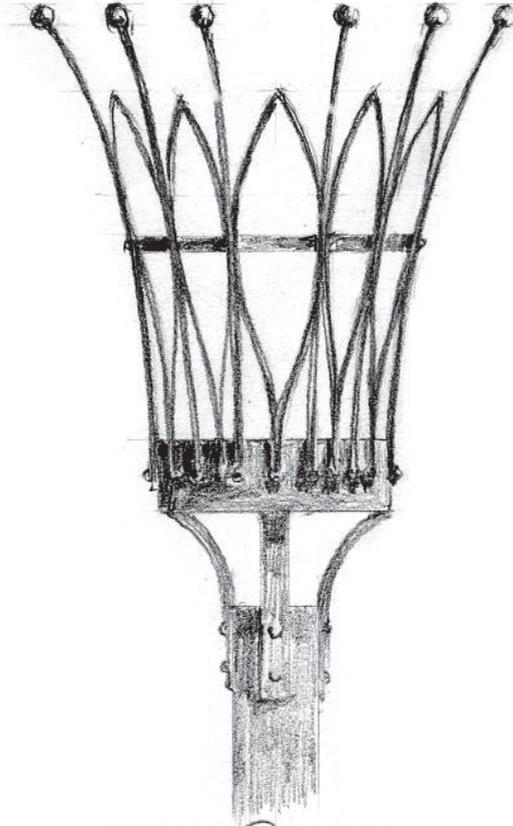




Durham City Freemen



Brian Russell
Little Newsham Forge
7/3/22

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All images by Geoff Kitson except where stated

Foreword

I wish you all a Happy New Year for 2023.

We started 2022 by celebrating the admission of eight candidates to the Guilds at the Candlemas Guild Day in February. The event was split into two sessions with four admitted in the morning followed by four in the afternoon.



Candlemas Guild Day, the first in over two years gave us an opportunity to welcome new Freemen and spend time meeting and catching up with fellow Freemen and old friends. A further seven candidates were admitted as Freemen throughout the year bringing the total to fifteen. I wish a very warm welcome to them all.

Over the past year, our Wardens and Deputies have been actively engaged with organising our Butchers 500 Year Celebrations held in May 2022, developing the Apprentice Award Scheme and the Freemen's gift to the city, the Freemen's Beacon. I thank all involved for their selfless support in making all we do so successful.

I am pleased to inform you that preparations for our Apprentice Award Scheme are firmly in place and our first award ceremony will go ahead later this year. The project will recognise and celebrate excellence in craft skills, strengthen partnership development and promote innovation and opportunity. I thank Neil Graham the project leader for his tireless support in leading the project.

Our Annual Dinner marked another highlight in the Freemen calendar, giving us time to catch up and enjoy each other's company in a relaxed setting. A special thank you goes to Theresa Ford and Kathleen Vasey for organising the event.

In January of this year, the Charitable Trust decided they would celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee by commissioning Brian Russell, Artist Blacksmith to design and produce a beacon as a gift to the people of

Durham City. A further 20 charities, community groups, and worthy causes have received donations over the past year and some are featured later in the Yearbook including the beacon and artist blacksmith Brian Russell.

Without the dedication of the Charitable Trust, none of this community involvement would happen. I thank the trustees of the Charitable Trust for supporting our community and their excellent work in continuing to raise the profile of the Freemen in the city and beyond.

Thanks must also go to our Trustees who manage the assets of the Freemen for their work during the Sands inquiry.

Earlier this year, Alan Metcalf completed his term of office as the Warden of the Cordwainers Company. I would like to thank Alan for his contribution and support over the past three years. Theresa Ford was elected as Warden of the Cordwainers Company.

It was with great sadness to hear of the death of Queen Elizabeth II on the 8th September. Her Majesty has been an amazing example to us all, faithfully honouring her pledge to devote her life to the service of her people which she carried out with dignity, grace, and a strong sense of service. No words can express the sorrow felt by us all.

God Save the King.

Sadly 2022 saw the passing of a number of Freemen.

Pamela Angus - Drapers' Company

Cyril Clark - Masons' Company

David Todd - Plumbers' Company

The Wardens and Deputies are exploring opportunities to engage with the membership beyond our established Guild Days and Annual Dinner and would welcome suggestions and ideas that would help make our organisation more inclusive and maximise our potential as a vibrant organisation.

We have a sub group working towards this aim, I therefore ask if you have any suggestions please get in touch with Ann Thurlow whose contact details can be found in the Yearbook.

John Booth
Chairman of the Wardens

A Message from the Worshipful Mayor of Durham County Councillor David Freeman



The Durham City Freeman play an important role in the life of our city and have done so for hundreds of years.

Durham's foundation and prosperity were largely down to medieval Trade Guilds. Not only are they historic bodies of the past but they are also ensuring they have a role in the future. Through sponsoring apprentices, they continue to ensure training for young people. Through their Charitable Trust, they provide grants to worthy causes in Durham City, including the Mayor's annual charity.

As Mayor of Durham, it is an honour to be able to chair the quarterly Guild meetings and to be involved in the creation of new Freemen.

The Freemen's Beacon, which will be gifted to the city in 2023, shows the ongoing links between the Durham City Freemen and the people of Durham City. It will be a privilege to be there when it is lit for the first time.

David Freeman

Councillor David Freeman
The Right Worshipful Mayor of Durham

Diary Dates for 2023

All meetings will be in the Guildhall with the exception of the Annual Dinner.

Annual Dinner Saturday 21st October 2023

Guild Days 11:00 – 12:30

Candlemas Monday 6th February 2023
May Day Monday 15th May 2023
Lammas Monday 7th August 2023
Martinmas Monday 6th November 2023

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

Friday 20th January 2023
Friday 21st April 2023
Friday 22nd September 2023
Friday 1st December 2023

Warden's and Deputy Wardens Meetings 6:00 – 7:30

Thursday 12th January 2023
Thursday 13th April 2023
Thursday 14th September 2023
Thursday 23rd November 2023

Member's Meetings 6:00 – 7:30

Tuesday 17th January 2023
Tuesday 18th April 2023
Tuesday 19th September 2023
Tuesday 28th November 2023

Charitable Trust Meetings 1:00 – 2:30

Monday 9th January 2023
Monday 17th April 2023
Monday 25th September 2023
Monday 6th November 2023

Wardens and Trustees

If you have any comments, or suggestions relating to any aspect of the work of Durham City Freemen please contact the Warden of your Company.

Wardens

John Booth
Chairman of the Wardens
Barbers' Company
Tel: 0191 3733381

Abiodun Williams
Butchers' Company
Tel: 07496 374168

Theresa Ford
Deputy Chair of Wardens
Cordwainers' Company
Tel: 07858126821

Ian Wilmhurst
Curriers' Company
Tel: 0191 3861703

Kathleen Vasey
Secretary to the Freemen
Drapers' Company
Tel: 0776 1035675

Ann Thurlow
Joiners' Company
Tel: 0191 3779706

Neil Graham
Masons' Company
Tel: 07835 421640

Garry Dunnill
Plumbers' Company
Tel: 07739 325421

Deputy Wardens

Bryan Proud
Cordwainers' Company

Iain Peverall
Barbers' Company

Dave Howard
Butchers' Company

Trevor Carter
Drapers' Company

Alan Richardson
Masons' Company

Arthur Lockyear
Plumbers' Company

Trustees

Chairman
Patrick Conway OBE
Tel: 0191 3868216

Clerk and Recorder
Philip Wills
Tel: 0138 8603073

Treasurer
Stewart Atkin
Tel: 0191 5238918

Peter Bramwell
Tel: 0191 3868066

Cannon Michael Everett

Kenneth Howe
Tel: 0191 3840589

Helen McMillan

Malcolm Proud
Tel: 0191 3867615

Richard Scothan
Tel: 0191 6827708

Alice Ambrose Thurman

New Warden of the Cordwainers' Company



Theresa Ford

Theresa was born in Durham, and lived and worked in Durham in clerical and accounts departments all her working life.

On leaving Whinney Hill School at 15, she started work at Joshua Wilson Bros Head Office in Gilesgate Moor, a food distribution company to small local convenience stores in Co. Durham, where she became the supervisor of the Purchase and Sales ledgers before leaving to start her family in 1974, raising three boys who are all now Freemen.

Theresa returned to work in 1990, being employed at Topline Recruitment Services in their accounts / wages department. In 1996 she joined the staff in the Admin and Clerical offices of HMP Frankland Prison, working on the Switchboard, and within the departmental offices.

In 2001, she left to work with her husband's business, giving her more time to focus on the student properties she owns. Theresa retired in 2005 to enjoy visiting and spending time with her children and grandchildren, all of whom live in different parts of the country.

New Deputy Warden of the Cordwainers' Company



Bryan Proud

Bryan, as director of operations, led the city's entire 500-strong manual workforce until his retirement over 20 years ago.

He started work as an apprentice draughtsman in 1964 and further education led to an appointment as a junior engineer with the then City Council. His promotion to senior engineer in 1972 required him to supervise the construction of the Leazes Bowl Car Park before taking responsibility for advising private developers building the Milburngate Shopping Centre. He became chief engineer in 1980, a post he held for eight years before becoming operations director until his retirement in 2000.

Members Admitted in 2022

Candlemas Guild Day 7th February 2022

Ivan Barrie Arkless
(Plumbers' Company)

Admitted via Servitude.



Lewis Daniel Brolls
(Barbers' Company)

Admitted via Patrimony.



Amy Elizabeth Faulkner
(Barbers' Company)

Admitted via Patrimony.



John Henry Ferguson
(Plumbers' Company)

Admitted via Servitude.



Robert William Ribchester
(Cordwainers' Company)

Admitted via Patrimony.



Anna Claire Holden
(Drapers' Company)

Admitted via Patrimony.



Bryan Proud
(Butchers' Company)

Admitted via Customary Freedom



Charles Reading Robinson
(Plumbers' Company)

Admitted via Servitude.



May Day 7th May 2022

Peter Christopher Granlund
(Masons' Company)

Admitted via Patrimony



David Balls
(Butchers' Company)

Admitted via Servitude.



Jervis Clive Calvert Smith
(Drapers' Company)

Admitted via Patrimony.



Jasper Niccolo Lupo Smith
(Drapers' Company)

Admitted via Patrimony.



Lamas Guild Day 1st August 2022

There were no third calls.

Martinmas Guild Day 7th November 2022

Rev Deborah Veronica Robinson
(Plumbers' Company)

Admitted via Patrimony.



Stephen Kitson
(Plumbers' Company)

Admitted via Servitude



Gary Bankhead
(Cordwainers' Company)
Admitted as a Gentleman Freeman
via Customary Freedom.



Tenure of Appointment

Wardens

COMPANY	DATE ELECTED	END OF TERM	NEW ELECTIONS
Chairman John Booth (Barbers)	May 2021	May 2024	April 2024
Deputy Chair Theresa Ford (Joiners)	Feb 2021	Feb 2024	Jan 2024
Barbers John Booth	Jan 2021	Dec 2023	Nov 2023
Butchers Mac Williams	Sept 2020	Sept 2023	Aug 2023
Cordwainers Theresa Ford	June 2022	June 2025	May 2025
Curriers Iain Wilmshurst	Dec 2022	Dec 2022	Nov 2022
Drapers Kathleen Vasey	Jan 2021	Jan 2024	Dec 2023
Joiners Ann Thurlow	May 2020	May 2023	April 2023
Masons Neil Graham	Dec 2021	Dec 2024	Nov 2024
Plumbers Garry Dunnill	Feb 2021	Feb 2024	Jan 2024

Companies will be contacted 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.

Tenure of Appointment

Deputy Wardens

COMPANY	DATE ELECTED	END OF TERM	ELECTIONS
Barbers Deputy Iain Peverall (Joiner)	October 2021	September 2024	September 2024
Butchers Deputy Dave Howard	March 2020	March 2023	February 2023
Cordwainers Deputy Bryan Proud	June 2022	May 2025	May 2025
Curriers Deputy Vacancy			
Drapers Deputy Trevor Carter	March 2020	March 2023	February 2023
Joiners Deputy Vacancy			
Masons Deputy Alan Richardson	November 2021	November 2024	October 2024
Plumbers Deputy Arthur Lockyear	March 2020	March 2023	February 2023

If you are interested in becoming a Deputy Warden please contact:

Secretary to the Freeman
Kathleen Vasey
Tel: 07761 035675
e-mail: kathleenvasey@aol.com

Membership Criteria

Guild Servitude, Durham Servitude and Hereditary Freedom.

Admission by Application.

Applicants should contact the Membership Secretary in the first instance.

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.

4. Customary Freedom Admission by Invitation only.

This entry process is at the discretion of the Wardens, if the invitee is accepted this obviates the need for the first two calls as the Wardens represent their members.

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.

The Full Membership Criteria can be viewed on our website:

<http://www.durhamcityfreemen.org/admissions/membership-criteria/>

Current Membership at December 2022

Barbers' Company

Anderson	Jeffrey	Rowland	Mr	Faulkner	Amy	Elizabeth	Miss
Anderson	Mark	John	Mr	Faulkner	Kay		Mrs
Anderson	Peter	Stewart	Mr	Handy	Joyce		Ms
Atkinson	Alan		Mr	Kahane	Ahuvia		Prof
Atkinson	Carl	Alan	Mr	Kitson	Geoffrey		Mr
Atkinson	Kieran	Andrew	Mr	Milbourne	Phillip	John	Mr
Brolls	Hilary		Mrs	Milbourne	Richard	James	Mr
Brolls	Lewis	Daniel	Mr	Nightingale	Craig		Mr
Calvert-Lee	Giles	Lindsey	Mr	Nightingale	Gavin		Mr
Calvert-Lee	Rupert	Guy	Mr	Nightingale	John		Mr
Calvert-Lee	Thomas		Mr	Nightingale	Judith		Ms
Coxon	Kevin	Lee	Mr	Snowdon	Frederick	John	Mr
Dufton	Alan		Mr	Weightman	Una	Dawn	Mrs
Dunn	Dennis		Mr	Wills LLM	Philip		Mr

Butchers' Company

Balls	David		Mr	Howard	David	Richard	Mr
Bancroft	David	George	Mr	Laws	Steven		Mr
Bregazzi	John		Mr	MacDonald	Ian	Edward	Mr
Chapman	Michael	Andrew	Mr	Milbourne	Malcolm		Mr
Chapman	Robert		Mr	Oliver	George	Robert	Mr
Dodds	Keven	Barry	Mr	Patterson	Thomas	William	Mr
Forster	Guy		Mr	Pickering	George	Robert	Mr
Forster	Heather		Ms	Proud	Bryan		Mr
Forster	Jonathan	Paul	Mr	Staveley	Susan		Mrs
Forster	Stephen	James	Mr	Williams	MacDonald	Abiodun	Mr
Hart	Norman	Thomas	Mr				

Cordwainers' Company

Bankhead	Gary		Mr	McElwee	Jack	Denby	Mr
Davidson	Peter	Richard	Mr	McElwee	Joe		Mr
Davidson	Peter		Mr	McElwee	John	Denby	Mr
Greenwell DL CBE	Jeffrey	Arthur	Mr	Metcalf	Alan		Mr
Heron	David		Rev	Minto	Peter		Dr
Heron	Mark	Annesley	Mr	Ribchester	Robert	William	Mr
Heron	Peter		Mr	Ribchester MBE	Alan		Mr
Joicey	Barry		Mr	Shotton	Barry		Mr
Lumley	David	Martin	Mr	Wright	Rebecca	Hanah	Miss
McElwee	Davey	John	Mr	Wright	Stuart		Mr
McElwee	Doris		Mrs				

Curriers' Company

Charney	Barbara		Ms	Luther	Kate		Ms
Charney	John		Mr	Luther	Richard		Mr
Clark	William	Henry	Mr	Marsden	James	Robert	Mr
Crawford	Karen		Mrs	Marsden	Nicola	Hazel	Miss
Crawford	Ron		Mr	McDonough	Adam		Mr
Graham	Neil	William	Mr	McMinn	Michael		Mr
Hall	Adrian	Matthew Edward	Mr	Ridley	Stuart	George	Mr
Hall	Charles	Jonathon Peter	Mr	Wilmshurst	Fionna	Louise	Ms
Hall	Oliver	Timothy Luke	Mr	Wilmshurst	Holly	Alison Olivia	Ms
Heslop	Sandra		Ms	Wilmshurst	Iain	Stuart	Mr
Howarth	Michael	David	Mr	Wilmshurst	Rebekah	Anne	Ms
Jones	Derek	Newton	Mr	Wilson	Michael	Colin	Mr
Kitson	Leighton		Mr				

Joiners' Company

Bennett	Peter	Neil	Mr	Ford	Regan	James	Mr
Brown	Adam	Ridley	Mr	Ford	Stuart	William	Mr
Brown	Darren	Ridley	Mr	Ford	Theresa	Anne	Mrs
Brown	Dean	Ridley	Mr	Ford	William		Mr
Brown	Mark	Andrew Charles	Mr	Gilroy	Clifford	Richard	Mr
Brown	Rita		Mrs	Gilroy	Peter	Andrew	Mr
Brown	Tony	Michael	Mr	Hesp	Eric		Mr
Bryden	Irene	May	Mrs	Jopling	Trevor		Mr
Bryden	Robert	Arthur	Mr	Morris	Edward	James Bowring	Mr
Clarkson	Andrew	Robert	Mr	Morris OBE	Roger	John Bowring	Dr
Clarkson	Christopher	Paul	Mr	Neale	David	Charles	Mr
Clarkson	Nigel	David	Mr	Neale	Michael	Paul	Mr
Clarkson	Robert	William	Mr	Neale	Steven	Thomas Edwin	Mr
Clarkson	Ronald		Mr	Peverall	Iain		Mr
Clarkson	Steven		Mr	Pritchard	Anthony		Mr
Dawson	Peter	Robert	Mr	Squires	Eric	Charles Arthur	Mr
Donkin	Joan	Elizabeth	Rev	Swallow	Anthony		Mr
Fenwick	Alexander	Luke	Mr	Thurlow	Ann		Mrs
Fenwick	Amalia	Jane	Ms	Trow	Stuart		Mr
Fenwick	Christopher		Mr	Wigham	Claire		Miss
Ford	Alan		Mr				

Drapers' Company

Adamson	David	Ivor	Mr	Mullaney	Kimberley		Mrs
Allison	John	Stuart	Mr	Nattrass	Sarah	Elizabeth	Mrs
Allison	Malcolm	Nigel	Mr	Samuel	Barbara	Anne	Ms
Allison	Peter	David	Mr	Samuel	Tom		Mr
Allison (Reid)	Sandra	Anne	Mrs	Scott	Barbara	Jean	Ms
Arkley	Gillian	Roberta	Mrs	Scott	Charlotte	Anne	Miss
Brookes	Gillian		Ms	Scott	Vanessa	Laura	Miss
Carter	Trevor	Richard Earl	Mr	Smith	Adele		Ms
Crofton	Ted		Rev	Smith	Jasper	Niccolo Lupo	Mr
Davidson	Vera		Mrs	Smith	Jervis Clive	Calvert	Mr
Freelend	Leah	Felicity	Mrs	Snowball	Dorothy	Margaret	Rev
Hayes	Mary		Mrs	Vasey	Andrew	David	Mr
Hepburn	Alan		Mr	Vasey	David		Mr
Heslop	Victoria	Jane	Mrs	Vasey	John	Frederick	Mr
Holden	Anna	Claire	Mrs	Vasey	Kathleen		Ms
Jackson	Catriona	Margery	Mrs	Vest	Alan	Cruddass	Mr
Jackson	Richard		Mr	Vest	Arthur		Mr
Kingston	Barbara	Hilda	Mrs	Vest	David	Charles	Mr
Kothari	Ingrid	Allison	Mrs	Vest	Derek		Mr
Lee	Jonathan	Mark	Mr	Vest	Gavin		Mr
Lyle	Susan		Ms	Vest	Joanne		Miss
Mackay	June		Ms	Vest	Mark		Mr
Magee	Andrew	Fawcett	Mr	Vest	Paul	Robert	Mr
Magee	Judith		Ms	Vest	Rachel		Miss
Magee	Stuart	John	Mr	Vest	Richard		Mr
Middleton	Alan		Mr	Vest	Roland		Mr
Milbourne	Alexander	J	Mr	Vest	Steven		Mr
Milbourne	Andrew	John	Mr	Watson	Judith	Gwen	Mrs
Milbourne	David	Michael	Mr	Watson-Lee	Alexander	W	Mr
Milbourne	Michael	Stewart	Mr	Watson-Lee	James	K	Mr
Milbourne	Rodney	James	Mr	Watson-Lee	Mark	Alexander Strachan	Mr
Milbourne	Stephanie	Helen	Ms	Watson-Lee	Peter	James	Mr
				Wilson	Thomas	Dobson	Mr

Masons' Company

Browell	Duncan	James	Mr	Tindale	Peter		Mr
Browell	Martin	Elliott	Mr	Wesencraft	Amy		Ms
Clark	James		Mr	Wesencraft	John		Mr
Clark	Peter		Mr	Young	Gordon	Frank	Mr
Cooper	George	Richard	Mr	Elliott	Robert	Lennox	Mr
Dent	Norman	R	Mr	Granlund	Alan	Campbell	Mr
Dent	Royston	Norman	Mr	Granlund	Peter	Christopher	Mr
Elliott	Elizabeth	Grace	Miss	Haunch	Nicola	Louise	Mrs
Elliott	Jack	Andrew	Mr	Hotchkiss	Connie		Mrs
Elliott	John		Mr	Johnston	Norman	Cyril	Mr
Elliott	Matthew	James	Mr	Jones	John	Richard	Mr
Nicholson	Paul	Douglas	Sir	Mallen	Ann		Mrs
Richardson	Alan	Elliott	Mr	Mann	Steven		Mr
Tindale	Peter	John Henry	Mr	Mawson	Nigel		Mr

Plumbers' Company

Allan	Patricia		Ms	Heron	Adam	Mark	Mr
Arckless	Ivan	Barrie	Mr	Heron	Clive	Emmerson	Mr
Billsborrow	Patricia		Rev	Heron	Leslie		Mr
Booth	John		Mr	Inglis	Sydney		Mr
Brass	Andrew		Mr	Johnson	Peter	Alan	Mr
Brown	Alison	Jane	Mrs	Kitson	Stephen		Mr
Bulmer	Eric		Mr	Latue	John	J	Mr
Bulmer	Jane		Ms	Lockyear	Arthur	Clifford	Mr
Bulmer	Michael		Mr	McDonough	Alison		Mrs
Bulmer	Sean		Mr	Oliver	Alan		Mr
Cain	Elizabeth	Ann	Mrs	Pearson	Anne		Mrs
Cunliffe	Lisa		Mrs	Pearson	Malcolm	Neil	Mr
Davis	Margaret	Ruth	Mrs	Robinson	Charles	Reading	Mr
Dunnill	Garry		Mr	Robinson	Deborah	Veronica	Rev
Dunnill	Keith		Mr	Walker	John		Mr
Ferguson	John	Henry	Mr	Wiley	Brian	Fawcett	Mr
Gent	Helen	Patricia	Mrs	Wortley	Katherine		Ms
Head	David	Colin	Mr	Wortley	Melvin		Mr

Membership Summary

Company	Men	Women	In-district	Ex-district	Total
Barbers	21	7	7	21	28
Butchers	19	2	14	7	21
Cordwainers	19	2	11	10	21
Curriers	17	8	11	14	25
Drapers	38	27	21	44	65
Joiners	34	7	25	16	41
Masons	23	5	11	17	28
Plumbers	25	12	20	17	37
Totals	196	70	120	140	266

For further information regarding admission please contact the Membership Secretary:

Eric Bulmer
2 High Meadows
Brandon Village
Durham
DH7 8RW

Tel: 0191 3780554
Email: eckabulmer@btinternet.com

Butchers 500 Year Celebration

In 1520, during Henry VIII's reign, the Durham Freemen Butchers' Company was granted the legal right to ply their trade from the fringe of the city's Market Place.

On Saturday 14th May 2022, the Freemen held a special historic event to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Butchers' Company.

We planned to mark the company's 500th anniversary in the summer of 2020, but twice had to shelve plans due to Covid.



The Town Crier opened the celebrations followed by the Ran Tanners along with Morris Dancers.

Among guests attending the festivities were the County's Lord Lieutenant, Sue Snowdon, The High Sheriff, Shona Harper-Wilkes, and the Mayor, County Councillor Arnie Simpson.



Features of the day were butchery demonstrations by Knitsley Farm Shop and a display of exhibits mounted by underwater archaeologist and TV celebrity Gary Bankhead.



The Durham Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers demonstrated lost craft skills of bygone days,



Annual Dinner

Our Annual Dinner was held on 22nd October 2022 in the Masonic Hall and was a very enjoyable social evening for our members and Freemen friends.

Our guest speaker was the Lord Lieutenant Sue Snowdon. I was delighted the Mayor, Councillor David Freeman, the Mayoress, the Chair of Durham County Council Mrs Beaty Bainbridge, her Consort Mr Alan Bainbridge and Brian and Hilda Russell were able to join us for this special social event.



The Lord Lieutenant with Brian Russell



Arthur Lockyear was our Master of Ceremony for the evening. Our guests included Freemen Trustees wardens and their guests and fellow Freemen



Gentleman Freemen Celebrate

Mac Williams - Freemen of the City of London

Butchers' Company Warden Mac Williams J.P. has been sworn in as a Freeman of the City of London in the capital's Guild Hall during a ceremony which dates back to 1237.

Mac's honour, initiated by personal invitation from the Chamberlain's Court and sanctioned by the Court of Common Council, now entitles him to make a formal application to join one of the 110 Livery Companies.



Over the past 750 years more than 300,000 people have been admitted to the freedom and the Worshipful Company of Butchers is the only one which still exists as a trade association for members of the meat industry, many of them operating in the 900-year-old Smithfield Market.

It is, perhaps, no surprise the London Butchers' coat-of-arms bears a striking likeness to that adopted by Durham's meat traders when they were granted rights to ply their trade in 1520.

Gary Bankhead - Book launch

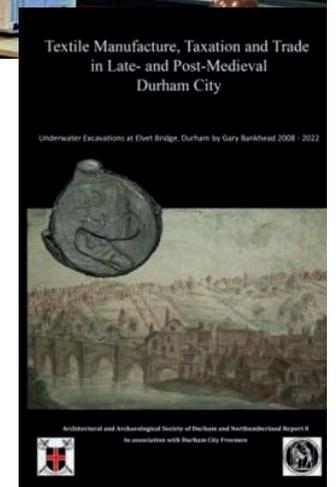
On the 24th November, Gary launched his book *Textile Manufacture, Taxation and Trade in Late- and Post-Medieval Durham* in the Guild Hall.

The 280-page colour hardback book was largely funded by Durham City Freemen with support from the Finds Research Group and published as an Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland Research Report.

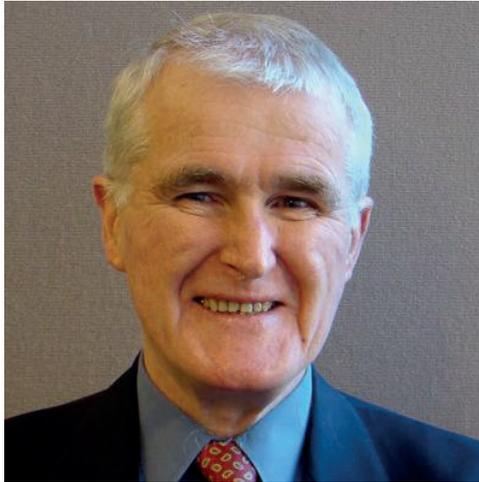


The book represents a study of 334 lead cloth seals which date from the mid-fourteenth to the early-nineteenth centuries. These recently discovered objects, were once linked to the trade, industrial regulation, and taxation of commercially produced cloth.

The illustrated objects represent the largest assemblage of such material available for analysis outside of London and, as such, are of crucial significance for understanding the cloth trade during the period to which they have been ascribed.



Chair of the Trustees Report



Thankfully, the year saw a return to normality for personal, economic and social life after the Covid restrictions were gradually relaxed. During the pandemic Freemen business was largely conducted through Zoom and other platforms and while those options remained, there was, during the year, a gradual return to conventional meetings in the Guildhall. It was agreed these should be hybrid, as we adjust to life after the pandemic.

Nowadays many organisations continue with routine business conducted remotely, often for personal convenience.

However, face to face interaction is so beneficial particularly for social activities and it was gratifying that a number of events during the year, in addition to the quarterly Guild Days, were in person. The annual dinner resumed after being postponed for two years and the Lord Lieutenant, Sue Snowden, delivered an inspirational address recognising the valuable contribution City of Durham Freemen make to civic and public life. Celebrations marking the Butchers company 500th year and the launch of Gary Bankhead's new book, *Textile manufacture, taxation and trade in late and post medieval Durham City*, principally funded by the Freemen were well attended. Fuller details of these events are covered elsewhere but they would not have been so successful had they been only accessible on screen.

Trustees are ultimately responsible for the Freemen's assets, both tangible and intangible. As reported last year and while there has been a difference of opinion with the County Council about deregistration of some land at the Sands it is important a cordial working relationship is maintained with the local authority. Meetings with the Joint Administration have continued and a number of initiatives being progressed including modern apprenticeships and the installation of a beacon on the mound north of the railway station.

Safeguards against development on the now deregistered common land, and encroachment on the remaining common land have been agreed.

The final legal determination regarding deregistration helpfully included an appendix summarising the Freemen's rights over land at the Sands. This states that rents payable under various historic agreements with predecessors of Durham County Council remain.

The Freemen are key to the history and traditions of Durham and provide support financially and in kind to local community organisations through the charitable trust. In a rapidly changing and uncertain world Durham City Freemen, representing continuity with previous generations, are well placed to contribute to the life of our city and its people.

I wish to record my thanks to fellow trustees and John Booth Chairman of the Wardens and his team for their commitment and hard work over the past year.

Patrick Conway
Chairman of Trustees

Treasurer's Report



2022 saw the start of the post Covid era, albeit the cost of the pandemic was still on the agenda. Then came the perfect storm of war in Europe, energy and food inflation, falling value of Sterling and rising interest rates. Stock markets around the world fell and recession became a real threat.

The previous gains made by our portfolio shrank, but our brokers continued to work hard and at the time of writing we have profited from several sales. Latterly, there has been some recovery in markets with the value our investments almost equal to what we had invested. We continue to enjoy regular income of 2.8%.

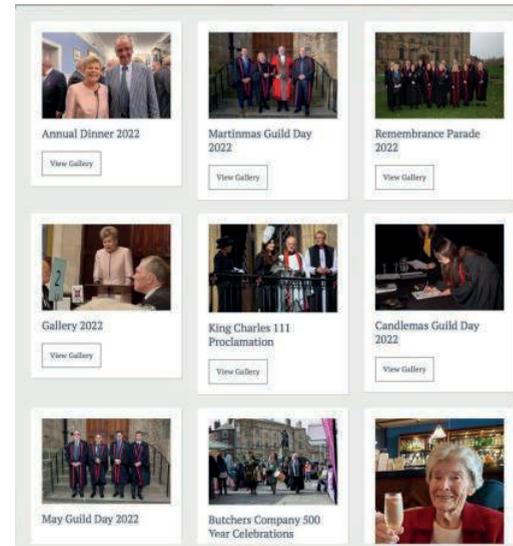
Price inflation has impacted on the freemen's activities, but with all income streams performing we remain on track to provide a healthy contribution to the Charitable Trust.

We continue to keep a healthy cash reserve.

Stewart Atkin
Honorary Treasurer

Freemen Website

Our website has proved to be a first class communication tool in promoting the work of the Freemen.



Never before in the history of the Freemen has so much information regarding our history and heritage, news and events been available to our members both at home and across the world.

The sheer volume of information available on the site is impressive. As well as a comprehensive insight into the history of the Guilds and Freemen records, the website showcases what we do, via access to Guild booklets, Yearbooks, brousing events and also celebrates how the Charitable Trust are reaching out into the community.

Through secure pages on the site we are able to access management documents and apprentice trainers are able to submit online nomination forms for our upcoming Apprentice of the Year award project.

Its important we remind ourselves of the selfless support we have been afforded by George Oliver for website and media copy and Geoff Kitson for photographs over many years. Their expertise has made the site what it is today. A huge thank you to them both.



John Booth
Website Manager

The Charitable Trust

The Charitable Trust was established in January 2015, initially to reinstate and formalise elements of Freeman's traditional values, including training and education and by providing support for the wider community within the City of Durham, particularly those more vulnerable in our society and thereby by reconnecting with our heritage and historical values.

The Trustees of the Charitable Trust are drawn from Freeman and non-Freemen. The balance of the group is always in favour of the Freeman to ensure that the historical values and traditions are sustained.

The Trust receives funding from the Freeman but operates independently and autonomously, providing reports to the Wardens and Trustees, which are tabled at their quarterly meetings.

The Trustees meet at four quarterly meetings. Their main function is to receive and discuss applications for support, then allocate donations as appropriate within established criteria.

Once a donation has been approved, contact is made with the recipient charity or community group and arrangements made to visit their centre, so that the Trustees have a greater understanding of the work that they undertake and meet participants who will benefit from the Freeman's support. This personal contact with recipient charities provides trustees with an insight into the valuable work undertaken by charities and community groups within the City.

There are two main objectives to the work of the Charitable Trust, which embrace the traditional values of the Freeman: Training and Education and Supporting Charities, Community Groups and Worthy Causes.

Training and Education

The Guilds to which the Freeman are members, are based on crafts and trades which were established in the City over 500 years ago. A function of their original Charter was to set and maintain standards, this was maintained by the training of craft apprentices.

It has become apparent during recent times, with the change in apprenticeship training, that very few young people were applying to become Freeman via 'Servitude', which has prompted the Wardens of the Freeman, to initiate an Apprenticeship Award Scheme with employers within the City to promote achievements in craftsmanship that was and continues to be a cornerstone of the traditions of the Freeman.

Supporting Charities, Community Groups and Worthy Causes

A feature of the Freeman history has been its benevolence, initially to its members and more latterly to charities and groups within the city.

The Trustees continue to uphold the heritage of the Freeman by maintaining this important role, particularly vital in these difficult times for some of the most vulnerable in our local community.

Highlighted are some of the organisations that have benefited recently from donations by the Charitable Trust.

The Freeman Beacon including the following eight charities and community groups are featured in this edition of the yearbook.

Brandon Carrside Youth Centre
New Brancepeth Revellers
Durham University Apprentices
Hawthorn House
Durham Community Association
Lionmouth Rural Centre
Durham Action On Single Housing
Laurel Avenue Community Centre

The charities and community groups listed below have also received donations.

Food Bank Distribution Centre
Salvation Army
The Guild of Weavers Skinners and Dyers
Durham Area Disability Leisure Group (DADLG)
Solan Connor Fawcett Charity
Ushaw Moor Cricket Club
Silver Tree Primary School
Durham County Stroke Club
Tinarts

The Trust have also supported causes outside these categories which include:

Freemen Jubilee Beacon
Annual Mayor's Appeal
City's Remembrance Parade
Ukrainian Refuge Appeal

Freemen's Beacon

Durham City Freemen's Gift to the City

In January of this year, the Durham City Freemen's Charitable Trust following information from John Booth, decided they would celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by commissioning Brian Russell, Artist Blacksmith to design and fabricate a beacon as a gift to the people of Durham City. The unique design will not only serve as a beacon for ongoing celebration events but also as a bespoke piece of public art.

The project in partnership with Durham County Council, will be installed on Jubilee Hill opposite the Durham Light Infantry Museum in the spring of this year in time for the coronation of King Charles III.

Brian Russell was born in Framwellgate Moor, he attended the local primary school and then the Johnston Grammar School where he developed an interest in art and design. He continued his education by undertaking a Fine Art degree course at Sunderland College of Art.

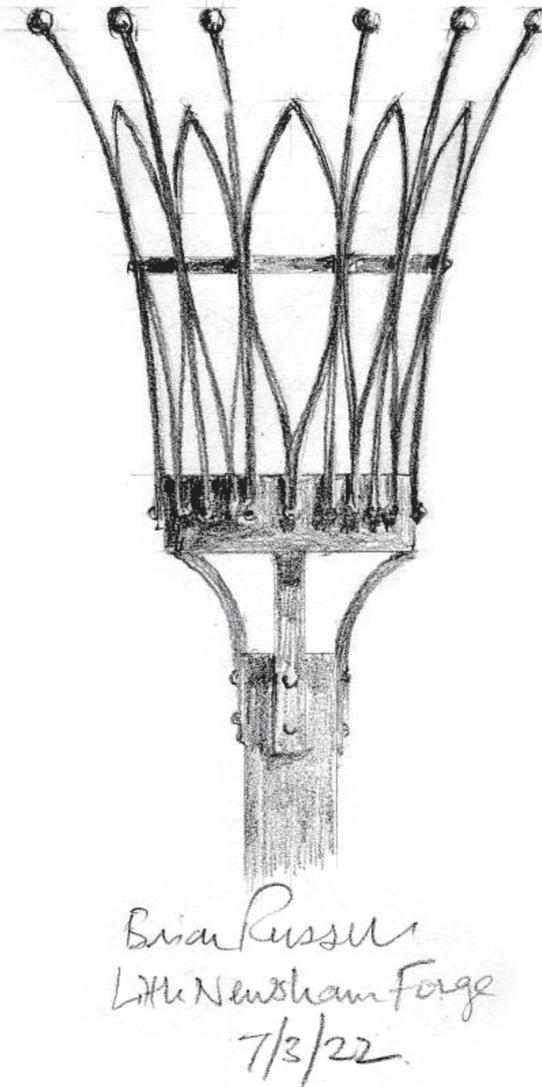
Leaving college with his degree, he set his sights on seeking an apprenticeship as a blacksmith; unfortunately at that time there were few blacksmiths operating and none were looking for apprentices.

With a strong desire to learn as much as he could about working with metal, he attended evening classes at both the Johnston School and St Leonard's School in the city, all the time pestering The Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas for help in following his chosen craft. Eventually in 1974 they asked him if he would be interested in an old forge at Little Newsham near Staindrop and as they say the 'rest is history'.

Brian established his business over thirty years ago at the 200 year old forge set in the heart of the Durham countryside. Over the years Brian has developed his skills and incorporated his undoubted talent in design, to place himself at the forefront of his craft.

One of the few true artist blacksmiths working in the North East of England, Brian was awarded the prestigious Silver Medal of The Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths for his skills and expertise in 1995.

In 2017 in recognition for his excellent skills and contribution to the Blacksmiths craft, he was awarded the Gold Medal of The Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths, he is the only "Gold Medal Blacksmith" currently working in the UK.



The Charitable Trust Review 2021/22 booklet is available to download here:

<http://www.durhamcityfreemen.org/documents/charitable-trust-2022-nxpowerlite-copy-7.pdf>

Community Donations 2022

New Brancepeth Revellers

The New Brancepeth Revellers, established more than 50 years ago when Juvenile Jazz Bands were the rage, currently boast 49 members whose ages range from three to sixty.

But without the financial support of the Durham City Freemen donation from their Charitable Trustees the band would have struggled to meet the costs of the three-day trip to Cardiff's Sophia Gardens Sports Arena to take on 16 rival bands from across the country.



"Hiring the bus was £2,000 and there were other add-on expenses including accommodation. Without the Freemen's generosity we would have struggled to raise all the money needed to compete."

Over a decade ago the band, made up of adults, teenagers and children, was promoted to the national top tier after winning the national second division title.

Sharon explained: "We need a mix from across the generations because these days, unlike the 1970s, some of the instruments are heavy and need at least a teenager to carry them."

Brandon Carrside Youth Centre

A month-long programme of school-holiday breaks for young people from a string of former pit villages around Durham, was given a "massive boost" by the City's Freemen.

From their centre in Brandon, the Carrside Youth and Community Project embraces Meadowfield, Langley Moor, Ushaw Moor, Esh Winning and New Brancepeth, offering a year-round safe haven for young people to develop skills, learn more about themselves and take a more active role in their communities.



For a month, during late July and into August more than 70 youngsters aged 11 to 16 from families across the area, got the chance to enjoy a special programme of outdoor activities, offering new opportunities to build positive memories and experiences.

Durham Community Association

Durham Community Association, based in the Shakespeare Hall, in Durham City's North Road, is completing the face-lift thanks to a gift from the Freeman.

The donation will meet the cost of new hard wearing carpets in two rooms offering courses in basic numeracy, literacy and other writing skills to long-term unemployed adults and those seeking to return to work after post medical or addiction issues.

The modernisation has included replacement brickwork, plaster work with fresh coats of paint and skirting boards added.

A new kitchenette is an added feature and delivery of replacement furniture, bookcases and desks is imminent.

"The hangover of Covid is still having its effect on the numbers of those attending but they are slowly beginning to build. We fully expect to open with all guns blazing by July 4th," said the centre's manager Liam Cawley. "The Freeman's generosity has been timely and really appreciated," he added.



Liam Cawley and Eric Bulmer

During the course of the year the centre is expected to offer ten-day courses to about 250 people.

The association provides rooms and spaces for hire which are suitable for a wide range of uses. They include arts and craft classes, sports groups, local history and art groups, ballroom, sequence and line-dancing, youth groups and education classes with more details on their website www.durhamcommunityassociation.co.uk

The LionMouth Centre

At the end of last year the LionMouth Rural Centre, a community project based at Broadgate Farm, near Esh Winning, was hit by Storm Arwen's 100 mile-an-hour winds which tore apart a large marquee being used as a makeshift classroom.

Project manager, Brigid Press Bartle explained: "In March 2020 Covid forced us to close our gates not only to those who seek our support but to members of the public as well.



"When our clients were allowed to return in August we made many changes to protect them from the spread of the disease. Our social distancing and cleaning routines, alongside the continuing absence of the public, allowed us to take some of our lessons outside into the open air. Our large marquee was a key part of the strategy, sheltering attendees from rain, wind and shine."

The Freeman's latest gift is no less vital, covering the cost of a pop-up heavy duty replacement marquee.

Durham Action on Single Housing

Against a background of constant struggle to raise funds Durham Action on Single Housing (DASH) - a non-profitmaking organisation founded in 1972, still pressed ahead with the project. The Charity offer direct help to vulnerable homeless women, struggling with “complex and multiple needs,” has been underwritten by a gift from Durham’s Freemen.

Their venture utilises four flats and two houses in the city to create a safe haven with round-the-clock support for a dozen women facing physical or mental health issues, relationship problems, historic abuse, sex exploitation, domestic violence, self-harm and childhood trauma.

The Charity’s entire county-wide network of properties offers 45 homeless people, or people who are vulnerable, their ages ranging from 16 to 65, a safe haven and a chance to rebuild their lives.



Laurel Avenue Community Centre

Durham's Freemen are backing the launch of a targeted aid programme designed to bring fresh hope to scores of disadvantaged children and young people on a city housing estate.

The staff and management team of the Laurel Avenue Community Centre, established in 1985 and located on the Sherburn Road Estate, have identified many “stigmatised” children and young people in particular need of support – their ages ranging from birth to 19.

They have already raised £5,000 towards the cost of the 19-week project, designed to cultivate the “personal, social and emotional well-being” of those in particular need of help. The gift from the freemen has lifted them to within reach of their final target.



Festive Cash For A Dozen Charities Will Benefit Thousands

Operated by Durham Christian Partnership from its central warehouse on the Drum Industrial Estate in Chester-le-Street, it is linked to 28 distribution points across the county. Last year the warehouse was responsible for putting together emergency food parcels for over 11,000 local people, nearly 4,000 of them children.



At this time we have also committed a further £1,000 to be shared equally by two other charities, one a Salvation Army sanctuary for those sleeping rough in Durham and the other a village primary school supporting vulnerable families.



The Salvation Army offers practical solutions to homeless men and women facing winter weather on the streets. Contact through Sanctuary 21, the church's haven in Saddler Street, offers a welcome and a place of safety. Its warmth, hot drinks and food, available three times a week, serves to cultivate a platform of trust.

Depending on changing circumstances the Sanctuary sees between five and ten rough sleepers a week, some of them with complexities in their lives which can cause barriers. We have been very busy lately and the Freeman's gift allows us to offer some immediate solutions by providing a sleeping bag, backpack and range of warm clothing. They also work closely with the local authority's rough sleeping team who can, through face-to-face conversations, address possible housing solutions.



The cash for the 200-pupil Silver Tree Primary School in Ushaw Moor ensures the continuation of a "life-line" launched two years ago. Supported by local community funding, it delivers direct help to families with youngsters at the school

Each Friday up to 20 parcels of fresh and long-life food – enough to last through a weekend – are handed to parents in crisis who can also get help to buy uniforms, winter coats and shoes. The school's hardship fund can also offer additional help for any child facing further special needs.

While the foodbank, the Salvation Army and the primary school are the first three charities to benefit from the Freeman's gifts, the Trustees have also committed to handing a further £5,000 to nine more local organisations during the next two months.

Moving Forward



As we move into 2023 I am extremely excited looking forward to the first lighting and hand over of the Freemens' Beacon to the City. It has been a pleasure working with Durham County Council and the people who have been so committed to make sure it happens. I am extremely proud to be part of what the Freeman have undertaken to leave a lasting legacy.

The Apprentice of the Year Award, I have no doubt will be equally as exciting. The initiative takes us back to our grass roots and gives the Freeman a platform to engage with apprentices, employers and training organisations to develop strong partnerships as we move forward.

We have been extremely careful to ensure we have everything in place as we move forward to secure positive outcomes. The project is more than celebrating craft skills achievement, its also about supporting the apprentice along that journey. Our Charitable Trust have already given grants to support that aim and will continue to do so. The ring fenced funding with the Charitable Trust will secure its long term financial viability.

Developing strong partnership relationships, will be key to the long term sustainability of the project. I could not have wished for any greater support from the Charitable Trust, our Wardens and Deputies and New College for which I am extremely grateful.

We can't afford to be complacent and should seek new and additional ways of funding our projects. Thinking outside of the box and daring to explore every opportunity to support what we do is essential as we move forward.

Our greatest asset has to be our members, we now have 266 of which 144 are ex-district and 122 in-district. Throughout the year the Wardens and Deputies will be exploring opportunities to engage with the membership beyond our Guild Days and Annual Dinner and will be seeking suggestions and ideas that would help make our organisation more inclusive and maximise our potential as a vibrant organisation.

Durham City Freeman belongs to you, the membership, its future depends on your engagement as a Freeman, your opinions matter and will influence the direction we take in the future.

We have a sub group working towards this aim, I therefore ask if you have any suggestions or ideas, please get in touch with Ann Thurlow whose contact details can be found in the Yearbook. Alternatively please contact your Warden whose details are on the website and in this publication.

In order to keep our records up to date please inform Kathleen Vasey of any changes you have to your contact details.

John Booth
Chairman of the Wardens



