



Durham City Freemen



Yearbook 2017

Contents

Front cover	Front Cover
Foreword	1
Message from the Mayor of Durham City	3
Diary Dates	4
Wardens and Trustees	5
New Warden of the Butchers' Company	6
New Warden of the Joiners' Company	7
New Members 2016	8
Current Membership	9
Applications for membership received during 2016	14
Membership Criteria	15
Obituaries	16
Chairman of the Trustees Report	18
Treasurers Report	20
Charitable Trust Report	21
Website Report	23
Community Activity	24
Calendar of Involvement	26
Freemen Social Activities	27
Moving Forward	31
Back Cover	Back Cover

Foreword

Eric Bulmer Chairman of Wardens



May I begin by wishing you a happy New Year.

As Chairman of the Wardens it gives me great pleasure to summarise the events and activities of 2016 and also describe the progress that we have made towards the aims that were set last year and reflect on the ongoing developments of our organisation.

2016 saw the establishment of a new corporate structure for the management team of the Freeman. The cornerstone of this initiative was the introduction of tenure of appointment for Wardens. Wardens are now elected for a term of three years. Tenure is only one element of a comprehensive document "A Guide for Wardens" that clearly defines their roles and duties. It also provides a description of their function as representatives of their respective companies and their role as part of the management structure of the Freeman. It is hoped that this initiative will encourage greater involvement of Freeman in their organisation and more members coming forward to become Wardens.

There have been a number of changes amongst the Wardens over the past year. I am sorry to report that John Stout, Warden of the Butchers' Company for many years died in February. Kathleen Vasey has since been appointed Warden of the Butchers' Company and combines the role with that of Secretary of the Freeman.

Following the announcement of Robert Brown's decision to stand down as Warden of the Joiners Company, Ann Thurlow was elected Warden and she follows a strong family tradition of service to the Freeman. We thank Robert for his contribution to the Freeman.

I am very pleased to welcome Kathleen and Ann as Wardens and their profiles are included later in the Yearbook.

Sadly 2016 also saw the death of James Magee, a former Warden of the Drapers' Company and Sydney Davidson a Freeman with the Cordwainers' Company. Obituaries of John Stout, James and Sydney can be found in the pages that follow.

We welcomed five new members during 2016 which brought the total membership to 248.

A further change occurred with the redesigning of our website in August. For those of you who have not yet visited the site, I can recommend it to you as it provides a wealth of information and historical data of the Freeman that clearly reflects the heritage and development of our organisation. Once again our thanks go to John Booth who manages the site on a day-to-day basis and Geoff Kitson the Freeman's official photographer who provides the images.

The Charitable Trust is the charitable giving arm of the Freeman, and continues to support local communities. During 2016 the Trust distributed £33,000 to 7 organisations, including a grant of £5,000 to St Margaret's Centre. Further information can be found in the "Trust's Report".

The Annual Dinner was a success which was due in no small part to our guest speaker Gary Bankhead, who has discovered and recovered thousands of artefacts from the bed of the River Wear, many of which were hundreds of years old.

Our thanks go to Iain Wilmshurst, Stuart Magee and Kathleen Vasey for their role in delivering what is always a high point in our calendar.

My thanks also go to Councillor Edward Bell who as Mayor not only officiated at our Lammas and Martinmas Guild Days, but was also our guest together with the Mayoress Jennifer at our Annual Dinner. His friendly and relaxed manner helped set the tone for all these events.

Reflecting on the connection of the Freeman with the Cathedral, the Freeman were represented at the inauguration of the Venerable Andrew Tremlett to become Dean of Durham Cathedral. Andrew succeeds the Very Reverend Michael Sadgrove who retired in 2015. We look forward to working with Andrew in his new role.

I am pleased to report that a History Group has been established. It will embark on two major projects that will provide a greater insight into the heritage of the Guilds and the life and work the Freeman of Durham City.

The History Group which comprises of both Freeman and members of the general public enjoyed an extremely interesting tour of Durham Castle in December which proved to be ideal way of launching this new venture.

The establishment of the History Group will also provide an opportunity to increase a social aspect to the Freeman.

Overall 2016 has seen an encouraging start to our main aim of achieving greater participation by Freeman by creating a structure and undertaking new projects, that provides opportunities for greater involvement.

As you can see there are a lot of things going on with the Freeman at present and I would encourage long standing and new Freeman to see what is happening and get involved in our activities in 2017.

Wishing you all the best for the New Year.

A Message from the Worshipful Mayor of Durham County Councillor Edward Bell



2016 was a challenging year for us and very busy indeed. A highlight was being able to welcome the Captain and Crew of HMS Bulwark to Durham City in July. Another standout moment was receiving the invitation to attend a reception in the Mansion House in London to commemorate the 350th Anniversary of the Great Fire of London. Back in the day, the people of the City donated £300 to the restoration fund; representatives from each donation area were invited to the reception.

However, just as important and enjoyable is having the opportunity to meet the many representatives from the organisations in the City. It has been a pleasure to get to know some of the members of the Guilds and attending the quarterly meetings is indeed an honour.

The Annual Dinner in October was a huge success and very enjoyable and your generous donation to our charity appeal (Veterans At Ease) was much appreciated.

It is pleasing to see the membership continuing to grow and long may that continue. May you all have a peaceful and happy 2017.

Councillor Edward and Councillor Mrs Jennifer Bell
The Right Worshipful Mayor of Durham and Mayoress

Diary Dates for 2017

Guild Days (Guild Hall) (Commencing at 11:00 am)

The meetings are always on a Monday and begin at 11.00 am Guild Days are presided over by the Worshipful Mayor of the City of Durham. All Freemen, their families and the general public are most welcome. Calls for new members and subsequent inauguration take place on Guild Days.

6th February 2017 (Candlemas)

8th May 2017 (May Day)

7th August 2017 (Lammas)

13th November 2017 (Martinmas)

Meetings of the Charitable Trust (Guild Hall) Mondays (Commencing at 1:00 pm)

The Charitable Trust meets as and when required to deal with the business in hand. As a rule they plan to meet four times per year.

16th January 2017

24th April 2017

18th September 2017

4th December 2017

Meetings of Wardens (Guild Hall) Tuesdays (Commencing at 6:00 pm)

Wardens generally meet together a few days in advance of their meetings with Trustees in order to discuss agenda items and other business.

24th January 2017

2nd May 2017

26th September 2017

28th November 2017

Members meetings (Guild Hall) Thursdays (Commencing at 6:00 pm)

Members meetings are for Freemen who want to have greater awareness of the organisation and play a more active part in its affairs.

19th January 2017

27th April 2017

21st September 2017

23rd November 2017

Meetings of Trustees and Wardens (Guild Hall) Fridays (Commencing 2:00 pm)

Trustees and Wardens meet four times a year.

20th January 2017

5th May 2017

29th September 2017

1st December 2017

Annual Dinner (Main Hall)

The Annual Dinner of the Freemen will be held in the Town Hall on 7th October 2017.

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 (Chairman)
Plumbers' Company (0191 378 0554)

Alan Dufton
Barbers' Company (07896 065 860)

Kathleen Vasey
Butchers' Company (0191 386 8000)

Joe McElwee
Cordwainers' Company (0191 373 4394)

Stuart Magee
Drapers' Company

Ann Thurlow
Joiners' Company (0191 377 9706)

Bob Elliott
Masons' Company (0191 383 0934)

Ian Wilmhurst
Curriers' Company
Email: iain.wilmhurst@durhamcathedral.co.uk

Trustees

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

Chairman:
N.T. Hart Esq. (0191 380 0840)

Clerk and Receiver:
P. Wills Esq. (01388 603 073)

Treasurer:
S. Atkin Esq. (0191 523 8918)

P. Bramwell Esq. (0191 386 8066)

P. Conway Esq. OBE (0191 386 8216)

P. Dyer Esq (0191 372 1650)

K. Howe Esq (0191 384 0589)

G. Oliver Esq. (0191 386 7471)

M. Proud Esq. (0191 386 7615)

A Ribchester Esq MBE (0191 386 4664)

Membership Secretary

Robert Elliott (0191 383 0934)
Email: robert.elliott934@btinternet.com

Communication Secretary

Kathleen Vasey (0191 386 8000)
Email: kathleenvasey@aol.com

New Warden of the Butchers' Company



Kathleen Vasey

Kathleen was sworn in to the Drapers Guild on 5th November 2012. She was born in Durham as part of a family of four. Two of her brothers became Freemen in the 1970s but at that time women could not access the Freedom in Durham. Kathleen has no further information about her family and their history with the Freemen and is looking forward to researching this part of her family history.

After leaving Whinney Hill School and New College Durham, Kathleen worked in both the private and public sector as a secretary and personal assistant. She was involved in setting up the first Nike UK Office in Durham and went on to work in their Apparel Division in the European Headquarters in Holland.

More recently she has been working for Durham University, managing the admissions entries at St Mary's College. Kathleen is looking forward to learning more about the history of the Freemen and exploring how she might develop a role which would help with the establishment of a more comprehensive membership data-base and enhanced communication with members.

Kathleen also serves as communication secretary for the Freemen.

New Warden of the Joiners' Company



Ann Thurlow

Ann is the daughter of the late James Ridley Brown and sister to the previous Warden Robert Ridley Brown. The Freemen have always figured in their family and can be traced back to as far as we know, to their great grandfather Wilfred Ridley Brown.

Ann is married with two grown up sons, who are also Freemen. She has three grandchildren who are all eligible to become Freemen when they are old enough to do so. Ann was born in Sedgefield in Hardwick Hall in 1962, when it was a hospital.

She attended Coxhoe Infant and Juniors School and then Cornforth Lane Secondary Modern School, which has been demolished and where houses now stand.

After leaving school Ann did various jobs while raising her sons and when they were old enough she started working as a bus driver and spent the next 15 years driving around our beautiful city.

Ann retired early in 2014 to become a full time carer for her husband Richard, who is disabled and recently diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

Ann feels honoured to become a Warden and hopes she can fulfill the role to the best of her ability.

New Members 2016

Candlemas Guild Day 8th February 2016



Eric Bulmer, Barbara Kingston, Jan Blakey (Mayor)

Lammas Guild Day 8th August 2016



Stuart Magee, Leah Freeland, Eric Bulmer, Edward Bell (Mayor), Dr Peter Minto, Joe McElwee

A former police detective and a law professor are the newest members of the Durham City Freemen. Leah Freeland and Dr Peter Minto were sworn in as Freeman at a Guild Hall ceremony in the Town Hall.

A miner's son, who established himself as one of Britain's leading legal academics, was one of two newcomers sworn in at a Guild Hall ceremony in the Town Hall.

Martinmas Guild Day 14th November 2016



Bob Elliott, Matthew Elliott, Edward Bell (Mayor), Malcolm Pearson, Eric Bulmer

Two academics at opposite ends of their working lives were sworn in as Freeman at the Martinmas Guild Day in Durham's Town Hall.

Retired teacher Malcolm Pearson, aged 64, reinforced his family's long standing links to the Plumbers' Company, while Durham University quantum physics graduate Matt Elliott cemented his ancestral ties with the Masons' Company.

Current Membership at January 2017

COMPANY	IN-DISTRICT	EX-DISTRICT	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
Barbers	8	22	24	6	30
Butchers	9	7	15	1	16
Cordwainers	9	9	16	2	18
Curriers	11	18	22	7	29
Drapers	16	42	36	22	58
Joiners	24	13	29	8	37
Masons	15	15	24	6	30
Plumbers	16	14	19	11	30
TOTAL	108	140	185	63	248

Barbers Company

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

Cordwainers Company

Davidson		P.I.	Mr	Lumley	David Martin	D.M.	Mr
Davidson	Richard Peter	R.P.	Mr	McElwee	John Denby	J.D.	Mr
Firmin	Carl Granville	C.G.	Mr	McElwee	Joe	J.D.	Mr
Greenwell DL CBE	Arthur Jeffrey	A.J.	Mr	Minto	Peter Dr.	P.	Dr
Heron	Mark Annesley	M.H.	Mr	McElwee	Dorris	D.	Mrs
Heron	David	D.	Canon	Norris	Roger	R.	Mr
Heron	Peter	P.	Mr	Shotton	Barry	B.	Mr
Hope	Andrew	A.	Mr	Wright	Rebecca Hanah	R.H.	Miss
Joicey	Barry	B.	Mr	Wright	Stuart	S.	Mr

Curriers Company

Charney	John	J.	Mr	Kitson	Leighton	L.	Mr
Charney	Barbara	B.	Ms	Luther	Richard	R.	Mr
Clark	William Henry	W.H.	Mr	Luther	Kate	K.	Ms
Crawford	Ron	R.	Mr	McMinn	Michael	M.	Mr
Crawford	Karen	K.	Ms	Marsden	James Robert	J.R.	Mr
Crawford	Charlotte	C.	Ms	Marsden	James Harris	J.H.	Mr
Graham	Neil William	N.W.	Mr	Marsden	Nicola Hazel	N.H.	Miss
Hall	Adrian Matthew Edward	A.M.E.	Mr	McDonough	Adam	A.	Mr
Hall	Charles Jonathon Peter	C.J.P.	Mr	Provett	Laura	L.	Ms
Hall	Oliver Timothy Luke	O.T.L.	Mr	Provett	James	J.	Mr
Heslop	Kris	K.	Mr	Ridley	Stuart George	S.G.	Mr
Howarth	Michael David	M.D.	Mr	Torben Lee	Archibald Charles	A.C.	Mr
Jones	Derek Newton	D.N.	Mr				
Heslop	Sandra	S.	Ms	Wilmshurst	Iain Stuart	I.S.	Mr
Heslop	John	J.	Mr	Wilson	Michael Colin	M.C.	Mr

Masons Company

Atkinson	John	J.	Mr	Elliott	Graeme	G.	Mr
Browell	Duncan James	D.J.	Mr	Elliott	Andrew James	A.J.	Mr
Browell	Martin Elliott	M.E.	Mr	Elliott	Matthew James	M.J.	Mr
Clark	James	J.	Mr	Granlund	Alan Campbell	A.C.	Mr
Clark	Cyril Douglas	C.D.	Mr	Hotchkiss	Connie	C.	Mrs
Clark	Peter	P	Mr	Jones	John Richard	J.R.	Mr
Cooper	George Richard	G.R.	Mr	Mallen	Ann	A.	Mrs
Dent	Norman	N.	Mr	Nicholson	Paul Douglas	P.D.	Sir
Dent	Royston Norman	R.N.	Mr	Renwick	Beverley	B.	Ms
Elliott	John	J.	Mr	Tindale	Peter	P.	Mr
Elliott	Robert Ainsley	R.A.	Mr	Tindale	Peter John Henry	P.J.H.	Mr
Elliott	Michael	M.	Mr	Vickers	Beverley	B.	Ms
Elliott	Robert Lennox	R.L.	Mr	Wesencraft	John	J	Mr
Elliott	Peter Stanley	P.S.	Mr	Wesencraft	Amy	A.	Ms
Elliott	Elizabeth Grace	E.G.	Miss	Young	Gordon Frank	G.F.	Mr

Joiners Company

Brown	Mark Andrew Charles	M.A.C.	Mr	Fenwick	Alexander Luke	A.L.	Mr
Brown	Jonathan James Edward	J.J.E.	Mr	Ford	Alan	A.E.	Mr
Brown	Darren Ridley	D.R.	Mr	Ford	Reegan	R.J.	Mr
Brown	Robert Ridley	R.R.	Mr	Ford	Stuart	S.W.	Mr
Brown	Adam Ridley	A.R.	Mr	Ford	William	W.E.	Mr
Brown	Dean Ridley	D.R.	Mr	Ford	Theresa Anne	T.A.	Mrs
Brown	Rita	R.	Mrs	Gilroy	Peter Andrew	P.A.	Mr
Bryden	Irene May	I.M.	Ms	Gilroy	Clifford Richard	C.R.	Mr
Bryden	Robert Arthur	R.A.	Mr	Hesp	Eric	E.	Mr
Clarkson	Robert	R.	Mr	Jopling	Trevor	T.	Mr
Clarkson	Christopher Paul	C.P.	Mr	Morris	Edward James Bowring	E.J.B.	Mr
Clarkson	Ronald	R.	Mr	Morris OBE	Roger John Bowring	R.J.B	Dr
Clarkson	Steven	S.	Mr	Neale	David Charles	D.C.	Mr
Clarkson	Andrew Robert	A.R.	Mr	Neale	Michael Paul	M.P.	Mr
Dawson	Peter Robert	P.R.	Mr	Neale	Steven Thomas Edwin	S.T.E.	Mr
Donkin	Joan Elizabeth	J.	Rev	Swan	Lynne	L.	Ms
Fenwick	Christopher	C.	Mr	Thurlow	Ann	A.	Ms
Fenwick	Amalia Jane	A.J.	Ms	Wigham	Claire	C.	Ms

Drapers Company

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

Butchers Company

Atkinson	Neil Wesenraft	N.W.	Mr	Forster	Jonathan Paul	J.P.	Mr
Bancroft	David George	D.G.	Mr	Giddings	Saul	S.	Mr
Chapman	Michael Andrew	M.A.	Mr	Howard	David Richard	D.R.	Mr
Chapman	Robin	R.	Mr	Laws	Steven	S.	Mr
Dodds	Kevin Barry	K.B.	Mr	Milbourne	Malcolm	M.	Mr
Forster	Guy	G.	Mr	Patterson	Thomas William	T.W.	Mr
Forster	Stephen James	S.J.	Mr	Pickering	George Robert	G.R.	Mr
Forster	Heather	H.	Ms	Vasey	Kathleen	K.	Ms

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	McDonough	Alison	A.	Ms
Bulmer	Sean	S.	Mr	Pearson	Anne	A.	Mrs
Bulmer	Eric	E.	Mr	Pearson	Malcolm Neil	M.N.	Mr
Cain	Elizabeth Ann	E.A.	Mrs	Robson	Harry	H.	Mr
Cunliffe	Lisa	L.	Mrs	Todd	David William	D.W.	Mr
Davis	Margaret Ruth	M.R.	Mrs	Watson	Haydon	H.	Mr
Dunhill	Garry	G.	Mr	Wiley	Brian Fawcett	B.F.	Mr
Dunhill	Keith	K.	Mr	Wortley	Katherine	K.	Ms
Gent	Helen	H.B.	Mrs	Wortley	Melvin	M.	Mr

Applications for membership received during 2016

Membership Received During 2016

At the Candlemas Guild Day a Third Call was made without objection for the following and she was therefore granted the Freedom

Hilda Barbara Kingston Company of Drapers

Following First and Second Calls in 2015 and a Third Call being made without objection at the Lammas Guild Day the following was granted the Freedom

Leah Felicity Freeland Company of Drapers

At the Candlemas, May Day and Lammas Guild Days First, Second and Third Calls were made without objection and the following was therefore granted the Freedom

Dr Peter Minto Company of Cordwainers

At the May Day, Lammas and Martinmas Guild Days First, Second and Third Calls were made without objection for the following and they were therefore granted the Freedom

Matthew James Elliott Company of Masons

Malcolm Neil Pearson Company of Plumbers

At the Candlemas and May Day Guild Days, First and Second Calls were made without objection for

Jack Denby MacElwee Company of Cordwainers

Davy John McElwee Company of Cordwainers

At the May Day and Lammas Guild Days, First and Second Calls were made without objection for

Audrey Frankland Pearson Company of Plumbers

At the Lammas and Martinmas Guild Days, First and Second Calls were made without objection for

Fiona Louise Wilmshurst Company of Curriers

Holly Alison Olivia Wilmshurst Company of Curriers

Rebekah Anne Wilmshurst Company of Curriers

Third and Final Calls will be made at the Candlemas Guild Day on 6th February 2017 for Jack McElwee, Davy McElwee, Audrey Pearson, Fiona Wilmshurst, Holly Wilmshurst and Rebekah Wilmshurst. Subject there being no objection raised they will then be granted the Freedom.

At the Martinmas Guild Day First Call was made without objection for

Jack Andrew Elliott Company of Masons

Second and Third Calls will be made at the Candlemas and May Day Guild Days. Subject to there being no objection raised he will be granted the Freedom.

Applications have also been received from the following for whom First Calls have been arranged for the Candlemas Guild Day in 2017

Kim Mallaney Company of Drapers

Anthony Pritchard Company of Joiners

Norman Cyril Johnston Company of Masons

Michael Bulmer Company of Plumbers

Second and Third Calls will be arranged for the May Day and Lammas Guild Days. Subject to no objections raised they will then be granted the Freedom.

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 to be admitted to the Freemen of the City of Durham.

The qualifications for eligibility for Freedom of the City of Durham are:

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.

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.

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 the 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.

The 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.

Applicants for the Freedom should make initial contact with the Membership Secretary.



Mr Bob Elliott

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Durham
DH1 1QQ

Tel: 0191 383 0934

Email: robert.elliott934@btinternet.com

Obituaries

John Reginald Stout

(Butchers' Company)

A long serving Freeman, whose family links to the city's trade guilds stretch back more than 300 years, died in hospital on February 26th after a long illness.

Retired police sergeant John Reginald Stout, known to his friends as Reg, was admitted into the Butchers' Company in February 1964 and at the time of his death had been Warden for more than 30 years.

He joined Durham Constabulary as a cadet clerk in the autumn of 1949, a post he held for nearly two years. He became a police constable in 1952 and went on to serve in Stockton, Fencehouses, Houghton-le-Spring, traffic patrols and control room.

He returned to traffic in 1967 and was promoted sergeant a year later, carrying out various roles within that department until 1975 when he joined the motor school as an instructor. He retired in 1981 but continued as a member of the force's choir which he had joined when he was a cadet.

Alan Dufton, Warden of the Barbers' Company and a family friend, said: "Reg was a man who was proud to call himself a Freeman, a fact underlined by his long service as a Warden and his family's historic connections to the city's butchering trade."

Eighty-three-year-old John lived in Belmont with his wife Margaret. The couple's daughter Heather, who lives in Chester-le-Street was sworn in as Freeman three years ago – on the same day as her son Jonathon who was 19 at that time. Heather's husband Guy was already a member of the Butchers' Company.



Sydney Davidson

(Cordwainers Company)

11th September 1927 - 13th August 2016

Sid was admitted to the Cordwainers Company of the Durham City Freemen in May 1992 and regularly attended Guild Days. He was extremely proud of his association with the Freemen and the City of Durham

Sidney (Sid) was born in a family pub in Québec County Durham and kept the tradition going by enjoying a pint ever since. Most people would recognise Sid from spending the best part of his working life at Greenwell's shop in Silver Street, where he worked his way up from starting as a school leaver in the warehouse to eventually becoming a director.

Sid was a keen footballer and cricketer, playing locally for Québec and Tow Law and at one point got the chance to play for Everton. He was also a keen walker and rambler.

Sid is survived by Vera whom he married in 1958 and sons Ian and Peter.



James Fawcett Magee
(Draper's Company)
4th July 1926 - 22nd November 2016

James (Jimmy) was born and lived his whole life in Durham City.

He was called up for army service in 1945 and did his training with the Durham Light Infantry at Brancepeth, before being posted to India, where he attained the rank of Sergeant.

He worked at the Post Office in Durham, starting as a telegram boy before becoming a postman. He was a well known and popular individual and made many friends over the years due to his association with the City and during his service with the Post Office. In later years, he transferred to the clerical and administrative side of the organisation, eventually becoming a Postal Executive Officer.

James was a very practical man, who enjoyed DIY. He loved his garden and was also a lover of music especially Jazz. He also had a fondness for Saab cars.

He was admitted as a Freeman in 1947 and was a member of the Drapers' Company, of which he became Warden in later years.

James was married to Evelyn in 1953. He is survived by a daughter, Judith and twin sons, Andrew Fawcett and Stuart John and grandchildren Jill & Jennifer.

Chairman of the Trustees Report



*Norman Hart
Image courtesy of Tom Banks*

It is almost incredible that a year has passed since my last report when we bade farewell to Roger Norris as Chair of the Trustees and John Heslop as Chair of the Wardens. What an excellent job they both did!

I can say, for sure, that Eric and his team have done a first class job replacing John - not quite so sure about my replacing Roger although with the able assistance of a very strong set of Trustees I believe we have been able to cope.

My task is now to tell you a little about what the Wardens have done over the past year. Whilst most of my report will deal with Charitable donations, occasionally the Freemen are involved in practical things to benefit the Community. One such practical thing was our attempt to stop what conservationists have described as “Salmon and Trout fishing on an illegal and industrial scale”. This was being done on that part of the Wear which abuts the Sands and, I believe, that in cooperation with the Police, the County Council, the Environmental Agency and the Wear Angling Clubs, this illegal activity has for the most part been halted.

Turning to charitable donations, the Freemen have given many and indeed I saw one list of 18 donations in one year. However I will just mention one or two:-

The Wood Pile which operates from a warehouse on Renny’s Lane which provides a vital life line to dozens of disabled and disadvantaged adults, the purpose of which is to get them back into gainful employment. What this Charity does is to train these people to transfer waste wood into attractive furniture.

The Lion Mouth Rural Centre near Esh Winning, which also offers support and training to local people suffering or recovering from mild to moderate mental or social difficulties. Basically this a Centre offering sessions in wood work, horticulture and various other things including the ancient art of bodging. This was a new word for me but bodgers were craftsmen who operated in forest workshops transferring green unseasoned wood into chair legs and other furniture parts.

The Freemen have also given a donation to the Durham Musical Theatre Company, which I believe was very gratefully received and was used for programmes, posters and publicity materials.

The Freeman have also supported the Durham Pointers. The Pointers are a 60 strong group who provide information and direction to visitors to Durham. In fact last year they received a Queen's Award for Voluntary Services.

One thing which particularly interested myself was the Sponsorship of a University joinery apprentice by the Freeman.

The Freeman have also been involved in the formation of a local History Group which will mount a project supported by the University of Durham that will research artefacts discovered on the bed of the River Wear by Gary Bankhead who spoke at this years dinner.

Almost finally I would mention our website which has been further professionally designed and I would invite anyone who has not done so to visit it.

In fact, all in all, I believe I can report on a very successful year, with the number of Freeman increasing and the proportion of women Freeman also increasing.

I am pleased to report that the Trustees have also been increased by 2, namely Phil Dyer and Ken Howe. Both are retired Solicitors and I'm sure they will bring a great deal of practical knowledge to the table.

Possibly the only and continuing cloud on the horizon is our frustration with Durham CC in trying to settle the rent revue due from the Council amongst other problems. However with assistance and prompting of one of our Trustees Counsellor Patrick Conway, we have had a productive meeting with senior officers at County Hall and I hope that this problem will be resolved in the not too distant future

Treasurers Report



Stewart Atkin

The decision of the Bank of England to reduce interest rates still further following the Referendum has had little impact on the Freeman's income but our portfolio enjoyed a small upsurge in value in a number of stocks. This then drifted away due to uncertainty over how the Referendum decision would be implemented; only to be followed by a small boost in oils shares in December.

Whilst all of this may appear to be akin to a roller coaster ride, the swings are very small due to the spread of investments we hold. All in all the market value of the portfolio changed by about 2% over 12 months whilst income averaged 4.68%. This modest but most welcome return reflects the cautious nature of our investments.

The charity trustees have distributed £33,550 to worthy causes and projects in and around the city in 2016. They are happy to receive recommendations for consideration and can be contacted via the website www.durhamcityfreemen.org

Charitable Trust Report

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

The Trust comprises of the following members:

Eric Bulmer (Freeman) Chairman
John Heslop (Freeman)
Joe McElwee (Freeman)
Stewart Atkin (Trustee)
Alan Ribchester (Trustee)

During 2016 the “Trust” provided support to the following organisations;

The Wood Pile (£8,000)

An eco-community project that recycles discarded wood, donated and collected from local authorities, industry and builders etc together with hundreds of items of furniture dumped by their owners, then refurbished and resold to the public.

Their aim is to support people who are mentally or physically disabled or disadvantaged and help them get back into or towards jobs.

Durham City Pointers (£4,100)

A dedicated group of volunteers who operate from the Market Place and provide information to visitors to the City of Durham.

Durham Theatre Group (£1,000)

Providing support to print programmes for our locally based theatre group’s next production.

Lionmouth Rural Centre (£7,000)

A Community Interest Company set up in 2012 to assist local people suffering or recovering from mild to moderate mental, social or learning difficulties.

The Centre is based near Esh Winning and provides meaningful activities in the fields of horticulture, art, pottery, woodwork, conservation and cookery. Part of the funding will provide opportunities to develop aspects of the 7 acres site that forms the Centre.

County Durham Stroke Centre (£1,000)

The money, donated to the County Durham Stroke Club, will cover the year-long costs of a vital transport link for handicapped clients who would otherwise be stranded at home.

The club, founded in 2011, currently has more than three dozen members who meet twice monthly on Tuesday afternoons at Framwellgate Moor’s Bede Lodge Social.

St Margaret's Centre (£5,000)

For more than 20 years the ecumenically-backed centre, now based on the site of a former school in Margery Lane, has provided support to many hundreds of attendees recovering from mental illnesses.

Staff and volunteers currently work with more than 60 individuals, providing support to reduce the stigma sometimes associated with mental illness and paving the way for their recovery and, in certain cases, their return to work or further training. The Centre's activities include woodwork, craft, kitchen and cooking opportunities, as well as gardening experience and office skills.

A recent major addition to the joinery workshop has been the introduction of a high-tech computerised cutting machine (CNC) which can produce top-quality, high definition work across a range of items. The Freeman's support to the St Margaret's Centre, will enable workshops to step up production of a range of arts and craft items for sale to the general public.

Durham University Apprentice (£7,500)

Steven Hay with support from the Freeman has secured an apprenticeship and has joined a dedicated woodworking team at Durham University, which owns the Castle and is tasked with the upkeep of all the timber within the mediaeval fortification.

The joinery team which is highly skilled will also be responsible for maintaining other heritage buildings on the Palace Green and the peninsular.

The Freeman are pleased to make a contribution that ensures this World Heritage site is maintained for the benefit of the people of Durham who are extremely proud of their city.

The Charitable Trust is always happy to consider suggestions from its fellow Freeman and applications for support from local organisations.

Website Report

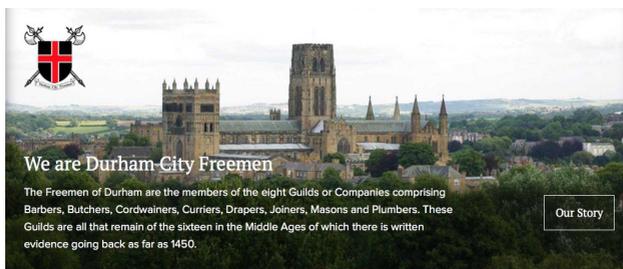
Over the past year the Freeman website has proven to be the primary means of communication for the organisation, enabling information regarding all aspects of the Freeman to be displayed on a timely basis.

Given the importance of this asset, we had to consider how we could develop the resource into the future, ensuring the site was well designed, easy to manage, robust, secure and future proof.

To this end we sought the technical expertise of Edward Robertson Web Design who delivered the new website to specification and on time.

Built on a new bespoke content management system it offers the Freeman complete flexibility to upload and edit information without the constraint of installing updates and site security, allowing us to concentrate on content alone.

The site is very easy to navigate through its user friendly interface, offering a wealth of information for members throughout the world.



Latest News [View all](#)



Apprentice Lands "Dream Job" in Durham's World Famous Castle
19 December 2016
Apprentice Steven Hay is carving out a new career

Next Event
16 January 2017

Upcoming Events

- > 16 January 2017: Charitable Trust Meeting
- > 19 January 2017: Members Meeting
- > 20 January 2017: Warden's and Trustees Meeting
- > 24 January 2017: Warden's Meeting

[Meetings](#)

Meetings [View all](#)

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

www.durhamcityfreemen.org

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

Durham City Freeman Photographer

Images displayed on the website are courtesy of Geoff Kitson the official Durham City Freeman Photographer. These are small compressed images suitable for viewing on web pages. If you require larger images suitable for printing they can be obtained by contacting Geoff by email at geoffkitson8@yahoo.co.uk

Community Activity

St Margaret's Centre



*Eric Bulmer, Rob Chetwin (Centre Manager),
Joe McElwee*

A recent major addition to the joinery workshop at the Centre has been the introduction of a high-tech computerised cutting machine (CNC) which can produce top-quality, high definition work across a range of items.

The machine cuts pre-designed shapes from wood, metal, foam, plastic, soft alloy and Perspex – some as small as an inch and others up to a metre square. It can even be used for engraving on jewellery or switch to making a range of children's furniture in pine or soft alloys.

The Freeman's £5,000 gift to the St Margaret's Centre, will fund the development of cutting edge technology and enable workshops to step up production of a range of arts and craft items for sale to the general public.

The Freeman's donation will contribute towards the recruitment of a product designer who will extend the range and production of saleable items to generate increased income.

Durham City Pointers



Durham City Pointers with the Chairman of the Wardens

A dedicated group of volunteers, who point the way for tens of thousands of tourists who visit Durham each summer, have themselves been given a helping hand by the City's Freeman.

The work of the Durham Pointers, a sixty-strong group who provide directions and information to visitors, last year earned them a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. But now they will be even better equipped to meet the demands on their time - thanks to a donation of more than £4,000 from the freemen.

The cash injection has funded new designs for their familiar pink tabards and a supply of rain wear; 30,000 information leaflets highlighting city centre attractions; a pamphlet on the centuries-old Market Place, including background on the near 700-year history of the Freeman; an activity leaflet aimed at young people; and training as well as additional facilities to welcome foreign visitors.

County Durham Stroke Club



Members of the Stroke Club

Stroke victims are being kept on the road to recovery with a £1,000 gift from the City of Durham Freemen. The money, donated to the County Durham Stroke Club, will cover the year-long costs of a vital transport link for handicapped clients who would otherwise be stranded at home.

The club, founded in 2011, currently has more than three dozen members who meet twice monthly on Tuesday afternoons at Framwellgate Moor's Bede Lodge Social.

While many of their clients have the benefit of support to get them to meetings, others have access to neither private nor public transport. The help of their three volunteer drivers is critical for a quarter of the club members who would otherwise be left housebound.

Calendar of involvement during 2016

24th February

Initial meeting between the Chairman of the Wardens and Gary Bankhead to discuss Freeman/Durham University history project.

17th March

Visit to the Lionmouth Project by Chairman of the Wardens and the Warden of the Cordwainers Company.

19th March

Chairman of the Wardens represented the Freeman at the St Cuthbert's Day service in the Cathedral.

5th April

Chairman of the Wardens met with Kay Smith from Durham County Council regarding the Freeman involvement in the Town Hall project.

20th April

A group of new and recently admitted Freeman have a guided tour of the Cathedral.

23rd April

A second group of new and recently admitted Freeman have a guided tour of the Cathedral.

29th April

The Chairman of the Wardens and Warden of the Cordwainers' Company together with two women members represented the Freeman at the Civic Dinner in the Town Hall.

17th July

Chairman of the Warden's represented the Freeman at the inauguration of the new Dean of Durham the Venerable Andrew Tremlett.

17th September

Chairman of the Wardens, Wardens of the Butchers', Cordwainers' and Masons' Companies together with a Lady Freeman, represented the Durham City Freeman at the AGM of the Freeman of England and Wales which was held in York.

28th September

Chairman of the Wardens represented the Freeman at the 25th anniversary of the St Margaret's Centre.

14th December

Guided tour of Durham Castle by 20 members of the recently established Freeman History Group.

21st December

The Warden of the Butchers' Company representing the Freeman, presented prizes to 2 children, winners of the Durham City Pointers, Children Marketplace Quiz.

Freemen Social Activities

Annual Dinner 2016

The Annual Dinner of the Durham City Freemen was held in the Town Hall on Saturday 15th of October 2016 where 72 Freemen, friends and guests enjoyed an evening in the wonderful setting of the Main Hall. The Mayor and Mayoress of Durham, Councillors Edward and Jennifer Bell were in attendance, together with Sir Paul and Lady Sarah Nicholson.

After the meal a Toast to the health of the guests was proposed by Norman Hart, the Chairman of the Trustees

The guest speaker was Gary Bankhead who gave an extremely interesting talk on the discovery and recovery of artefacts from the bed of the river River Wear. Gary who has been diving in the river with the support and corporation of both the Dean and Chapter and the University of Durham for the past seven years has recovered over 4000 objects many of which are hundreds of years old.

The dinner also supported by members of Guilds from Berwick, Newcastle, Coventry and York as well as the Durham City Freemen, their guests and friends from within the city and beyond.

The Mayor was then presented with a cheque for £1,000.00 as a donation to his Charity Appeal which this year is "Veterans at Ease". The Mayor proposed a toast to the City of Durham.

Next years dinner is planned for Saturday, 7th October 2017.



Edward Bell - Mayor and Jennifer Bell Mayoress



Angela and Garry Bankhead



Kay Faulkner, Alan and Mary Dufton



Joe McElwee, Marion Elliott, Doris McElwee, Kathleen Vasey, and Bob Elliott

Members Visits to Durham Cathedral

Cathedral Tours for new and recently admitted members were organised in April as a way of introduction to the Freemen and also to inform them of an initiative to establish a History Group as a vehicle to engage with the membership.

The 2 groups were led by Iain Wilmshurst (Warden of the Currier's Company) who is also Works Manager for the Cathedral. The groups visited parts of the Cathedral that are not open to the general public and included, the Chapter House, Prison and Maintenance Craft Workshops. The highlight of the tour was a preview of the soon to be opened multi million pound Open Treasure.

It is envisaged that this will become a regular feature of the Freemen's calendar and form part of an initiative to create a greater social engagement with the membership.



Tour party with the Venerable Andrew Tremlett



Tour party in the Great Kitchen

The AGM of the Freemen of England and Wales



The AGM which was held at the Merchant Adventurers Hall on the 15th - 17th September was attended by Eric Bulmer (Warden of the Plumbers' Company), Bob Elliott (Warden of the Masons' Company), Kathleen Vasey (Warden of the Butchers' Company), Joe McElwee (Warden of the Cordwainers' Company) and Doris McElwee (Member of the Cordwainers' Company), representing the Durham City Freemen.

The venue, the Merchant Adventurers Hall is of national importance and is a Grade 1 listed building and a scheduled ancient monument. It was built between 1357 and 1361, before most of the craft or trade Guild Halls in Britain, making it one of the largest buildings of its kind in Britain. It is very unusual to be able to see in one building the three rooms serving the functions of a mediaeval guild; Business and social in the Great Hall, charitable in the Undercroft and religious in the Chapel.



The Great Hall is a timber-frame structure and took a number of years to build. It is the largest timber framed building in the UK still standing and used for its original purpose. The roof is of two spans supported by a row of large central timber posts. It includes complex crown posts and is held together by wooden pegs.

The Undercroft like the Great Hall is divided in two by its supporting row of timber posts. The Undercroft also provides access to Chapel which was used by the ill and poor in the hospital as well as the members of the Merchant Adventurers' Guild. It is still used for worship.

The weekend was attended by about 80/100 Freemen and guests which is less than in previous years and perhaps is a developing trend that mirrors the inertia that seems to exist within the various Guilds throughout the country.



Attendance at the AGM provided an opportunity to raise the profile of the developments and activities of the Durham City Freemen and also to make contact with the other Guilds and their members. It was particularly useful to meet with our neighbouring Guilds in Berwick, Alnwick and Newcastle which hopefully will bring about closer working relationships for our mutual benefit.

The main events of the weekend were the AGM which was preceded by an open forum session which provided quite a lot of heat but very little light on the issue of dealing with ways of creating and sustaining membership participation. Although one or two were extremely good at engaging with their membership, particularly the Berwick Guild who managed to combine events for Freemen and their friends, that were very well attended.

The weekend's proceedings were drawn to a close by a procession from the Merchant Adventurers Hall of all the Freemen to the parish church of All Saints Pavement for their traditional service. The final act of the weekend was the "passing of the baton" from the York Guild, the host of this year's AGM to Pembroke who will be organising the event in 2017.

Moving Forward



2017 will see the establishment of the History Group with its membership comprising of both Freemen and members of the general public. The main focus for the Group will be the researching of a selection of artefacts discovered and recovered from the bed of the River Wear by Gary Bankhead together with items drawn from the collection of the Museum of Archaeology at Durham University.

An induction and training programme is planned to take place in January 2017 to provide experience for members to research Guild archives at both the County Record Office and Durham University Library. Later training will centre on specialist laboratory equipment located at the University's Science Site. The work of the Group will help forge closer links with the University.

A second project will research two of the existing Guilds, the Cordwainers and the Drapers. The ultimate aim of the Group is to publish a Booklet(s) to be targeted at the general public that will shed more light on the Guilds of Durham and where the Freemen lived and worked within the City.

It is hoped that the development of the History Group will result in creating an environment where opportunities for greater social interaction can take place.

Following this theme of developing a more social experience for Freemen it is proposed that 2017 will see us exploring ways to forge closer links with our neighbouring Guilds in Newcastle, York, Alnwick and Berwick.

I invite any member who would like to be more actively involved with the Freemen to contact;

Eric Bulmer

Chairman of the Wardens
Warden of the Plumbers' Company

Tel: 0191 378 0554 • **Mobile:** 07894 064 057

Email: eckabulmer@gmail.com



*The Black Staircase
Durham Castle*

