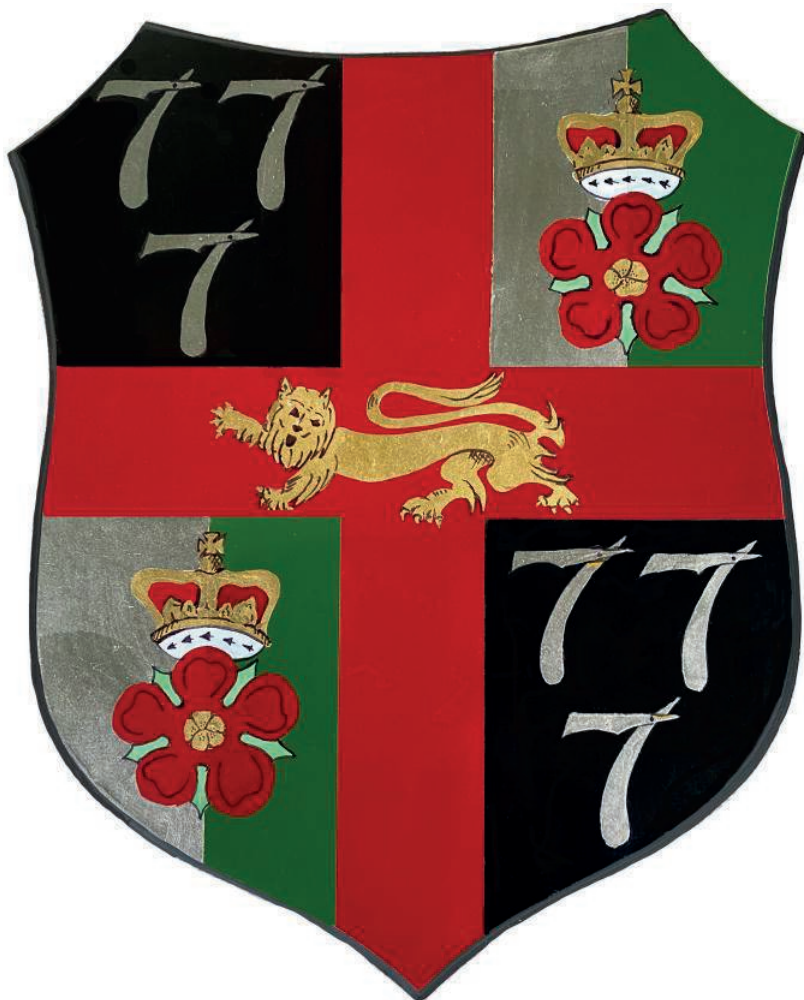




Durham City Freemen



Yearbook 2024

The front cover image is the shield of the Barber Surgeons and represents the Company of Barbers of the Durham City Freeman

A Brief History of the Barber Surgeons

From as early as 1000 AD, the role of surgeons and physicians was separated. The surgeons often catering to the lower class, while physicians resided in courts and castles and were to be found almost exclusively in the service of the wealthy. They considered themselves above the practice of surgery and instead observed the patients, spotting symptoms, injuries, and afflictions, offering counsel reliant upon their academic knowledge to suggest an appropriate course of treatment.

In 1308, King Edward II of England granted the barbers guild status created to regulate the trade of barbering in the UK. Afterwards, in 1375, this guild was further established and separated into two distinct roles – those who did surgery and those who were only barbers. In 1540 Henry VIII merged the barbers guild and surgeons guild to form the Guild of Barber Surgeons.

The physicians, mostly in the 15th century and onwards, were accredited and licensed by the universities in which they studied, whilst barber surgeons were not. They had to apply to the trade guild and would subsequently become apprentices to barbers. Over time the term barber surgeon was born and the basic service of a barber gained many other tasks.

The union of the Barbers and Surgeons was never easy to manage and the relationship continued uneasily for 200 years. In 1745, at the request of the surgeons, a Bill was finally passed and the Surgeons left the Company forming what eventually became the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

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All images by Geoff Kitson except where stated

Foreword

I wish you all and your families a very Happy New Year for 2024

One of our key objectives is the continued development of the Freemen and supporting local charities and community projects. The Beacon project and our Apprentice of the Year Awards are prime examples of our efforts to continue the development of the freemen and engage with the community.



The past year has been an extremely busy one for the Freemen, highlighted by two major events, the handover of the Freemens Beacon to the City of Durham in partnership with Durham County Council and our first ever Apprentice of the Year Ceremony, which celebrated apprentice excellence, awarding thirteen prizes over eight categories in partnership with New College Durham and Durham University.

The value of engaging with dedicated partners was rewarded by the publicity gained from both of these projects which were very well received. I thank George Oliver our Press Officer and Geoff Kitson the Freemen Photographer for their support and dedication.

Sincere thanks to all our partners for helping make these projects a resounding success and special thanks to the working groups for their commitment, as well as our Charitable Trust for their support with both projects. Additional details of the work of the Trust can be found later in the yearbook

I would also like to acknowledge the contribution and pay respect to the late Stewart Atkin who passed away in August this year. Stewart was Treasurer to the Freemen and the Charitable Trust, serving with distinction and dedication to both. He is a great loss to the Durham City Freemen.

Thanks, must also go to the Freemen Trustees who manage the assets of the Freemen for their work during the past year.

In 2023, we welcomed 7 new Members. Taking our membership to 270.

Finally, in late September I decided to step down from the role of Chairman of the Wardens and Warden of the Barbers Company, however I will continue to manage the website, and remain a trustee of the Charitable Trust.

In celebrating the Freemen, I acknowledge the importance of tradition and continuity. The unwavering dedication to upholding ancient customs and ceremonies preserves the essence of our heritage, allowing us to bridge the gap between our past and future. In a rapidly changing world, this connection to our roots remains an invaluable source of identity and pride.

During my time as Chairman, I was always mindful of the invaluable contributions of former Freemen Chairmen, learning from their example, and carrying their legacy with us. Let us recognise that the strength of a community lies not merely in its infrastructure but in the bonds that tie its people together. The Freemen of Durham City embody these bonds, reminding us that unity, vision and shared purpose are the cornerstones of progress.

Looking forward, we need to continue to collaborate, innovate, and explore new avenues to ensure that Durham City Freemen remains a beacon of excellence, far beyond our borders and recognise the Freemen of Durham City for their exceptional contributions, both past, present, and those yet to come. Their dedication to excellence, and commitment to the common good continue to inspire us all.

As we celebrate our achievements, we should remember that the true essence of being a Freeman lies not in the title, but in the honour of serving others and helping to shape a brighter future for generations to come.

I am sure the membership will have every confidence in whoever takes over the positions I have vacated and will no doubt maintain the legacy of the past and continue to develop the Freemen into the future.

Best wishes to you all.

John Booth

Diary Dates for 2024

All meetings will be in the Guildhall.

Annual Dinner Saturday 26th October 2024 in the **Masonic Hall**

Apprentice of the Year Awards Friday 28th June 2024 in the **Town Hall**

Guild Days 11:00 – 12:30

Candlemas Monday 5th February 2024

May Day Monday 13th May 2024

Lammas Monday 5th August 2024

Martinmas Monday 4th November 2024

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

Friday 19th January 2024

Friday 19th April 2024

Friday 20th September 2024

Friday 6th December 2023

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

Thursday 11th January 2024

Thursday 11th April 2024

Thursday 12th September 2024

Thursday 5th December 2024

Charitable Trust Meetings 1:00 – 2:30

Monday 8th January 2024

Monday 8th April 2024

Monday 9th September 2024

Monday 2nd December 2024

Member's Meetings under discussion.

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

Alan Metcalf

*Chairman of Wardens and
Secretary to the Charitable
Trust*

Tel: 07401443210

Theresa Ford

*Cordwainers' Company
Deputy Chair and Treasurer
to the Charitable Trust*

Tel: 07858126821

Bryan Proud

*Barbers' Company and
Freemen Secretary*

Tel: 07919996551

Abiodun Williams

Butchers' Company

Tel: 07496 374168

Iain Wilmhurst

Curriers' Company

Tel: 0191 3861703

Kathleen Vasey

Drapers' Company

Tel: 07761 035675

Ann Thurlow

Joiners' Company

Tel: 0191 3779706

Neil Graham

Masons' Company

Tel: 07835 421640

Garry Dunnill

Plumbers' Company

Tel: 07739 325421

Deputy Wardens

Alan Metcalf

Barbers' Company

Dave Howard

Butchers' Company

Vincent Syson

Cordwainers' Company

Gary Bankhead

Curriers' Company

Trevor Carter

Drapers' Company

David Neale

Joiners' 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

Scott Cooper

Tel: 07807588504

Alice Ambrose Thurman

Peter Bramwell

Tel: 0191 3868066

Cannon Michael Everett

Kenneth Howe

Tel: 0191 3840589

Helen McMillan

Cathrin Morgan

Richard Scothan

Tel: 0191 6827708

New Chairman of the Wardens



Alan Metcalf

Alan became a Freeman in February 2019, admitted via Customary Freedom. He was elected Chairman of the Wardens in November and Secretary to the Charitable Trust in September of this year.

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

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

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

Alan has an interest in men's mental health and in his spare time attends a support group in Spennymoor. He also has a keen eye for photography.

New Warden of the Barbers' Company and Secretary to the Freeman



Bryan Proud

Brian was made a Freeman in February 2022. He was elected Warden of the Barbers Company and Secretary to the Freeman in October 2023.

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. He was promoted to senior engineer in 1972 and was made chief engineer in 1980, a post he held for eight years before becoming operations director, a position he held until his retirement in 2000.

One of the many projects in his career from which he takes particular pleasure was his involvement in the unique design of a footbridge over the A690 at the Gilesgate roundabout.

He created a scale model of the bridge, a task which formed an integral part of studies for an honours degree in civil engineering. To prove its safety credentials it was tested – quite literally – to destruction and the results subsequently scrutinised by the Institution of Civil Engineers earned him chartered member status.

Warden of the Butchers' Company Re-Elected



Abiodun Williams

After a three-year tenure of appointment Mac has been re-elected as Warden of the Butchers Company.

Mac, started his working life at Dawdon Colliery in 1960 and started work with Seaham Urban District Council in 1971. He then moved to Wear Valley then Durham City Council as Health and Safety Officer and become a Durham County Councillor in 2006 and was elected Chairman of the authority in 2010.

Mac was appointed a magistrate in Durham City in 1979, becoming chairman of the bench in 2001 before accepting the same role with the North Durham Bench two years later retiring in 2014 after 35 years service.

He became a member of the Durham Police Committee in 1988 and continued sitting when it became the Durham Police Authority, serving both for more than 15 years.

The Durham City Charter Trust has appointed Mac as Recorder, a position previously held by the Town Clerk, Clerk to the Justices, City Council Solicitor, and Monitoring Officer.

New Deputy Wardens



Gary Bankhead
Cordwainers' Company



Vincent Syson
Curriers' Company



David Neale
Joiners' Company

Members Admitted in 2023

Candlemas Guild Day 6th February 2023

Brian Russell
(Plumbers' Company)

Admitted as a Gentleman Freeman.



May Day 15th May 2023

Ms Joanne Marie Booth
(Plumbers' Company)

Admitted via Patrimony.



Mrs Sheila Kitson
(Plumbers' Company)

Admitted as a Lady Freeman, (via Customary Freedom).



Lamas Guild Day 17th August 2023

Mr Matthew Brookes

(Drapers' Company)

Admitted via Patrimony.



Mr Vincent Owen Syson

(Butchers' Company)

Admitted via Servitude.



Mr Christopher Philip Williams

(Butchers' Company)

Admitted via Servitude.



Martinmas Guild Day 6th November 2023

Mr John Paul Proud

(Butchers' Company)

Admitted via Patrimony



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

A Message from the Worshipful Mayor of Durham County Councillor Lesley Mavin

As the 420th Mayor of Durham, it has been a great honour and privilege to chair the quarterly Guild meetings for the Durham City Freemen and to be involved in the creation of new Freemen.

Freemen were members of the Trade Guilds that held power and influence for over 300 years and did much to shape the City of Durham and its heritage.

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.

Over the past ten years the Durham City Freemen have donated over £100,000 to worthy community causes.

Durham City Freemen have a long and proud history in representing the Craftsmen, Artisans and Businesses of the City of Durham. It has been a privilege to be a part of the very first apprenticeship awards 2023 - celebrating excellence in the city.

I wish the Freemen and their families all the best for 2024.

Cllr Lesley Mavin

The Right Worshipful Mayor of Durham



Tenure of Appointment

Wardens

Company	Date Elected	End of Term	New Elections
Chair Alan Metcalf (Cordwainers)	2 nd November 2023	1 st November 2026	October 2026
Deputy Chair Theresa Ford (Joiners)	6 th February 2021	5 th February 2024	January 2024
Secretary Bryan Proud (Butcher)	30 th October 2023	29 th October 2026	October 2026
Barbers Bryan Proud (Butcher)	21 st October 2023	20 th October 2026	October 2026
Butchers Mac Williams	15 th October 2023	14 th October 2026	September 2026
Cordwainers Theresa Ford (Joiner)	11 th June 2022	10 th June 2025	May 2025
Curriers Iain Wilmshurst	10 th December 2022	9 th December 2025	November 2025
Drapers Kathleen Vasey	5 th January 2021	4 th January 2024	December 2023
Joiners Ann Thurlow	1 st May 2023	30 th April 2026	April 2026
Masons Neil Graham (Currier)	19 th December 2021	18 th December 2024	November 2024
Plumbers Garry Dunnill	4 th February 2021	4 th February 2024	January 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 to the Freeman.

Tenure of Appointment

Deputy Wardens

Company	Date Elected	End of Term	New Elections
Barbers Alan Metcalf (Cordwainer)	12 th January 2023	11 th January 2026	Dec 2025
Butchers Dave Howard	3 rd March 2023	2 nd March 2026	February 2026
Cordwainers Gary Bankhead	24 th November 2023	23 rd November 2026	November 2026
Curriers Vincent Owen Syson (Butcher)	24 th November 2023	23 rd November 2026	November 2026
Drapers Trevor Carter	3 rd March 2023	2 nd March 2026	February 2026
Joiners David Charles Neale	24 th November 2023	23 rd November 2026	November 2026
Masons Alan Richardson	11 th November 2021	10 th November 2024	October 2024
Plumbers Arthur Lockyear	3 rd March 2023	2 nd March 2026	February 2026

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

Secretary to the Freeman

Bryan Proud

Tel: 07919996551

Email: secretary@durhamcityfreemen.org

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 Freeman 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 Freeman 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 Freeman, 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 Freeman in accordance with ancient local custom or practice subject to the approval of the Wardens.

Before application forms are sent to Durham County Council Legal Department for approval, the application form must be completed and signed by the applicant, including the declaration form authorising Freeman monies to be used for charitable purposes.

The Full Membership Criteria can be viewed on our website:

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

Current Membership at December 2023

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		Professor
Atkinson	Carl	Alan	Mr	Kitson	Geoffrey		Mr
Atkinson	David		Mr	Milbourne	Phillip	John	Mr
Atkinson	Kieran	Andrew	Mr	Milbourne	Richard	James	Mr
Brolls	Hilary		Mrs	Nightingale	Craig		Mr
Brolls	Lewis	Daniel	Mr	Nightingale	Gavin		Mr
Calvert-Lee	Giles	Lindsey	Mr	Nightingale	John		Mr
Calvert-Lee	Rupert	Guy	Mr	Nightingale	Judith		Ms
Calvert-Lee	Thomas		Mr	Snowdon	Frederick	John	Mr
Coxon	Kevin	Lee	Mr	Weightman	Una	Dawn	Mrs
Dufton	Alan		Mr	Wills LLM	Philip		Mr
Dunn	Dennis		Mr				

Butchers' Company

Balls	David	D.	Mr	MacDonald	Ian	Edward	Mr
Bancroft	David	George	Mr	Milbourne	Malcolm		Mr
Chapman	Michael	Andrew	Mr	Oliver	George	Robert	Mr
Chapman	Robert		Mr	Patterson	Thomas	William	Mr
Dodds	Keven	Barry	Mr	Pickering	George	Robert	Mr
Forster	Guy		Mr	Proud	Bryan		Mr
Forster	Heather		Ms	Proud	John	Paul	Mr
Forster	Jonathan	Paul	Mr	Staveley	Susan		Mrs
Forster	Stephen	James	Mr	Syson	Vincent	Owen	Mr
Hart	Norman	Thomas	Mr	Williams	Christian	Philip	Mr
Howard	David	Richard	Mr	Williams	MacDonald	Abiodun	Mr
Laws	Steven		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	Metcalfe	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	Hannah	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	Miss
Hall	Oliver	Timothy Luke	Mr		Wilmshurst	Holly	Alison Olivia	Miss
Heslop	Sandra		Ms		Wilmshurst	Iain	Stuart	Mr
Howarth	Michael	David	Mr		Wilmshurst	Rebekah	Anne	Miss
Jones	Derek	Newton	Mr		Wilson	Michael	Colin	Mr
Kitson	Leighton		Mr					

Joiners' Company

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

Drapers' Company

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

Masons' Company

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

Plumbers' Company

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

Membership Summary

Company	Men	Women	In-District	Ex-District	Total
Barbers	22	7	7	22	29
Butchers	21	2	14	9	23
Cordwainers	19	2	10	11	22
Curriers	17	8	11	14	25
Drapers	38	27	20	45	65
Joiners	34	7	24	17	41
Masons	22	5	16	11	27
Plumbers	26	13	21	18	39
Totals	199	71	123	147	270

Sadly this year saw the passing of a number of Freemen.

Vera Patricia Allan - Plumbers Company

John Stuart Allison - Drapers Company

John Bregazzi - Butchers Company

John Richard Jones - Masons Company

Our thoughts and prayers go to their families friends and loved ones.

Information regarding admission can be obtained from the Membership Secretary:

Eric Bulmer

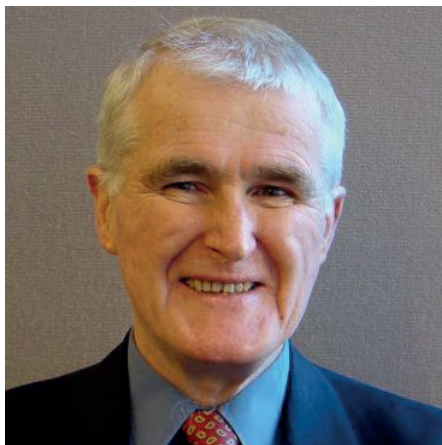
2 High Meadows
Brandon Village
Durham
DH7 8RW

Tel: 0191 3780554

Email: eckabulmer@btinternet.com

Chair of the Trustees Report

With great sadness I begin my report acknowledging the work of Stewart Atkin, treasurer to the Freeman of Durham for many years. Stewart passed away at the end of August. His wise counsel, attention to detail and professional integrity ensured the finances of the Freeman are sound and thus enabled so many developments to have been progressed in recent years. His concise, though thorough financial reports, delivered with a customary wry sense of humour will live long in the memory. Stewart was a true friend to the Freeman.



The condolences of the Freeman were conveyed to Christine and family, with trustees and wardens attending the funeral where Stewart's work in so many fields was acknowledged with thanks.

Stewart advised in January that he would be standing down as treasurer and trustee at the beginning of 2024. Therefore, the recruitment of a replacement began, and during the summer Scott Cooper, financial controller at Faltec Europe, was appointed as trustee with the intention of him taking over as treasurer following Stewart's resignation. Sadly that was effected sooner than we all had anticipated.

Senior trustee Malcolm Proud who has served the Freeman for over 30 years stood down as vice chair at the beginning of the year and relinquished his trusteeship in December 2023. Malcolm has provided the Freeman with invaluable continuity over three decades of significant social and economic change. The admission of women, establishment of the charitable arm and increased involvement in the civic and community life of Durham, have been just some features of Malcolm's tenure. For a number of years Malcolm supported Stewart Atkin in respect of financial management and acted as independent examiner of the accounts.

Alice Ambrose Thurman succeeded Malcolm as vice chair and in addition to Scott Cooper, Cathrin Morgan, head of statutory reporting for the Bernecia Group and holding a number of voluntary positions with the diocese, will be joining the trustees at the end of the year.

An eventful twelve months was also one of celebration, particularly the completion of the Freeman's Beacon, a gift to the City of Durham. In partnership with Durham County Council, it was installed on Jubilee Hill and first lit to mark the coronation of King Charles III. In similar vein the inaugural Apprenticeship Awards was a joyous celebration of achievements by young people.

More information on these events are covered elsewhere and I want to record my appreciation to John Booth and the wardens for so much hard work. John advised in September that he was standing down as chair of the wardens. His work and energy in that leadership role has transformed the profile of the Freeman.

The Freeman have played a central part over the centuries in the life of our city. In a rapidly changing world, with the future in many respects uncertain, continuity with previous generations becomes more important. Durham City Freeman are well placed to ensure history and tradition are respected while contributing to evolving circumstances.

In January I too informed trustees I would be standing down as chair and trustee at the end of 2023. It has been a pleasure and privilege to fulfil those roles and I am grateful to Roger Norris, a predecessor in this role for affording me the initial opportunity.

In conclusion I wish the Freeman of Durham, their trustees and wardens good fortune in their future endeavours.

Patrick Conway
Chairman of Trustees

Freemen Website

The Freemen website remains a central hub of information for members and the public alike, offering insights into the events and activities organised by the Freemen and the Charitable Trust.

The 'News' section is a prominent feature of the website, providing visitors with up-to-date information and recording our activities, events, and charitable support, reflecting the dynamic nature of the Freemen community.

The articles provided by George Oliver demonstrate a commitment to transparency and engagement with both members and the broader public.



“Reflection Garden” Will Mirror The Support Work Of Rural Charity

29/10/2023

A ground breaking charity's ambitions to transform a plot of overgrown woodland into a haven of peace and tranquillity has won the backing of Durham City's freemen with a £1,000 grant. The LionMouth Rural Centre, will begin preparatory work within weeks on the £10,000 project adjacent to their Broadgate Farm complex near Esh Winning and hope to start in the woodland before the spring.



Latest Gift Keeps Tourism Volunteers On The Right Track

11/10/2023

The immediate future of award winning tourism volunteers, who for more than a decade have played a key role in signposting Durham's tourist attractions to hundreds of thousands of visitors, has been given a key financial boost by the city's freemen.

Each article includes high-quality images related to the events provided by Geoff Kitson, enhancing the overall storytelling experience.

Earlier this year we added an on-line application form to the Apprentice Award area of the site. Tutors and apprentices can submit completed applications for immediate assessment.

In addition to the application form the working group has implemented an on-line Feedback Questionnaire to support their commitment to quality provision and inform future development.

We are committed to continued development of the website and embracing on-line technology.

The screenshot displays the Durham City Freemen website. At the top is a navigation menu with links: Contacts, Admissions, Companies, Galleries, Events, News, Charitable Trust, and Apprentice Award. Below the menu is a large banner image of hands working on a mechanical part, with the text 'Application Form' overlaid. The main content area is titled 'Durham City Freemen' and 'Apprentice Award Scheme Nomination Form'. It includes a note: 'Please note, all fields marked with a red asterisk (*) are mandatory.' Below this is a section 'Categories for 2024 are:' listing various trades. A 'Contact Details of Nominee' section has a 'First Name' field. On the right side, there is a red box for the 'Durham City Freemen's Apprentice Award Scheme 2023 - Feedback Questionnaire'. It states the form is for feedback following an awards evening on Friday 30th June 2023, has a 3-minute timer, and includes a 'Click to start' button. At the bottom of the feedback form, there is a Microsoft 365 logo and a disclaimer about data privacy.

John Booth
Website Manager

Charitable Trust Report

Historical background

Benevolence has always been an element within the Guilds/Companies of the Durham City Freeman. In the past it was directed towards its members and their families, who may have become impoverished through hardship or bereavement.

An example of this benevolence was cited in an article in the Durham Chronicle published 9th August 1833.

"Durham Freeman's Relief Association, an advertisement in another column contains a list of the Freeman of Durham who have done honour to themselves, by relinquishing their share of the Moor rents for the purpose of providing a comfortable maintenance for the relief of their aged brethren in their declining years. It is to be hoped that the example of these praiseworthy individuals will have stimulated many others who have not yet joined the association, to give their early assistance in promoting it's truly benevolent objects."

Their share of the Moors rents, later to be known as the 'Distribution', was given annually in November to each member who resided within the city boundaries.

The following is the list of the 15 Guilds/Companies and number of Freeman who gave up their 'Distribution' to support the 'Relief'

Barbers' Company	7.	Butchers' Company	8.	Cordwainers Company	23.
Curriers' Company	4.	Drapers' Company	14.	Fullers' Company	1.
Joiners' Company	20.	Mercers' company	8.	Smiths' Company	12.
Saddlers' Company	2.	Skinners' Company	11.	Masons' Company	12
Plumbers' Company	5.	Tanners' Company	3.	Weavers' Company	2.

Changing Nature of Society

With the development of social support within the community, the need for organisations to provide benevolence for its members diminished.

Consequently the Freeman continued this act of benevolence by directing its support towards charities and worthy causes within the local community. This culminated in the creation of the Charitable Trust in 2015 and is accepted informally as the charitable giving arm of the Freeman.

The Charitable Trust recently increased the number of trustees to 7 and to date have the following 6 in place.

- John Booth – Freeman.
- Eric Bulmer - Freeman (Chairman).
- Theresa Anne Ford - Freeman (Treasurer).
- Kenneth Edward Coatsworth Howe – Trustee of the Durham City Freeman.
- Alan Metcalf - Freeman (Secretary).
- Alan Ribchester – Gentlemen Freeman.

Stewart Atkin

Stewart who recently died, was Treasurer of the Charitable Trust since its inception in 2015 and served with diligence and sound judgement and provided a solid foundation upon which the Charitable Trust moves forward with confidence into the future.

Recipients of Charitable Trust Donations (2023)

- Apprentice Training - Awards Presentation
- Cheesy Waffles Project
- ManHealth
- The Durham Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers
- Durham Community Association
- Tursdale and Hett W I
- If U Care Share
- Durham City Mayor's Appeal
- Durham Remembrance Parade
- LionMouth Rural Centre
- The Durham Pointers

The Charitable Trust continues with it's historic benevolence and has donated over £36,000 to charitable and worthy causes within Durham over the last two years.

Eric Bulmer (Chairman of the Charitable Trust)

Community Donations 2023

Cheesy Waffles Project

The Cheesy Waffles Project, based in Belmont Community Centre, has been handed a £1,000 gift by the freemen towards costs of their latest adventure – a programme of visits offering their 100 members a special insight into the history of their home county.



The club embraces eleven different sections which meet regularly on weekdays and selected Saturdays, providing tailor-made activities for differing age groups.

Project manager Erika Denholm said: "These trips serve to raise the self-esteem, self-independency and confidence these young people need to get involved in community work, charity fundraising, supporting local community projects and making gifts. And, most importantly, they have fun while doing it.

"We would not be able to offer these opportunities without the generosity of the freemen and other organisations.

ManHealth

Man Health is a specialist organisation providing free male to male peer to peer support for North East men struggling with mental health-related issues.

ManHealth will use the gift to set up a new group in the Gilesgate Family Hub in the city's Laurel Avenue and will be launching a further four groups in mid-May in family hubs in Newton Aycliffe, Peterlee, Chester-le-Street and Stanley.

Paul Bannister, who founded ManHealth over seven years ago, said: "Those leading the organisation have themselves 'walked the walk' of mental ill health and can offer unconditional help tempered by our own experiences.



Further information regarding all donations is available on our website here:

<https://www.durhamcityfreemen.org/charitable-trust/community-activity-archives/community-activity-2023/>

Freemen Beacon Project

The stunning steel beacon, sited on high ground above Durham City to commemorate the reign of her late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, was formally handed over and test fired in situ for the first time tonight Monday, March 27— just weeks ahead of the King's Coronation.

The towering structure, nineteen feet tall and weighing half a tonne was commissioned and funded by Durham City's Freemen. Charitable Trust. It has been designed and created by Brian Russell, one of the country's top artistic blacksmiths at his 200-year-old Teesdale forge.

The freemen's gift is the centrepiece of a wider county council supported project of improved footpaths and public access to the immediate area around the site of the beacon on Jubilee Hill, adjacent to the DLI Museum.

The ceremony, attended by the city's mayor, vice chair of the council and dozens of invited guests, was led by the Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Sue Snowdon, who performed the firing ceremony.

Freemen's Gift to the City

John Booth, Chairman of the Wardens said: "We hope our gift will be seen as a fitting and lasting tribute to Her Majesty, a legacy of the freemen and the outstanding skill of a local man. We hope too it will be accepted as a reflection of the quality and value of so many thousands of the craftsmen whose lives and work played such a key role in the shaping the city's history and development across more than 600 years," he added.

Councillor Joan Nicholson, vice chair of the council, said: "I am delighted to attend the hand-over ceremony of the beacon to mark the freemen's gift and commemorate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. It is fitting the beacon was designed and created by a local blacksmith, showcasing the craftsmanship and talent we have across the county and the rich heritage of County Durham.



Apprentice of the Year Award

The newly forged partnership with New College Durham, Durham University and Durham Cathedral, made their first awards to thirteen young men and women, judged “best in class,” across a range of trade skills.

At a ceremony in the city’s Town Hall on Friday June 30th, the winners were presented with special awards by County Durham’s Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Sue Snowdon.



Also in attendance were the Mayor Cllr Lesley Mavin, Mayoress Mrs Trish Sutcliffe, our Member of Parliament Mrs Mary Kelly Foy and Canon Pastor Michael Everitt Durham Cathedral.

AWARD WINNERS

Each received a framed certificate, an engraved crystal trophy and a £50 Amazon voucher

Digital Marketer: **Anna Cullen** (20), Chester-le-Street, Apprentice of the Year.

Carpentry and Joinery: **Ty Caile** (16), Crook and **Andrew McCartney** (20), Washington.

Electrical Installation: **Alfie McKie** (17), Witton Gilbert, **Paul Swindell** (39), Lanchester; **Reece Spurdens** (23), Brandon,

One of the group, twenty-year-old Anna Cullen, whose meteoric rise took her from trainee to company executive in less than two years, was voted “Apprentice of the Year” by the partnership’s four-strong selection panel.

Category - Digital Marketer - New College Durham

Anna Cullen, from Chester-le-Street, left Durham’s St Leonard’s RC with A-levels in English Literature, Psychology and Media Studies in the summer of 2021.

Within weeks the teenager, whose parents both work in the banking industry, joined the award winning Sunderland-based chartered architects and engineers, Building Design Northern Limited, as a digital marketing apprentice.

Anna sets high expectations for herself to ensure she has all of the knowledge, skills and behaviours she needs to succeed in her career.



Category - Electrical Installation - Durham University

Senior apprentice Reece Spurdens spent four years working on electrical installations at Durham University and plans to go on to take a Higher National Certificate.

At work his skill and imagination impressed his bosses when he developed a fail-safe system that improved safety on electrical items being left on charge overnight.



Hairdressing: **Rachel Turner** (44), Esh Village and **Jessica Jackson** (17), Consett.

Information Technician: **Luke Hegarty** (16), Kelloe.

Painting and Decorating: **Zinnia Young** (27), Sunderland.

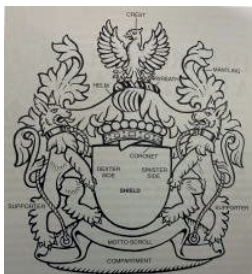
Plumbing and Gas: **Luke Bell** (22), Spennymoor and **Logan Reed** (17), Ferryhill.

Stonemasonry: **Jed Williams** (20), Shadforth Village.

Heraldry and the Guilds

Project to Replicate Guild Shields - Eric Bulmer, Plumbers' Company

It is well known that heraldry, began in the 12th century on the shields of knights to identify them in the heat of battle, today heraldry provides devices for corporate bodies, local authorities and individuals.



Coat of Arms

The 'Shield' is a component of a Coat of Arms that also includes, crest, helm, wreath, mantling, supporters and motto.

These armorial devices on the shields of knights (e.g. swords etc) were often replaced by emblems relating to individuals or organisations.

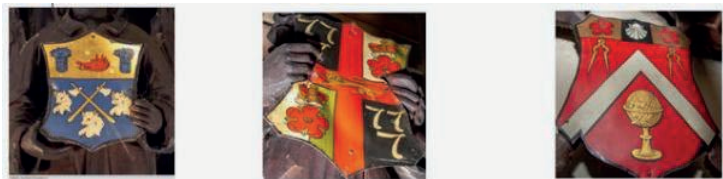
It was 100 years later before the London Guild of Drapers were granted a charter of incorporation by Henry VI, that enabled the granting of a Coat of Arms in 1438 by the Garter King of Arms, now known as the College of Arms.

It is unlikely that the Durham City Freemen were granted arms in their own right, but like other city guilds they would have copied and adapted those granted to the London Guilds.

Heraldry of the Guilds'. – Durham Town Hall.

There is very little visible evidence of the Guilds of the Durham City Freemen within the Town Hall apart from;

1. Painted shields high in the roof structure of the Main Hall, examples below.



2. A small number of watercolour paintings of coats of arms of guilds in the Guildhall.

Objectives of the Project

1. To replicate the shields of the original 16 Guilds (currently displayed in the roof structure of the Main Hall and placing them in the Guildhall (traditional home of the Guilds/ Freemen).
2. To enhance the environment in the Guildhall by displaying the shields to represent the history of the Freemen and under-pinning the origins of the craft and trade guilds.

Progress of the project.

Tools and materials for painting the shields has changed little over 500 years, other than the improved quality the paint and refinement of the signwriting brushes. The application of gold and platinum leaf to an adhesive background has remained unchanged over the centuries and the metallic finish provides a gem like quality to the shield.

The stages of the process from wooden shield to completed shield, using enamel paint, gold and platinum leaf are set out below.



Completed Shields of 8 of the 16 Guilds/ Companies.



The challenge is for members to Identify which shield belongs to their company.

Annual Dinner



Our guest speaker Canon Michael Everitt and Mrs Ruth Everitt

Below are Cllr Joan Nicholson the Chair of Durham County Council, and her Consort Mr Robert Nicholson.



Our Annual Dinner was held on the 4th November in the Masonic Hall and was a very enjoyable social evening for our sixty one members and Freemen friends.

We were delighted the Mayor, Cllr Lesley Mavin, the Mayoress, Mrs Trish Sutcliffe, were able to attend along with Canon Michael Everitt our guest speaker on the evening.



Our guests included Wardens, their guests, the Trustees, and fellow Freemen.



Arthur Lockyear was our Master of Ceremony for the evening.



Alan Ribchester from the Charitable Trust presented Arthur with a cheque in support of the Remembrance Parade.



Eric Bulmer Chairman of the Charitable Trust presented the Mayor with a cheque in support of St Cuthbert's Hospice.



Captain Stephen Healy represented the Freemen of England and Wales.

Moving Forward



As I begin my tenure of appointment as Chairman of the Wardens, I look forward to the next three years with enthusiasm and I hope to continue to build on the future sustainability of our organisation.

Our main priority for 2024 is to continue with the Apprenticeship Award programme to include additional organisations and in doing so establish stronger employer connections and therefore continue to increase awareness of the project with key partners and raise the profile of the Freeman.

My intention is to also grow our relationship with other Guilds, in particular the Freeman of Newcastle and the Freeman of England and Wales. Discussions have already started with this aim in mind.

One aspect of implementing the sustainability paper was the introduction of Deputy Wardens. This was a ground breaking move which has proved to be very successful due to the input from the Deputies which otherwise would not have been received. These posts are open to all members to apply for when a vacancy becomes available.

I would actively encourage members to apply for any vacancies, as this is the perfect stepping stone for anyone wishing to become involved in moving the organisation forward and potentially becoming our Wardens of the future.

Our members meetings unfortunately have been very poorly attended and as a consequence we have decided to hold one meeting a year rather than four, as was the norm. At the time of printing the date is yet to be arranged, but once agreed the date and time will be published on the website and your Warden will email a reminder to in-district members nearer the time.

If anyone has alternative suggestions as to how we could maintain contact with the membership please contact me or your Warden.

The 2023 Annual Dinner attracted sixty one guests and was a huge success. The Annual Dinner is our flagship event and it is always wonderful to see and meet our members and guests on these occasions. This year the dinner will be held on the 26th October and I hope to see you there.

You will have noticed that included in the Yearbook is a contact details slip. I would very much appreciate If you could take the time to complete and return this, either by email or post, as it is essential that all member details are kept up to date.

In conclusion, I wish you and your families all the very best for 2024.

Alan Metcalf

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Metcalf'.

Chairman of the Wardens



