



# Durham City Freemen



*Yearbook 2019*



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**All images by Geoff Kitson except where stated**





## Foreword

### Eric Bulmer Chairman of Wardens

I hope you had a relaxing festive break and recovering from the Brexit turmoil.

This is the time of year when it is usual to reflect on the previous year's activities and perhaps measure the progress and development of the Freeman.

One of the objectives of the Wardens was to raise the profile within the City and beyond and I believe we have made strides in this direction, but like all developments it will require constant maintenance.

A number of Wardens and their guests represented the Freeman at the Mayor's Civic Dinner, where once again the Chairman of the Wardens was invited to provide a toast to the City of Durham. It would be wonderful if the Wardens could be joined by some of our Members at next years function which would once again enhance our presence in the city.

The Wardens recognise the need to maintain a close relationship with the Cathedral. Joe McElwee and myself met with Gaye Kirby Development Officer and Maya Polenze Head of Property to explore how we could work more closely together for the benefit of both our organisations. This initial meeting resulted in a tour of the Cathedral for our guests from the Berwick Guild, when we hosted their visit in July.

The Chairman of the Wardens represented the Freeman at a dinner of the Clothworkers Guild Trustees held in the Clothworkers Hall in the City of London in June. It provided the opportunity to inform other guests of the history and heritage of the Durham City Freeman.

Following our visit to Berwick last year, we hosted a visit of the Berwick Guild in July.

It proved to be a very enjoyable day which helped forge closer links with a neighbouring guild. The day included, a tour of the Town Hall and Guildhall which was followed by guided tours of the Cathedral and River Banks in the afternoon.

The visit concluded with an impromptu opportunity to watch the final stages of England's quarter-final World Cup match with Sweden, rounding off a most enjoyable visit from our neighbouring guild.

In September the Freeman were represented at the Freeman of England and Wales AGM by 5 Wardens and a lady freeman. The event provides a rare opportunity to meet



with other guilds, to share information and raise the profile of our organisation and the development work we are undertaking.

The Freeman were invited to take part in the Centenary Remembrance event and formed part of the civic contingent. Thirteen Freeman, including both Wardens and Members all wearing gowns, attended the service in the Cathedral and then processed through Durham into the Market Place.

It is intended that this will be a regular feature of the Freeman's calendar in future years. If any member would like to take part in next year's event, please contact the Warden of their company in the first instance, so your name can be placed on a list.

The Freeman Charitable Trust continues to reach out into the community, providing support for worthy causes, whilst raising the profile of an element of our work which has been part of our heritage for many years. A more detailed report of their work will be found later in the Yearbook.

The History Group is moving closer to its final project of producing a booklet of a brief history of our 8 remaining guilds. The group has provided a wonderful opportunity for Freeman and the general public to meet and work closely together to create a booklet designed for the general public and visitors to the City that will again raise the profile of our organisation.

In 2018 we welcomed 12 new Members. A most encouraging feature this year, was 8 of them were time served and admitted through servitude.

Sadly 2018 also saw the passing of a number of Freeman.

John Atkinson	- Former Warden of the Masons' Company
Paul Allison	- Drapers' Company
Harry Robson	- Former Warden of the Plumbers' Company
Lawrence Anderson	- Barbers' Company
Robert Brown	- Former Warden of the Joiners' Company
Eric Brown	- Joiners' Company

In keeping with the introduction of tenure of appointment for Wardens, Stuart Magee, Drapers Company and Alan Dufton, Barbers' Company completed their term of office in April 2018. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Stewart and Alan for their contribution during the past three years. As a result Fred Snowdon was elected Warden of the Barbers' Company.

Unfortunately, we had no nominations from the Drapers' Company for the vacant post of Warden. John Booth (Plumbers' Company) who had previously indicated he would be willing to serve as a Warden in any other company, was appointed Warden of the Butchers' Company allowing Kathleen Vasey, then current Warden of the Butchers' Company to transfer back to her original Drapers' Company.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Fred and John for undertaking their new roles. A profile of both Fred and John can be found within the booklet.

In October, we were delighted to have the Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor John Lethbridge and his wife Sandra, supporting our Annual Dinner.

Although the numbers attending was down from the previous year by 25%, the dinner was extremely successful with 63 guests enjoying our annual event in the wonderful setting of the Town Hall.

Our guests this year included, Jim Evans, President of the Freeman of England and Wales (FEW), Alex Nelson of the Clothworkers Guild of London and Members from the York Guild, as well as Durham City Freeman, their guests and friends from within the city and beyond.

Our guest speaker on this occasion was George Patterson who gave an extremely interesting and humorous talk on his early years as a craft apprentice printer in Glasgow and his route through Further and Higher Education to become Master of Van Mildert College at Durham University.

My thanks once again to the Wardens and particularly Kathleen Vasey and John Booth for their support in organizing a successful event. May I also take this opportunity to thank Geoff Kitson for the major contribution he makes in providing a valued professional photographic service to our organization.

I am sure you will all be aware of the proposals to move the headquarters of Durham County Council from Ackley Heads to the Sands where we have an historical interest. Trustees of the Freeman, who have a direct responsibility for the assets of our organization, have been working closely with the Wardens to establish our position, details of which can be found in the Chairman of the Trustees report later in the Yearbook.

Finally, I must thank our 3 retiring trustees, Norman Hart, Alan Ribchester and George Oliver for their expertise and support over many years, especially through these recent and challenging times. I am extremely delighted that they have all accepted an invitation from the Wardens to become Gentlemen Freeman and will be awarded their Freedom at the Candlemas Guild Day on the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

I trust you will find the Yearbook interesting and thought provoking as we confront the challenges of 2019

Wishing you all the best for the New Year.

## A Message from the Worshipful Mayor of Durham County Councillor John Lethbridge



At my last meeting of the Freemen, it was my pleasure to invest several new Freemen. Ancient though this is, it does reflect with historic accuracy, the needs of our city economy in the Middle Ages. It was an essential maintenance of the standards of tradesmen which we would seek today.

At the recent Annual Dinner in the Town Hall, I was presented with a cheque to the value of £1000. This is gratefully accepted for my Charity, The Royal British Legion. Such is their generosity, it is unwavering in their work to support worthy causes.

May I wish the Freemen all the very best for 2019.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Lethbridge".

Councillor John Lethbridge  
The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Durham

## Diary Dates for 2019

All meetings will be in the Guildhall with the exception of Martinmas Guild Day and the Annual Dinner which will be held in the Main Hall.

### **Guild Days, 11:00 – 12:30**

Candlemas Monday, 4 February 2019  
May Day Monday, 13 May 2019  
Lammas Monday, 5 August 2019  
Martinmas Monday, 11 November 2019

### **Charitable Trust Meetings, 1:00 – 2:30**

Monday, 14 January 2019  
Monday, 15 April 2019  
Monday, 16 September 2019  
Monday, 25 November 2019

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

Friday, 25 January 2019  
Friday, 3 May 2019  
Friday, 27 September 2019  
Friday, 6 December 2019

### **Warden's Meetings, 6:00 – 7:30**

Tuesday, 22 January 2019  
Tuesday, 30 April 2019  
Tuesday, 24 September 2019  
Tuesday, 3 December 2019

### **Member's Meetings, 6:00 – 7:30**

Thursday 17 January 2019  
Thursday, 25 April 2019  
Thursday 19 September 2019  
Thursday, 28 November 2019

### **Freemen History Group Meetings, 6:00 - 7:30**

Thursday, 21 February 2019  
Thursday, 18 April 2019  
Thursday, 27 June 2019  
Thursday, 26 September 2019  
Thursday, 21 November 2019

### **Annual Dinner**

Saturday 19 October 2019

## 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 3780554)

Fred Snowdon  
Barbers' Company (0191 3730077)

John Booth  
Butchers' Company (0191 3733381)

Joe McElwee  
Cordwainers' Company (0191 373 4394)

Kathleen Vasey (0191 3868000)  
Drapers' Company

Ann Thurlow  
Joiners' Company (0191 3779706)

Bob Elliott  
Masons' Company (0191 383 0934)

Ian Stuart Wilmshurst  
Curriers' Company (0191 3782011)

### Trustees

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

Chairman:  
Patrick Conway OBE (0191 3868216)

Clerk and Receiver:  
Philip Wills (01388 603073)

Treasurer:  
Stewart Atkin (0191 5238918)

Peter Bramwell (0191 3868066)

Philip Dyer (0191 3721650)

Kenneth Howe (0191 3840589)

Malcome Proud (0191 3867615)

Richard Scothon (0191 3849400)

### Membership Secretary

Robert Elliott (0191 383 0934)  
e-mail: robert.elliott934@btinternet.com

### Communication Secretary

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

## New Warden of the Barbers' Company



*Fred Snowdon*

Fred Snowdon was born in Atherton Street, Durham City, his father was a weaver at the carpet factory in Walkergate all of his life, and his grandfather was a painter at Durham Cathedral.

Fred went to St Goodric's School and then to St Leonard's School at North End. On leaving school Fred served his time as a plumber with Eric Whitfield Plumbing Company at Broom Park. His last job working as a plumber was at HMP Durham before retiring in 2012.

In 1961 Fred joined the Durham Rowing Club and is still a member, he was President of the club from 2002-2008 and was involved in the building of the new boathouse. He was for many years a member of the regatta committee and has been Deputy Chairman of the Northern Rowing Council.

## New Warden of the Butchers' Company



*John Booth*

John was born in Hartlepool and moved to Durham aged seven. Following a secondary education he became an apprentice painter and decorator to P L Smith and Company, Elvet Bridge, Durham.

On completing his apprenticeship, he managed his own painting and decorating business for six years employing both tradesmen and apprentices, before taking up a building maintenance post at Durham School.

Eleven years later he moved to Newcastle College to teach craft apprentices, where he was instrumental in the further development of the Construction Curriculum Centre which attained regional and national recognition. As a result of this experience he was later promoted as Information and Learning Technology Manager for the College before retiring in 2000.

John has been a Freeman for four years during which time he has taken a proactive role in developing and managing the Freeman website and supported the Chairman of the Wardens in preparing plans for the continuing development of the organisation. He is also a member of the Freeman's Charitable Trust.

His interests outside of the Freeman, include, gardening and computing.

In 2013 he was awarded the Durham County Council's Chairman's Medal for 'Services to the Community and the County of Durham'. He is currently a board member of The Durham Agency Against Crime Police Charity.



## Warden Vacancies for 2019

**The tenure of appointment of the Wardens for the Plumbers' and Curriers' Companies will end in April 2019.**

**Members of both Companies will be contacted by the secretary of the Freeman in January 2019 regarding the election of a new Warden. The procedure for the election of Wardens is set out below.**

## Procedure for the Election of Wardens

### **A) Electing a Warden following the end of the three-year tenure**

Anticipated Warden vacancies are published on the website and in the Yearbook and the following procedures apply.

1. The Secretary of the Freeman writes to all Members of the Company in January informing them that there is a vacancy for the Warden's position and includes an application form to be completed and returned. A period of two weeks is normally given with a deadline date.
2. An outgoing Warden is entitled to be a candidate for another term of office and he/she must complete the application form in the usual way.
3. If only one nomination is received, then the application form goes to the Wardens for approval.
4. If approved the Chairman writes to that person confirming their appointment and that they will take up the post from the May Guild Day.
5. If more than one nomination is received the Secretary notifies the Company Members and a voting paper is sent out confirming the names of the candidates. A period of two weeks is normally given with a deadline date.
6. Candidates can vote for themselves.
7. Whoever gains the most votes would be the successful candidate. The Chairman writes to that person confirming their appointment and that they will be in post for the May Guild Day.
8. The results are placed on the website and will include the number of votes cast for each candidate.
9. If the Secretary of the Freeman wishes to continue as a Warden at the end of tenure, then the election process must be conducted by the Chairman or the Membership Secretary.

## **B) Electing a Warden before the end of the three-year tenure**

All the above procedures apply with the exception of 1 and 7, which now reads;

1. The Secretary of the Freeman writes to all Members of the Company as soon as possible after the vacancy is known, informing them that there is a vacancy for the Warden's position and includes an application form to be completed and returned. A period of two weeks is normally given with a deadline date.
7. Whoever gains the most votes is the successful candidate, and the Chairman writes to that person confirming their appointment and will commence their duties with immediate effect.

## **C) Electing a Warden when there are no candidates from the Company with the vacancy**

As a result of previous experience when no candidates have presented themselves from a Company with the vacancy, it has been necessary to appoint a Warden from a member of another Company. To regularise this anomaly the following statement will be placed on the website and in the Yearbook to ensure that all Members are aware of the situation and have the opportunity to express an interest in becoming a Warden.

***Where no candidates are forthcoming from the Company with the vacancy, then any member from any other Company may apply to become the Warden for that Company.***

***If you are interested in becoming a Warden under these circumstances please register your interest by contacting the Secretary of the Freeman who will place your name on a list. Should a vacancy occur under these circumstances in the future, you will be contacted and an application form will be sent out to you.***

Where no candidates are forthcoming from the Company with the vacancy, then any member from another Company who has expressed an interest in becoming a Warden and currently on the list, will be sent an application form by the Secretary of the Freeman to be completed and returned. A period of two weeks is normally given with a deadline date.

Then the standard procedures would apply for either:

- (A) Electing a Warden following the end of the three-year tenure.
- (B) Electing a Warden before the end of the three-year tenure.

## Sustaining the Management of Durham City Freeman

In keeping with a number of organisations and associations, the Freeman are struggling to retain a management structure that will sustain its future. It seems unable to attract Members, (current Freeman) who are willing/able to except the position of Warden and more critically the role of Chairman of the Wardens.

This paper sets out to identify current challenges facing the sustainability of the Durham City Freeman and its leadership succession. It aims to secure the leadership qualities required to navigate the challenges successfully, through adaptability and development planning to sustain the viability of the organisation and preserve its heritage and traditions.

### Current Position

Through planned development over the past three years the organisation has implemented a number of initiatives aimed at raising the profile and awareness of the organisation, with the view to engaging with its Membership and the wider public, these include:

- A website giving timely activity updates.
- The production of brochures, booklets and pop up boards displaying the history and heritage of the Freeman.
- A History Group, made up from Freeman Members and the general public.

The admission of women in 2009 saw member numbers increase further. Current Membership is 240, almost three times the numbers of 2009, women now represent a third of Freeman Membership, two of which are currently Wardens.

This increase in Member numbers has not seen a corresponding increase in Members coming forward to undertake a management or leadership role, it would seem that increasing the Membership per se has proved not to be the answer to the leadership succession issue. However, It is important to continue to attract new Members.

Over the past three years the Wardens introduced an additional number of initiatives to address this problem:

- Tenure of appointment (to allow Members certainty in length of commitment).
- Wardens Guide (to understand the role and responsibilities).
- Targeting of new and recently admitted Members (set up an annual “get together event” of that year’s new Members “tea and tour”).
- Development planning.

To date even with these initiatives and activities in place, the position of recruiting Wardens and in particular a Chairman of the Wardens remains unchanged and uncertain. This has been clearly evidenced through the balloting of Members to recruit Wardens, resulting in the inability to provide candidates from the following Companies, Butchers, Cordwainers, Drapers and Masons

This challenging situation once again requires a more focused approach regarding opportunities that currently exist within our organisation, by being proactive in targeting individuals to increase the number of Gentlemen and Lady Freemen who have the desire and capacity to support the management of the Freemen.

This would allow individuals who have demonstrated personal qualities of integrity, tolerance, and judgment, and be able to demonstrate experience or support relevant to the Freemen's activities together with one or more of the following:

- a desire and capacity to devote time to the activities of the Freemen
- existing or previous involvement in public or charitable service
- success in their chosen profession or career

Following discussions with the Trustees it has been established that Gentlemen and Lady Freemen are entitled to the same rights as Freemen, which includes the right to hold the office of Warden.

As a result of careful deliberation and discussion it has been decided by the Wardens to focus their attention on increasing the number of Gentleman and Lady Freemen, in an attempt to create a pool of potential Wardens capable of managing our organisation, so as to sustain the Freemen in its present form and capable of tackling the challenging future that lies ahead.

## New Members 2018

Candlemas Guild Day 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018



*Mayor of Durham Councillor Bill Kellett and Kim Mullaney*

Kim Mullaney works as a funeral arranger for Cooperative Care near her home in Daventry in Northamptonshire. She left Durham when husband Chris got a new job and he currently works as a product development specialist in the power industry.



*Mayor of Durham Councillor Bill Kellett, Claire Patterson Legal Representative, and Alan Oliver*

Alan Oliver who lives on the city's western perimeter, was initially apprenticed to the plumbers Harold Fairclough before switching to the firm of Frederick Dennison. Serving his time in Durham qualified him for admission to the Freemen. He is self-employed and well known throughout the city.



*Mayor of Durham Councillor Bill Kellett, Claire Patterson Legal Representative, and Stuart Trow*

Forty-five-year-old Stuart Trow served a joinery apprenticeship with his father's construction company and attended Durham's New College. There he took an advanced craft joinery course before undertaking study that led to a Higher National Diploma in construction/building studies that qualified him as a surveyor.

#### **May Guild Day 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018**



*Mayor of Durham Councillor Bill Kellett, Sue Staveley*

Forty-two-year-old Sue Staveley lives in a village on the outskirts of Scarborough with her husband Jamie, 13-year-old daughter Emily and son Harry, aged nine. Her father Ian Macdonald and brother Andy had already followed her maternal grandfather into the ancient trade guilds some years ago.



*Deputy Mayor Councillor Jean Chaplow and Niki Haunch*

Mother-of-two Niki Haunch, whose family links with the city stretch back to the early 1800s, insisted she was “proud” to have further strengthened her family’s ties with the Masons’ Company which stretch back to her great grandfather.

### **Martinmas Guild Day 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

Three craftsmen, who have played a key role in the multi-million pound restoration of the top of Durham Cathedral’s 200-foot high central tower, have been sworn in as Freemen of the City. The trio, stonemasons Steven Mann, Nigel Mawson and joiner Anthony Swallow, who all live on the outskirts of the city, were among seven newcomers admitted at the Martinmas ceremony in the Town Hall.



*Durham City Mayor John Lethbridge and Steven Mann*

For 51-year-old Steven, who hails from Essex, the work has been the culmination of a lifechanging decade which started when he first came to the north east to start on a painting contract in Gateshead.

It was during a day trip to Durham he had a chance meeting with supervising staff at the Cathedral and asked about the prospect of work. He was offered a job as a stonemason’s labourer and went on to become the oldest apprenticeship mason in the region. He has since been awarded a foundation degree in stonemasonry and is currently a sub-foreman on the masonry team.



His colleague Nigel, who started as a 16-year-old apprentice mason 40 years ago, hopes the result of their labours will last 200 years.

“Some of the work we were required to produce has been quite intricate, a lot different to what we might routinely be asked to do. But it has been brilliant and I have loved every minute”.



*Durham City Mayor John Lethbridge and Nigel Mawson*



*Durham City Mayor John Lethbridge and Anthony Swallow*

Forty-six-year-old Anthony, one of two joiners within the restoration team has worked at the Cathedral for 29 years. One of the tasks testing his skills has been the creation of a protective climate within the lofty superstructure which takes a constant battering from the elements. Rot- resistant wood, specially treated with vinegar, is being used to replace crumbling oak. To extend the life of the installation perforated plastic sheets, reinforced with stainless steel mesh, are being added to act as “gale breakers,” offering further longevity to the repair operation.

Another newcomer to the Joiners’ Company is Ian Peverall, assistant workshop manager with the County Durham and Darlington Fire Brigade.

The 36-year-old oversees the work of the brigade’s team responsible for the upkeep of more than two dozen fire engines, eighty other cars and vans, as well as a string of specialist fire-fighting appliances. After leaving school he started his working career with the brigade as an apprentice coach builder and lives in a former mining village with his wife Emma, a deputy head teacher, and their two children.



*Durham City Mayor John Lethbridge and Ian Peverall*





*Durham City Mayor John Lethbridge and John Bregazzi*

Electrician John Bregazzi's trip to the Town Hall was something of a return "home." The 63-year-old grandfather served most of his apprenticeship with the former Brandon and Byshottles District Council before switching to Durham City Council when local government was re-organised in 1974.

He climbed the promotional ladder and was the council's maintenance manager, overseeing a £13million annual budget, 18,000 council houses and a team of 136 employees, when he took early retirement 12 years ago.

Plumber John Walker was apprenticed to former City Mayor, Councillor Fred Dennison, and spent more than 30 years with his company. In the late 1990s he left to work as an independent operator, a path he followed until he retired a year ago on reaching his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday.

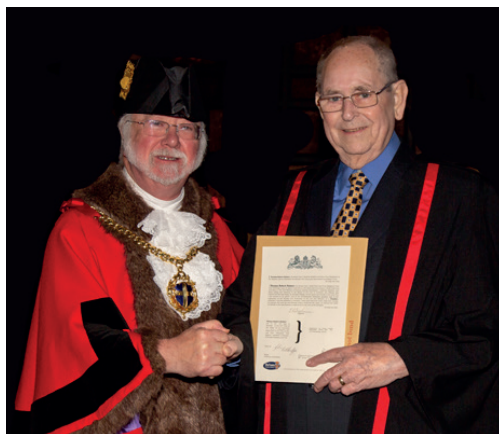
John, married with twin sons and two grandsons devotes much of his time to his family but in his remaining spare time he helps a friend with work on a nearby farm.



*Durham City Mayor John Lethbridge and John Walker*

When Tony Bulmer was installed into the Plumbers' Company he reinforced family links stretching back to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

Tony, who is in his 80s and worked at Thorns' electrical factory at Spennymoor until he retired, joins brothers Michael, who was admitted last February, and Eric, who is Chairman of the Wardens. The brothers' ties go back to their great, great grandfather who became a freeman in 1851.



*Durham City Mayor John Lethbridge and Tony Bulmer*

## New Members admitted during 2018

**At the Candlemas Guild Day the following were granted the Freedom.**

Kimberley Mullaney	Company of Drapers
Alan Oliver	Company of Plumbers
Stuart Trow	Company of Joiners

**At the May Day Guild Day the following were granted the Freedom.**

Susan Staveley	Company of Butchers
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**At the Lammas Guild Day the following were granted the Freedom.**

Nicola Haunch	Company of Masons
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**At the Martinmas Guild Day the following were granted the Freedom.**

John Bregezzi	Company of Butchers
Thomas Robert Bulmer	Company of Plumbers
Steven Mann	Company of Masons
Nigel Mawson	Company of Masons
Iain Peveral	Company of Joiners
Anthony Swallow	Company of Joiners
John Walker	Company of Plumbers

## Current Membership at January 2019

COMPANY	IN-DISTRICT	EX-DISTRICT	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
Barbers	8	18	20	6	26
Butchers	9	7	14	2	16
Cordwainers	8	10	16	2	18
Curriers	11	11	14	8	22
Drapers	16	43	33	26	59
Joiners	25	15	33	7	40
Masons	17	13	24	6	30
Plumbers	14	17	20	11	31
TOTAL	108	134	174	66	242

## Barbers Company

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

## Butchers Company

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

## Cordwainers Company

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

## Drapers Company

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

## Masons Company

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

## Plumbers Company

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

## Joiners Company

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

## Curriers Company

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

# 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 Freeman 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 Freeman 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 Freeman, 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 Freeman 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 Freeman 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.

# Data Protection

In keeping with recent legislation, the ‘Freemen’ have put in place a Data Protection Policy. A summary of the document is set out below and a copy of the complete policy can be obtained by contacting the Membership Secretary.

## Data Protection Policy

### What information we collect and why.

<b>Type of information</b>	Member’s name, address. Telephone numbers, Email addresses.
<b>Purposes</b>	Managing the Membership of the Freeman.
<b>Legal Basis for Processing</b>	For the purpose of our legitimate interests in operating the Freeman.



<b>Type of information</b>	Gender.
<b>Purposes</b>	Managing the membership of the Freeman.
<b>Legal Basis for Processing</b>	For the legitimate purpose of maintaining diversity data.
<b>Type of information</b>	Photos and videos of Members.
<b>Purposes</b>	Putting on the Freeman's website and social media pages in the Yearbook and using in press release.
<b>Legal Basis for Processing</b>	Consent. We will seek the Member's consent on their application form and the Member may withdraw their consent at any time by contacting us by email or letter.
<b>Type of information</b>	Details of family history and/or apprenticeship details as appropriate.
<b>Purposes</b>	Managing the Membership of the Freeman.
<b>Legal Basis for Processing</b>	For the legitimate purpose confirming the criteria for Membership.
<b>Type of information</b>	Name, address, telephone numbers and email addresses of each Trustee, Warden and Official.
<b>Purposes</b>	Information published on the Freeman's website, in Yearbooks and other publications in the Freeman's marketing materials.
<b>Legal Basis for Processing</b>	For the purposes of our legitimate interests in operating and promoting the Freeman.

We may collect, use and store your personal data as described in the Data Privacy Policy and as described when we collect data from you.

We reserve the right to amend this Data Protection Policy from time to time without prior notice. You are advised to check our website [www.durhamcityfreemen.org.uk](http://www.durhamcityfreemen.org.uk) regularly for any amendments or contact the Membership Secretary for a current copy. Amendments will not be made retrospectively.

We will always comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) when dealing with your personal data. Further details on the GDPR can be found at the website for the Information Commissioner ([www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)) For the purposes of the GDPR we will be the 'controller' of all personal data we hold about you.

## Membership Secretary

### Mr Bob Elliott

147 Gilesgate  
Durham  
DH1 1QQ  
Tel: 0191 3830934  
Email: [robert.elliott934@btinternet.com](mailto:robert.elliott934@btinternet.com)



## Obituaries



### John Atkinson

*(Drapers' Company)*

22<sup>nd</sup> September 1928 – 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018

John Atkinson was known to all as a welcoming spirit at Freeman Meetings, Guild Days and the Annual Dinner. Although John had originally been admitted to the Company of Drapers, he agreed to become Warden of the Masons' Company in 1999 in succession to Donald Young. He retired as Warden of the 'Masons' in 2013.

The 'Atkinsons' have been associated with the Drapers' Company at least since the early 19<sup>th</sup>

century and John's great grandmother was a tailor in North Road. John himself was born in Hallgarth Street, the son of the winder-man in charge of the pit-head gear at Bowburn Colliery. He lived in Wylam Street and at 14 years old after leaving St Margaret's school he became an apprentice joiner at Bowburn Colliery (then owned by Dorman Long) dealing with shovels, shafts, doors and windows. He was time-served by the age of 21 in 1949 and left the colliery in 1962.

Sheila, John's first wife for 34 years died in 1988

He then worked for the pre-1974 Durham City Council and then in the construction industry dealing with the civil engineering of reservoirs, bridges and schools. He returned to the service of Durham City in 1972 and became a foreman for housing maintenance from 1986 until his retirement in 1992.

John, in keeping with his character, slipped away quietly to Gretna Green in 1992 to marry Annie Abernethy (Ann) in 1992. Sadly Ann died in 2005

John lived in the family house at Tenter Terrace where he continued to practise his craft of joinery, producing splendid garden furniture. Freeman will recognize his workmanship in the oak candlestick and plate, which usually feature at Guild Days.

John loved photography and has over the years generously provided super panoramic photos of the City to guests. Over the years he built up an invaluable archive of pictures and films of Freeman activities, further evincing his loyalty and enthusiastic care for the good estate of the Freeman of Durham which continued until his death.



**Harry Robson**

*(Plumbers' Company)*

24<sup>th</sup> November 1937 – 27<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Beloved son of Jen and Thomas. Devoted husband and best friend of Anne. Loving dad to Ian and Paul. Doting grandad to Dylan, Emily and Alice.

Proud member of the Durham City Freemen and dedicated Warden of the Plumbers Guild. Harry always had time and always had something valuable to offer.

Everyone who met Harry knew him, whether it was through encouragement to go on or the simplest of cheeky little smiles that lifted the mood.

One of the “last true gentlemen” who will be sorely missed by all whose lives were touched by him.



**Robert Brown**

*(Joiners' Company)*

31<sup>st</sup> May 1964 – 11<sup>th</sup> August 2018

A Freeman and past Warden of the Joiners' Company died on 11th August 2018.

Robert was admitted to the Joiners' Company in May 1986 and followed a family tradition by succeeding his father as Warden.

## Chairman of the Trustees Report

My first year as Chair of the Trustees has been eventful, but first I must pay tribute to my predecessor Norman Hart, who guided the Freeman with his wise and measured counsel. Norman had also served as trustee for many years and in the period under review continued to provide sound advice.

As 2018 came to an end Norman decided to retire as a trustee, though I know he will continue to maintain his interest in the Freeman of Durham.

That same affection for the Freeman applies to Alan Ribchester and George Oliver who have decided to retire formally as Trustees. Alan played a major part in the development of the charitable arm of the Freeman, while George has done sterling work with our public relations and media profile.



*Patrick Conway*

We welcomed Richard Scothorn at the beginning of the year as a new Trustee who brings legal, financial and business expertise as well as some craft experience from earlier in his life. In 2019, the Trustees will be looking to further strengthen their numbers.

Without doubt the most pressing matter considered during 2018 was the planning application submitted by Keir Developments for the construction of a new civic headquarters on the Sands. This application, at the time of writing, has yet to be considered but has aroused considerable public interest and comment. The Freeman of Durham have an historic interest in the Sands and though no longer the landowners retain a legal interest in its use.

Following consideration of the application, presentations by County Council officers to the Trustees and Wardens and further discussion with the applicants, Durham City Freeman formally objected to the erection of office headquarters and associated car parking on the Sands. We await further information on the planning process.

Less contentious is the ongoing work of the Freeman as we continue to support apprenticeships, provide financial assistance to local organizations and promote the study and interpretation of the City's history.

In particular, our work with the University including the sponsorship of an apprentice in their heritage programs continues to prosper. We are anxious to provide practical support to the County Council in their ambitious plans for the development of the Town Hall as a heritage destination for visitors. The guilds is inextricably linked to the guildhall and the wider building.

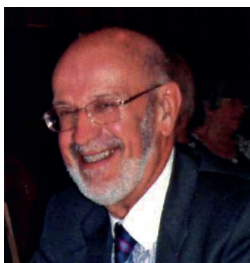
The Freeman were again able to provide financial support to the 2018 Remembrance Day Parade, a particularly poignant occasion, given the centenary of the armistice. Awards were also made to Durham Pointers without whom the city's tourism offer would be the poorer; Durham Area Disability Leisure Group; and St Nicholas Church Recovery Group, whose work in supporting alcohol or drug users is highly valued.

Finally, on the social side it was a pleasure to host a visit from Berwick Freeman, while the Annual Dinner in October was its usual convivial affair, enlightened by an entertaining speech from George Patterson, whose working life in craft and academia was appreciatively received.

I expect 2019 to be no less eventful.

***Patrick Conway***

## **Treasurers Report**



Managing finances in 2018 has been a roller coaster experience. The first 6 months saw stock markets maintaining their earlier gains. However, uncertainty over US interest rates, trade tariffs and Brexit saw most markets end the year 10% lower. It was decided in November to take some profits and reposition part of the portfolio with a balance between income and growth.

Income levels for the Freeman's investments have held above 4%. Cash reserves are healthy, but the continued uncertainties both home and abroad have led me to recommend a defensive approach to investments.

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

***Stewart Atkin***  
Treasurer

## Charitable Trust Report

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

The Trust currently comprises of the following Members:

Eric Bulmer (Freeman) Chairman

Stewart Atkin (Trustee)

John Booth (Freeman)

Joe McElwee (Freeman)

Alan Ribchester (Trustee)

During 2018 the “Trust” provided support to the following organisations;

### The Mayor’s Charity Appeal

The Mayor of Durham, County Councillor John Lethbridge, has offered his heartfelt thanks to the City’s Freeman for the boost to his annual charity appeal, which is destined this year to go to the Royal British Legion.



Councillor Lethbridge, a retired teacher, was handed a £1,000 donation by the Chairman of the Charitable Trust, Eric Bulmer, when he and his wife Sandra attended, as guests, the Freeman’s Annual Dinner in the Town Hall.

The charity provides support to Members and veterans of Britain’s armed forces, as well as their families and dependents and was chosen, said Councillor Lethbridge, because of the “historical significance” of its work this year.

“I have a growing awareness, through the events I have attended and the contacts I have made, of the breadth and purpose of this charity. It is with gratitude and a degree of humility that I accepted the Freeman’s very generous donation,” he added.

### Remembrance Parade

Following an application from Advisory Group of the Durham City Remembrance Parade, the Charitable Trust agreed to provide a donation of £500 towards the continuing development of the Remembrance Day event.

The Freeman will once again form part of the civic procession and attend the service at the Cathedral on Remembrance Sunday.

The Chairman of the Charitable Trust presented the cheque to Arthur Lockyear, representing of the Remembrance Day Advisory Committee at our Annual Dinner.



## Durham Hospitals' Radio



This well-established charity provides a valuable service to patients at the University Hospital of North Durham. It delivers an around the clock service, seven days a week. As well as providing the normal request type programme it delivers outside broadcasts from local football grounds.

This high quality service is delivered totally by enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers.

Following a visit by Members of the 'Trust' it was agreed to award a grant of £740 to upgrade communication equipment e.g. a headphone set boom microphone and a laptop.

## Redwood Lodge Roof Repair

In response to an application for support from Jean Foulds, Chair of Redwood Lodge Management Committee to help fund the cost of replacing the roof membrane of Redwood Lodge, a site visit to gather more information was undertaken.

The building in Church Street has been well maintained, but the asphalt roof which is about 15 years old is at the end of its expected life and is leaking. It is planned to replace it with a much better product with the lifespan of between 20/25 years.

Redwood Lodge is well used by the Guides, Brownies and Rainbow groups and has a regular local Thai Chi class. together with the occasional use by groups from St Oswald's Church and St Oswald Court residents, for coffee morning events etc.



An application for support for help was received from Redwood Lodge, towards the cost of replacing the roof membrane. The 'Trust' agreed to provide funding of £1000.



## Durham Area Disability Leisure Group (DADLG)



An application was received from DADLG which is a registered charity based at Vane Tempest Hall, Gilesgate.

The group is currently led by one member of staff (25 hours) supported by a group of volunteers. With the ever increasing demands on their services the DADLG made application for a donation to support the appointment of a further part-time member of staff (16 hours)

DADLG have a fundamental belief that leisure is an important part in every young person's life and is vital to the process of human development. It provides a mechanism for individuals to explore the world around them and a medium through which skills are developed and practiced.

The charity is unique in that its work/activities embraces and involves the whole family. Following a visit by Members of the charitable trust It was agreed to award DADLG £2,000.

### **St Nicholas Church (St Nic's) Recovery Group**

A request for support from the Vicar of St Nicholas Church to help in assisting the recovery of alcohol or drug users.

The group is locally based in the Church Hall, but is not a religious organisation.

Members of the Charitable Trust met with the leader of St Nic's Recovery Group and were informed of the difficult work undertaken by volunteers.

As well as being a locally-based group supporting the community there are historical links between the Freeman and St Nicholas Church which is adjacent to the Guild Hall.

The Charitable Trust agreed to make a donation of £250.





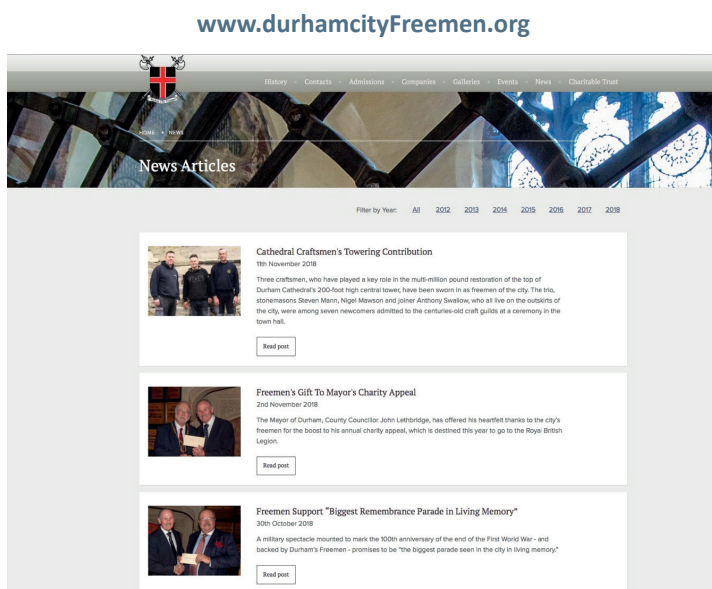
## Freemen Website

The Durham City Freemen website remains the primary source of information for Members living locally and worldwide. The website provides timely information posted when it happens and has proven to be the quick, cost effective and easy way of communicating information to all our Members and the public at large.

An interesting development is currently taking place within the website. We are creating an archive relating to the history of the Freemen and Guilds. The archive will be principally used by the History Group, where they can deposit research material to be shared with other Members within the group, but it will also form the foundation for any future research.

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

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



*Screen shot from the news pages of the Freemen website*

### Durham City Freemen Photographer

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

## Calendar of involvement during 2018

### **16<sup>th</sup> January**

The History Group attended a training session at the County Record Office, which was led by David Butler the former County Archivist.

### **5<sup>th</sup> February**

John Booth and Eric Bulmer Members of the Charitable Trust met with Terry Clough at Durham Hospital Radio in response to an application for support.

### **6<sup>th</sup> February**

The Wardens provided a guard of honour at the funeral of John Atkinson.

### **19<sup>th</sup> February**

Alan Ribchester and Eric Bulmer met with Stephen Howell and Ian Thomson to discuss the development of the Town Hall/ Guildhall as it tourist destination.

### **9<sup>th</sup> March**

Trustees and Wardens attended a presentation by Durham County Council regarding the proposal to relocate their headquarters to the Sands.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> March**

Eric Bulmer, Chairman of the Charitable Trust met with Mrs Jean Foulds, a regional leader of the Girl Guides movement in the North East and Guide Members of the "Lodge" Guide Centre in response to an application for support.

### **16<sup>th</sup> April**

Joe Mcelwee and Eric Bulmer met with Gaye Kirby and Maya Polenze from Durham Cathedral to discuss opportunities for co-operation and collaboration.

### **21<sup>th</sup> June**

The Chairman of the Wardens attended a dinner held by the Trustees of the Clothworkers Guild in London.

### **27<sup>th</sup> June**

Alan Ribchester and Eric Bulmer met with Andy Harston the recently appointed Director of Development and Alumni Relations Office of Durham University in respect of the Charitable Trust's sponsorship of Steven Hay.

### **13<sup>th</sup> August**

The Wardens provided a guard of honour at the funeral of Harry Robson.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> September**

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

### **19<sup>th</sup> October**

The Wardens attended a preview of the 'Town Hall Opening' as a tourist venue.

### **26<sup>th</sup> October**

John Booth and Eric Bulmer, Members of the Charitable Trust met with Lesley Clelland, project manager for the Durham Area Disability Leisure Group at Vane Tempest Hall, to discuss their application for support.

### **10<sup>th</sup> November**

John Booth and Geoff Kitson represented the Freeman at the Centenary Remembrance Festival Service held in the Cathedral.

### **11<sup>th</sup> November**

Wardens and Members representing the Freeman, attended the Centenary Remembrance Service and Parade as part of the Mayor's civic party.

### **10<sup>th</sup> December**

John Booth and Eric Bulmer Members of the Charitable Trust met with Tim Biddlecombe the leader of St Nics Recovery Group to gather information in response to an application for support.

## **Freemen Social Activities**

### **Berwick Visit**

Following our visit to Berwick last year, the Durham City Freeman hosted a visit of the Berwick Guild. It proved to be very enjoyable day which also benefited from wonderful sunny weather.



The programme for the visit of Members and guests of the Berwick Guild included;

- A mid-morning sherry reception and welcome by the Chairman of the Wardens.
- Escorted tours of the Town Hall and Guild Hall, followed by a light buffet lunch.
- Guided Tours of the Cathedral and River Banks followed in the afternoon.

The visit concluded with refreshments in the Town Hall and an impromptu opportunity to watch the final stages of England's quarter-final World Cup match with Sweden rounding off a most enjoyable visit from our neighbouring Guild.

## Annual Dinner 2018

The Annual Dinner of the Durham City Freemen was held in the Town Hall on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2018, where 63 Freemen, friends and guests enjoyed an evening in the magnificent setting of the Main Hall.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Durham, Councillor John Lethridge and Sandra Lethridge were in attendance, together with Jim Evans (President of the Freemen of England and Wales) and his wife Pat.



Following the meal and a further word of welcome by the Mayor, there was a presentation of cheques to the Mayors Charity Appeal 'The Royal British Legion and to the Durham City Remembrance Parade.



A toast to the health of the guests was proposed by Patrick Conway, the recently appointed Chairman of the Trustees.

Our guest speaker on this occasion was George Patterson who gave an extremely interesting and humorous talk on his early years as a craft apprentice printer in Glasgow and his route through Further and Higher Education to become Master of Van Mildert College at Durham University.

Following his talk, he proposed a toast to the Durham City Freemen

The Dinner was also supported by a member of the Clothworkers Guild of London and the York Guild as well as Durham City Freemen, their guests and friends from within the city and beyond.

Next year's dinner is planned for Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2019.



## Moving Forward

As I am nearing the end of my tenure as Chairman of the Wardens my thoughts and those of the Wardens continues to be focused on the future management of our organisation. We, like many organisations face the challenging tasks of sustainability and progression.

Although the 'Freemen' has grown substantially during the last decade we are still unable to attract Members to become Wardens.

The Wardens are the executive offices of our organisation, who represent the Membership and as such have the responsibility for the management, development and sustainability of the 'Freemen'.

During the last three years our organisation has developed in a number of areas to promote a positive profile within the city and beyond. Growth and progression energises an organisation, but unfortunately it brings with it challenges to its management. In addition to the increased administrative load that flows from a growing Membership, we have experienced a significant rise in the number of technical and management demands upon our organization.

The 'Freemen' is grounded in the City's heritage and history, but to survive it is essential that it embraces change and development, that gives it purpose, substance and relevance, so that we have a future in today's modern society.

It is well documented in previous Yearbooks, the measures that we have put in place to address this issue, these include, engaging with our Membership, by launching a website, establishing Members Meetings and more recently the creation of a History Group. We have also mounted Guildhall Open Days and provided visits to the Castle and Cathedral for new Members, by way of introduction to the 'Freemen'.

Even with these initiatives in place we still have had little response from the general Membership to come forward and be more actively involved in our organisation. Although that has been disappointing it has not deterred the Wardens, who have explored areas that may attract individuals who we feel are able to make a contribution to the management, development and sustainability of our organisation. This will form the main drive for our energy and work in the months ahead.



You will have read earlier in the Yearbook, of our detailed proposals to address the issue of 'Sustainability' of the Freeman. This will provide the opportunity to increase the number of targeted Gentlemen and Lady Freeman into our ranks.

The single focus of our attention in 2019 will be to increase the number of Members coming forward who wish to be involved in the running of the Durham City Freeman.

So, with that clearly stated objective in mind, I invite any Member who wishes to be more actively involved in shaping and managing our organisation, to contact me or the Warden of their Company. I can assure you of a very warm welcome.

**Eric Bulmer**

Chairman of the Wardens

Warden of Plumbers' Company

Tel 01913780554

Mobile 07894064057

Email [eckabulmer@gmail.com](mailto:eckabulmer@gmail.com)





