustees, as they have sought to fulfil their primary responsibility of safeguarding the Freemen's assets.

During 2018, as reported last year, Kier Developments had submitted a planning application for the construction of a new civic headquarters on the Sands, which aroused considerable public comment and led to over 1000 written objections. Though no longer the landowner, the Freemen have an historic interest in the Sands and retain certain rights of common and herbage.

A working group of trustees examined the application in detail, had discussions with the developers and County Council officers, and following careful consideration, Durham City Freemen formally objected to the proposal. In our judgement the application contravened several matters in National Policy Planning Guidance and a number of saved policies in the Durham City Local Plan.

The planning application was considered by Durham County Council's planning committee in March 2019 and on behalf of the Freemen I addressed that meeting. The application was approved subject to referral to the Secretary of State.

Subsequently, the Freeman requested, as did other organisations, that the Secretary of State should call in the application and place it with an independent inspector. This request was refused.

Later in the year, Durham Council made application to deregister an area of common land (the former coach park), adjacent to the new civic headquarters, now being constructed and provide replacement land east of the Rivergreen Centre. Following further consideration, it was agreed to oppose this deregistration. Discussions are ongoing with the City of Durham Parish Council, who are also objecting, having regard to the public interest as regards accessibility and distance of the proposed replacement land from the Sands. At the time of writing a decision is awaited from the Planning Inspectorate.

Trustees work closely with the Wardens supporting their operational and development work, and when appropriate acting as a critical friend.

In recent years the Freeman have become increasingly proactive in the community, establishing apprenticeships, involvement with civic occasions, promoting local history, providing grant aid to community organisations through our charitable arm and developing links with other Freeman bodies throughout England and Wales.

You will read of this work elsewhere in the yearbook, which is in addition to the Wardens key responsibilities for maintaining the register of Freeman and organising the admission of new Freeman and Freewomen in accordance with statutory provisions

Sustainability in essentially voluntary organisations is always a challenge. During the year trustees offered advice and support to the Wardens as they deliberated this important topic. At their request I chaired a consultation with Freeman and later, together with the vice chair and clerk and recorder, oversaw a ballot of admitted Freeman on the Warden's proposal.

Centuries old institutions remain of relevance through their ability to accommodate change while being respectful of tradition. As with our predecessors, that continues to be a focus for Trustees, Wardens and admitted Freeman

Patrick Conway

January 2020

Treasurers Report



Twelve months ago, I was reporting on a roller coaster year. Financially, this has continued through 2019, though not always as expected.

The debate over the relocation of the Durham County Headquarters has not abated, though it has broadened considerably. The need to hold liquid funds remained constant and we remain so for the foreseeable future.

Our investment portfolio has been impacted by market changes around the world as we maintain an actively managed and diverse book of investments. The let up in the US/China trade war was welcomed around the world, even though it is only provisional. Towards the end of the year there was clarity over Brexit with a working majority in government.

Our portfolio grew by 13.3% as growth funds replaced income bonds. As I write the expected income yield for 2020 is 2.52%, plus an expected sustained upward movement in growth across the board.

The Freemen will continue to support local charitable and skill-based initiatives through the charitable trust and all returns and reports to the Charity Commission are up to date.

Stewart Atkin

Charitable Trust Report

The Charitable Trust, the charitable giving arm of the Freeman, continues to support local organisations and communities.

The Trust currently comprises of the following Members:

- Eric Bulmer (Freeman) Chairman
- Stewart Atkin (Trustee) Treasurer
- Alan Ribchester (Freeman) Secretary
- John Booth (Freeman)
- Joe McElwee (Freeman) *resigned April 2019*

During 2019 the “Trust” provided support to the following organisations;

Durham Pointers



£600 was awarded to the Durham Pointers to enable them to replace the pink tabards worn by volunteers. The 'Trust' provided a grant for the original tabards about three years ago.

The new tabards as well as having the Freeman logo, will also display the words Durham City Freeman.

We are pleased to continue to support a committed group of 70 volunteers who provide an invaluable service to

the city, its community and visitors, especially as the heritage of the 'Freemen' is embedded in the history of Durham, a city of which we are all immensely proud.

Mayors Charity (£1000)

The Charitable Trust continues to support the Mayor's Charity. A cheque for £1000 was presented to the Mayor, Counsellor Katie Corrigan at the Annual Dinner. The Mayor's nominated charity is the Cheesy Waffles Project.



Durham Rotary Project - Marketplace Defibrillator



A cheque for £800 (half the cost) towards the cost of a defibrillator, was presented to Tom Sharples of Durham Elvet Rotary at the Annual Dinner .

The defibrillator, which has an outer covering that displays the Freeman's logo, will be situated in the Marketplace.

It is anticipated that the equipment will be in place by Easter 2020.

Remembrance Parade (£500)

Once again the Charitable Trust has granted £500 towards the mounting of the Remembrance Parade in the City. 8 Wardens and 8 Freeman represented our organisation as part of this year's civic procession.

A cheque was presented to Arthur Lockyear (representing the Advisory Group of the Durham City Remembrance Parade) at the Annual Dinner.



Age UK



A grant of £250 was awarded Age UK, to support the development of a new Community Shed initiative in Belmont. It provides a local hub for people of all ages to take part in practical activities, including furniture upcycling, craft and woodcraft.

Hawthorn House



Hawthorn House provides respite care for people over the age of 16 with complex health needs and behavioural problems, which is a vital support for their families who care for them at home.

The Charitable Trust granted £250 to the 'Amenity Fund' of a group of volunteers, that will enable them to purchase accessories including pictures posters etc to create an environment that is both stimulating and relaxing.

During our visit when we presented the cheque, we were impressed by the dedication of the staff, in creating a wonderful friendly environment for some of the most vulnerable members of our community

St Margaret's Centre

The centre supports attendees recovering from mental illness. The numbers attending at St Margaret's Centre, a former school in the city's Margery Lane, has more than doubled in the past three years. As a result of increasing demand for their services, managers want to install a computerised database at a cost of £2500.

The Charitable Trust granted £500 towards the purchase cost of the equipment.

The 'Trust' are aware that the quality of the therapy delivered by staff and volunteers is outstanding and had no hesitation in offering our continuing support.



Solan Connor Fawcett Family Trust (registered charity)



The charity was set up by Mark Solan following the death of his mother. As a result of the impact on his family he decided to set up the charity in 2015 to support local families, where a bereavement from cancer has occurred.

The charity supports families in a variety of ways including financial support through assisting with household bills etc.

The 'Trust' are pleased to support this amazing charity, developed and driven by the tremendous enthusiasm of Mark and his volunteers. It is firmly based in the community, reaching out and supporting individuals and their families at a most difficult time in their lives. The Charitable Trust awarded a grant of £250.

Sponsored University Apprentice

I am pleased to confirm that Steven Hay, the University apprentice that the Freemen have sponsored for the past three years, He he has now completed his apprenticeship and attained an NVQ level 3 in Bench Joinery.

Steven is part of a specialist team that maintains the heritage buildings under the auspices of the University, these include the Castle and buildings on the peninsular.

We congratulate Steven on his success and hope to see him join the ranks of the Freemen in the near future.



Freemen Website

The Durham City Freemen website, is a key asset in recording and celebrating the activities of the Freemen. It provides timely information posted virtually as it happens and has proven to be the most cost effective way of communicating information to the public at large and our membership, no matter where they live in the world. Serving to raise the profile of the Freemen on a daily basis.

Given the importance of this asset, we will continue to develop the resource into the future, ensuring the site is easy to manage, secure and future proof.

Images displayed on the website are courtesy of Geoff Kitson the official Durham City Freemen Photographer.

These are small compressed images suitable for viewing on web pages. If you require larger images suitable for printing they can be obtained free of charge by contacting Geoff by email at: geoffkitson8@yahoo.co.uk

Accompanying Geoff's photography, we are extremely fortunate to have the services of George Oliver, a former trustee and now a Gentleman Freeman, who provides the copy for all our news articles, not only posted on the website, but often published in the local press.

Their combined efforts continue to raise a positive profile for our organisation.

If you have any interesting facts or information regarding the Durham City Freemen you would like to share please contact John Booth the website manager at boothjohn@gmail.com who will be happy to publish articles on the website.



www.durhamcityfreemen.org

Annual Dinner



In spite of a late change venue, due to Town Hall being unavailable, the Freeman held very successful Annual Dinner in the Masonic Hall, Old Elvet.

Our guest speaker on this occasion was Sally Dixon of Beamish Museum, who delivered a very enjoyable talk on the development of the museum and also its plans for the future. She also gave us some very amusing anecdotes of behind-the-scenes activities.



86 people attended the event, including the Mayor Katie Corrigan and her consort Bill Moir. We were also delighted to have Sarah Giles the Master of the York Guild of Freeman who was able to join us on the evening.



Calendar of Involvement

Freemen of England and Wales (FEW) - Court (Saturday 16 March)

Durham City Freemen organized and hosted, in conjunction with Rob King, Manager of the Town Hall, the Court Meeting of the FEW.

The annual 'Court' provided an excellent opportunity for members of other guilds from around the country to visit the city and also explore the Town Hall and in particular the Guildhall, its history and association with the Freemen.

The Worshipful Company of Educators of London (Friday 22 March)

As part of the Educator's weekend visit to Durham City, the Freemen were invited to attend a dinner at the County Hotel, where our Chairman of the Wardens gave talk about the history, heritage and work of the Durham City Freemen, emphasizing the role of craftsmanship in the development of the individual and the city.

The Mayors Civic Dinner - Town Hall (Friday 5 April)

A number of Wardens and two Lady Freemen attended the Mayor's Annual Dinner in support of the Mayors Charity (Royal British Legion)

The chairman of the Wardens was once again invited to propose a toast to the City of Durham.

Durham Rotary Talk, Bowburn Hall (Thursday 30 April)

The Chairman of the Wardens gave lunch-time talk highlighting the history, heritage and current role of the Freemen, to 30 members of the Rotary.

The Rifles in Durham. (Saturday 15 June)

On Saturday 15th June, the Chairman represented the Freemen at a reception in the Castle followed by a display of the Band and the Bugles of the Army Cadet Force on the Palace Green.

The salute on this occasion was taken by the Lord-Lieutenant of the County, Sue Snowden.

Helena Rosa Duncombe Shafto, OBE 1854 – 1938 (Friday 21 June)

Durham City Freemen were invited by the Friends of the DLI on Friday 21 June, to celebrate the Centenary of Mrs Shafto being awarded, Honorary Freewoman of Durham in 1919.

This recognition by the City of Durham was in appreciation of her devoted labours on behalf of the Durham Light Infantry prisoners of war.

Children from St Margaret's Primary School joined the celebrations in the Town Hall on 21st June 2019 with an educational workshop with the DLI Education Officer and representatives of the DLI.

Presentations by the pupils were made to Mrs Sue Snowdon, the Lord Lieutenant of the County, representatives from the DLI and the Chairman of the Wardens and the Warden of the Drapers Company from the Freemen.

Remembrance Parade – Fund Raising Dinner (Saturday 28 September)

Chairman of the Wardens represented the Freemen at a dinner held in the Masonic Hall to raise funds for the annual Remembrance Parade.

Annual Dinner (Saturday 19 October)

The Freemen held a very successful Annual Dinner in the Masonic Hall, Old Elvet.

Presentation to Pointers Childrens quiz winner (Monday 28 October)

Chairman of the Wardens presented a prize to the winner of the children's quiz, organised by the Durham Pointers in the Guildhall.

Remembrance Festival Service (Saturday 9 November)

Chairman of the Wardens and the Warden of the Drapers Company as guests of the Friends of the DLI, represented the Freemen at the Remembrance Festival Service in the Cathedral.

Remembrance Parade (Sunday 10 November)

7 Wardens and 8 Freemen represented the Freemen at the annual Remembrance Service in the Cathedral and afterwards formed part of the civic procession returning to the Town Hall.

Worshipful Company of Educators, City Celebration Dinner (Wed 27 Nov)

The Chairman of the Wardens was invited to represent the 'Freemen' at the annual dinner of the 'Educators', celebrating the granting of their Royal Charter in 2016.

The event was held in the Painter's Hall in London.

Moving Forward



Leaving 2019 and all its difficulties behind, I believe we can now look forward to the inevitable challenges that lie ahead, but can do so the sense of purpose, optimism and renewed energy.

I say this with a level of confidence that springs from the introduction of Deputy Wardens and a strengthening of the management team.

Once we have in place a new structure, we will double the current management team. This will share the administrative workload, and release individuals to concentrate on the development of our organisation, allowing us to focus down on a number of key aims that include:

- Publicising the history and heritage of the Freeman and Guilds
- Raising the profile of the Freeman and the work of the Charitable Trust within the community.
- Continuing to engage with our membership.

We will begin to address these fundamental tenets of the Freeman, by finalising the project of the History Group with the publication of a 'Brief History' of our 8 remaining Companys/Guilds, which should be of great interest, not only to our members, but also to the community of Durham and its visitors.

With an expanded management team we will be able to devote more time to the development of our organisation and also accept more invitations to speak to local community groups and raise our profile.

This year is a particularly good year if you are in the Butchers' Company as it is the 500th anniversary of the granting of their charter and we cannot let the opportunity pass without celebrating it in some way. So no matter which Company of the Freeman you are a member of, please come forward and become involved in our organisation and ensure that we continue to thrive.

