



Yearbook 2018

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### All images by Geoff Kitson except where stated

# Foreword Eric Bulmer Chairman of Wardens



My first thought is to wish you a happy New Year.

One of the roles of the Chairman of the Wardens is to provide an overview of Freemen activities and events that have taken place over the year and to measure the progress towards the objectives that we set ourselves.

A major strand in our development is the continuing focus and drive to enhance the Freemen's profile within the city, to ensure that the general public are aware of our heritage and role in supporting local charities and community projects. A secondary, but no less important aim is to create opportunities for the membership to become more actively involved in their organisation.

In respect of addressing these objectives, the Charitable Trust is now firmly established and has once again supported a number of local charities and community projects. Details of their work can be found later in the Yearbook.

In July we were invited to visit the Berwick Guild, as a first step in developing a closer relationships with our neighbouring Guilds, as a consequence, we have invited the Berwick Guild to visit Durham in June 2018.

Later, in September the Freemen took an active role in a major event within the city, when the Town Hall opened its doors to the general public as part of the 'Heritage Open Days' event. We supported this 4 day event with presentations describing the history of the Freemen and the Guildhall. Over 800 people attended, what was a very successful event.

On Remembrance Sunday, the Freemen took part in the Remembrance Service and procession from the Cathedral, as part of the Mayor's civic party. This is the first occasion that the Freemen have been involved in this major event and we look forward to taking part on future occasions. Any member who would wish to take part in future years please contact their Warden to register their interest.

In December the Freemen accepted an invitation to support the Mayor's charity appeal at a coffee event in the Town Hall. We mounted display stands and distributed information, setting out a brief history and the current role of our organisation, together with a practical display of craft work.

As part of our development to create opportunities for members to become involved in the management of our organisation, a 3 year tenure of appointment for Wardens was introduced. As a consequence, the process for elections for the up-coming vacancies in the Barbers' and Drapers' Companies, will commence in January. More information can be found later in this booklet.

Sadly 2017 saw the deaths of a number of Freemen. John Heslop a former Warden of the Currier's Company and Chairman of the Wardens for many years. Haydon Watson, Plumbers Company Jim Marsden, Currier's Company Robert Ainsley Elliott, Mason's Company Obituaries can be found in the pages that follow.

We welcomed 13 new members during 2017 which brought the total membership to 257

Once again, the Annual Dinner provided, an enjoyable social evening for members and friends of the Freemen. Our guest speaker on this occasion was Alex Nelson, a fellow Freeman of the Clothworkers Guild in London.

I was also delighted that the Mayor, Councillor Bill Kellet and the Mayoress, Councillor Jean Chaplow were able to join us for this major social event of our calendar.

My thanks to the Wardens and particularly to Kathleen Vasey and Iain Wilmshurst for their role in mounting a successful evening.

The History Group is now firmly established following a busy year undergoing training in research techniques at both the University of Durham and the County Record Office. It is about to embark on a major project of creating a booklet that will shed light on the history of the Durham City Freemen.

The Group Comprising of both Freemen and members of the general public, have been extremely supportive in mounting Open Days and social events throughout the year. It is envisaged that this group could form the cornerstone for developing a greater social aspect for our organisation.

I hope you find the Yearbook interesting and informative.

Wishing you all the best for the New Year.

# A Message from the Worshipful Mayor of Durham County Councillor Bill Kellett



It gives me great pleasure to be invited to write this preface to your annual yearbook.

My knowledge of the work of the Freemen and charitable donations made to needy causes, stretches back over 30 years to when I became a Durham City Councillor in 1986.

In my capacity as Mayor of Durham therefore, it has been an honour to welcome new Freemen to your ranks.

I wish you well for the future.

Councillor Bill Kellett, MA, BSc (Econ) Hons The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Durham

### **Diary Dates for 2018**

#### Guild Days, 11:00 - 12:30

Candlemas Monday, 5 February 2018 May Day Monday, 14 May 2018 Lammas Monday, 6 August 2018 Martinmas Monday, 12 November 2018

#### Charitable Trust Meetings, 1:00 - 2:30

Monday, 15 January 2018 Monday, 23 April 2018 Monday, 17 September 2018 Monday, 26 November 2018

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

Friday, 26 January 2018 Friday, 4 May 2018 Friday, 28 September 2018 Friday, 7 December 2018

#### Warden's Meetings, 6:00 – 7:30

Tuesday, 23 January 2018 Tuesday, 1 May 2018 Tuesday, 25 September 2018 Tuesday, 4 December 2018

#### Member's Meetings, 6:00 - 7:30

Thursday 18 January 2018 Thursday, 26 April 2018 Thursday 20 September 2018 Thursday, 29 November 2018

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

Thursday, 25 January 2018 Thursday,29 March 2018 Thursday, 31 May 2018 Thursday, 26 July 2018 Thursday, 27 September 2018 Thursday, 22 November 2018

#### **Annual Dinner**

Saturday 6 October 2018

## Wardens and Trustees

#### Wardens

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

Eric Bulmer (Chairman) Plumbers' Company (0191 378 0554)

Alan Dufton Barbers' Company (07896 065 860)

Kathleen Vasey Butchers' Company (0191 386 8000)

Joe McElwee Cordwainers' Company (0191 373 4394)

Stuart Magee Drapers' Company

Ann Thurlow Joiners' Company (0191 377 9706)

Bob Elliott Masons' Company (0191 383 0934)

Ian Wilmhurst Curriers' Company (0191 378 2011)

#### Trustees

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

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

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

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

P. Bramwell Esq. (0191 386 8066)

P. Conway Esq. OBE (0191 386 8216)

P. Dyer Esq (0191 372 1650)

K. Howe Esq (0191 384 0589)

G. Oliver Esq. (0191 386 7471)

M. Proud Esq. (0191 386 7615)

A Ribchester Esq MBE (0191 386 4664)

#### **Membership Secretary**

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

**Communication Secretary** 

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

## New Warden of the Cordwainers' Company



Joe McElwee

Following the end of the three year tenure of Joe McElwee as Warden of the Cordwainers Company, the process for electing a new Warden took place in early 2017. On this occassion no member of the Company felt able to take on board this managerial role, and as a consequence Joe allowed his name to go forward for reappointment as Warden of the company and was duly elected, commencing his three year role on the 1<sup>st</sup> May.

This is an ideal opportunity to thank Joe for his commitment and service to the Cordwainers Company and to express our gratitude for accepting once again the role of Warden and thereby ensuring the company has someone at the helm for the next three years.

### New Warden of the Masons' Company



Bob Elliott

In exactly the same position as Cordwainers Company, the Masons Company found themselves in a similar position at the end of the three year tenure of Bob Elliott as Warden.

Taking a similar decision to Joe, he allowed his name to go forward for reappointment as Warden of the Company and was duly elected, commencing his three year role on the 1<sup>st</sup> May.

We would like to thank Bob for his service as Warden and Membership Secretary over the past three years and are extremely grateful for him accepting a further term of office.

### Warden Vacancies for 2018

The tenure of appointment of the Wardens for the Barbers' and Drapers' Companies will end in April 2018.

Members of both Companies will be contacted by the secretary of the Freemen in January 2018 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 Freemen 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 or 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 for 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 is successful, then 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 Freemen wishes to continue as 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 Freemen 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 successful 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 Freemen 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

### New Members 2017

# Candlemas Guild Day 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017



Fiona Wilmshurst, Jackie Wilmshurst, Rebacca Wilmshurst, Holly Wilmshurst, Iain Wilmshurst

Sisters, Fiona, Rebakah and Holly Wilmshurst, were welcomed into the Curriers' Company by their father lain who is the Company Warden.



John McElwee, Jack McElwee, Davey McElwee, Dianne McElwee

Brothers Jack and Davey McElwee were accompanied by their parents John and Dianne following the swearing in as Freemen of the Cordwainers Company'.

# May Guild Day May 8<sup>th</sup> 2017



Mayor of Durham Councillor Edward Bell, Jack Elliott

A-Level student Jack Elliott became one of the youngest freemen in Britain when he was sworn-in and presented with his certificate by the Mayor of Durham Councillor Edward Bell. He follows in the steps of sister Beth, father John, and grandfather Bob, the Warden of the Masons' Company.



# Lammas Guild Day 7<sup>th</sup> August 2017

Councillor Jean Chaplow, Eric Bulmer, Bill Kellett Durham City Mayor, Bob Elliott and Norman Johnston

Eighty-five-year-old Norman Johnston – known to his family and friends as "Syd" - started work as an apprentice bricklayer with Durham Rural District Council in 1952, was admitted into the Masons' Company.



Councillor Jean Chaplow, Eric Bulmer, Bill Kellett Durham City Mayor, Ann Thurlow and Anthony Pritchard

Miner's son Anthony Pritchard, a member of the Institute of Certified Carpenters, was employed as a trainee joiner with a private company after leaving school at 15. He joins the Joiners' Company.



# Martinmas Guild Day 13<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Bill Kellett Durham City Mayor and Dr Alan Richardson

Dr Alan Richardson, an associate professor of civil engineering at Northumbria University was admitted into the Masons' Company.



Bill Kellett Durham City Mayor and Judith Magee

When Judith Magee stepped forward to take the oath she reinforced a long-standing family tradition in the Drapers' Company started by her grandfather - a time-served city tailor - more than a century ago. Judith, retired more than a year ago after spending 36 years of her working life as a laboratory technician in Durham University's Chemistry Department.



Bill Kellett Durham City Mayor and Michael Bulmer

Michael Bulmer took the oath that admitted him to the Plumbers' Company.

Michael now retired and living in Staines on Thames, is the latest member of a family of Freemen that stretches back to 1850 and joins his older brother Eric who leads the Plumbers Company and is also Chairmen of the Wardens.



Bill Kellett Durham City Mayor and Peter Bennett

Peter Bennett, who benefitted from a financial sponsorship package from the Freemen that underpinned a three-year joinery apprenticeship at Durham Cathedral that began in 2012.

In the summer of this year Peter, from West Rainton, switched to a new job at Meadowfield where he is now developing new woodworking skills as an organ builder with the internationally renowned company of Harrison and Harrison. Twenty-three-year-old Peter has already had his first taste of international travel – journeying to Norway with a team tasked with re-assembling and installing a new organ.

Peter's employment at the cathedral, served entirely within the city boundary, qualified him to apply for entry into the Joiners' Company – established in 1661. The Freemen's investment was the first project of its kind in recent years that took them directly back to their trade and craft roots.

# **Current Membership at January 2018**

COMPANY	IN-DISTRICT	EX-DISTRICT	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
Barbers	8	21	22	6	28
Butchers	9	7	14	2	16
Cordwainers	8	10	16	2	18
Curriers	12	15	18	9	27
Drapers	16	41	32	23	57
Joiners	24	15	31	8	38
Masons	16	12	23	5	28
Plumbers	14	16	19	11	30
TOTAL	107	134	175	66	242

### **Barbers Company**

Anderson	Mark John	M.J.	Mr	Faulkner	Кау	К.	Mrs
Anderson	Peter Stewart	P.S.	Mr	Handy	Joyce	J.	Ms
Anderson	Laurie	L.	Mr	Kahane	Ahuvia	Α.	Professor
	Jeffrey						
Anderson	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	<b>Richard James</b>	R.J.	Mr
Atkinson	Alan	Α.	Mr	Nightingale	Craig	C.	Mr
Brolls	Hilary	Н.	Mrs	Nightingale	Gavin	G.	Mr
Calvert-							
Lee	Thomas	Т.	Mr	Nightingale	John	J.	Mr
Calvert-							
Lee	Rupert Guy	R.G.	Mr	Nightingale	Judith	J.	Ms
Calvert-							
Lee	Giles Lindsey	G.L.	Mr	Snowdon	Frederick John	F.J.	Mr
Coxon	Kevin Lee	K.L.	Mr	Stonebridge	Arthur	Α.	Mr
Dufton	Alan	Α.	Mr	Weightman	Una Dawn	U.D.	Mrs
Dunn	Dennis	D.	Mr	Wills LLM	Philip	Ρ.	Mr

## **Butchers Company**

Bancroft	David George	D.G.	Mr	Howard	David Richard	D.R.	Mr
Chapman	Michael Andrew	M.A.	Mr	Laws	Steven	S.	Mr
Chapman	Robin	R.	Mr	MacDonald	Ian Edward	ΙE	Mr
Dodds	Kevin Barry	K.B.	Mr	MacDonald	Andrew lan	AI	Mr
Forster	Guy	G.	Mr	Milbourne	Malcolm	M.	Mr
Forster	Stephen James	S.J.	Mr	Patterson	Thomas William	T.W.	Mr
Forster	Heather	Н.	Ms	Pickering	George Robert	G.R.	Mr
Forster	Jonathan Paul	J.P.	Mr	Vasey	Kathleen	К.	Ms

# **Cordwainers Company**

Davidson	Peter	P.I.	Mr	McElwee	John Denby	J.D.	Mr
Davidson	<b>Richard Peter</b>	R.P.	Mr	McElwee	Jack Denby	JD.	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	Р	Dr
Heron	Peter	Ρ.	Mr	Norris	Roger	R.	Mr
Joicey	Barry	В.	Mr	Shotton	Barry	В.	Mr
Lumley	David Martin	D.M.	Mr	Wright	Rebecca Hannah	R.H.	Miss
McElwee	Doris	J.D.	Mrs	Wright	Stuart	S.	Mr

### **Curriers Company**

		1	1	-		1	1	
Charney	John	J.	Mr		Kitson	Leighton	L.	Mr
Charney	Barbara	В.	Ms		Luther	Richard	R.	Mr
Clark	William Henry	W.H.	Mr		Luther	Kate	К.	Ms
Crawford	Ron	R.	Mr		Marsden	James Robert	J.R.	Mr
Crawford	Karen	К.	Ms		Marsden	Nicola Hazel	N.H.	Miss
Crawford	Charlotte	С.	Ms		McDonough	Adam	Α.	Mr
Graham	Neil William	N.W.	Mr		McMinn	Michael	Μ	Mr
	Adrian							
	Matthew							
Hall	Edward	A.M.E.	Mr		Ridley	Stuart George	S.G.	Mr
	Charles							
Hall	Jonathon Peter	C.J.P.	Mr		Wilmshurst	Fiona Louise	FL.	Ms
	Oliver Timothy							
Hall	Luke	O.T.L.	Mr		Wilmshurst	lain Stuart	I.S.	Mr
						Holy Alison		
Heslop	Kris	К.	Mr		Wilmshurst	Olivia	HAO	Ms
Heslop	Sandra	S.	Ms		Wilmshurst	Rebecca Anne	RA	Ms
Howarth	Michael David	M.D.	Mr		Wilson	Michael Colin	M.C.	Mr
Jones	Derek Newton	D.N.	Mr					

# **Plumbers Company**

Abson	Philip	Ρ.	Mr	Gent	Helen	H.B.	Mrs
Allan	Patricia	Ρ.	Ms	Head	David Colin	D.C.	Mr
					Clive		
Billsborrow	Patricia	Ρ.	Rev	Heron	Emmerson	C.E.	Mr
Booth	John	J.	Mr	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	Α.	Ms
Bulmer	Eric	E.	Mr	Pearson	Anne	Α.	Mrs
Bulmer	Michael	М	Mr	Pearson	Malcolm Neil	M.N.	Mr
Cain	Elizabeth Ann	E.A.	Mrs	Robson	Harry	Н.	Mr
Cunliffe	Lisa	L.	Mrs	Todd	David William	D.W.	Mr
Davis	Margaret Ruth	M.R.	Mrs	Willey	Brian Fawcett	B.F.	Mr
Dunhill	Garry	G.	Mr	Wortley	Katherine	К.	Ms
Dunhill	Keith	К	Mr	Wortley	Melvin	M.	Mr

### **Joiners Company**

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

# **Masons Company**

Atkinson	John	J.	Mr	Elliott	Matthew James	M.J.	Mr
				Elliott	Jack Andrew	J.A.	Mr
Browell	Duncan James	D.J.	Mr	Granlund	Alan Campbell	A.C.	Mr
Browell	Martin Elliott	M.E.	Mr	Hotchkiss	Connie	С.	Mrs
				Johnston	Norman Cyril	N.C.	Mr
Clark	James	J.	Mr	Jones	John Richard	J.R.	Mr
Clark	Cyril Douglas	C.D.	Mr	Mallen	Ann	Α.	Mrs
Clark	Peter	Р	Mr	Nicholson	Paul Douglas	P.D.	Sir
Cooper	George Richard	G.R.	Mr	Richardson	Allan Ellliott	ΑE	Mr
Dent	Norman	Ν.	Mr	Tindale	Peter	Ρ.	Mr
	Royston				Peter John		
Dent	Norman	R.N.	Mr	Tindale	Henry	P.J.H.	Mr
Elliott	John	J.	Mr	Vickers	Beverley	В.	Ms
				Wesencraft	John	J	Mr
Elliott	Robert Lennox	R.L.	Mr	Wesencraft	Amy	Α.	Ms
Elliott	Elizabeth Grace	E.G.	Miss	Young	Gordon Frank	G.F.	Mr
Elliott	Graeme	G.	Mr				

### **Drapers Company**

	(inparty)		1			1	
Adamson	David Ivor	D.I.	Mr	Milbourne	Rodney James	R.J.	Mr
Allison	John Stuart	J.S.	Mr	Milbourne	Andrew John	A.J.	Mr
Allison	Malcolm Nigel	M.N.	Mr	Nattrass	Sarah Elizabeth	S.E.	Mrs
Allison	John Gordon	J.G.	Mr	Samuel	Tom	Т.	Mr
Allison	Peter David	P.D.	Mr	Samuel	Barbara Anne	B.A.	Ms
Allison	Paul Lloyd	P.L.	Mr	Scott	Charlotte Anne	C.H.	Miss
Angus	Pamela	Ρ.	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	Α.	Ms
					Dorothy		
Crofton	Ted	Ε.	Rev	Snowball	Margaret	D.M.	Rev
Davidson	Vera	۷.	Mrs	Vasey	David	D.J.	Mr
Freeland	Leah Felicity	L.F.	Mrs	Vasey	Andrew David	A.D.	Mr
Hayes	Mary	M.	Ms	Vasey	John Frederick	J.F.	Mr
Heslop	Victoria Jane	V.J.	Mrs	Vest	Arthur	Α.	Mr
Jackson	Richard	R.	Mr	Vest	Joanne	J.	Miss
Jackson	Catriona Margery	C.M.	Ms	Vest	Alan Cruddas	A.C.	Mr
Kingston	Hilda Barbara	H.B.	Mrs	Vest	David Charles	D.C.	Mr
Kothari	Ingrid Allison	I.A.	Mrs	Vest	Paul Robert	P.R.	Mr
Lee	Jonathan Mark	J.M.	Mr	Vest	Richard	R.	Mr
Lyle	Susan	S.	Ms	Vest	Robert Cruddas	R.C.	Mr
Mackay	June	J.	Ms	Vest	Rowland	R.	Mr
Magee	Andrew Fawcett	A.F.	Mr	Vest	Derek	D.	Mr
Magee	Stuart John	S.J.	Mr	Vest	Steven	S	Mr
Magee	Judith	J	Ms	Vest	Gavin	G.	Mr
Middleton	Alan	Α.	Mr	Watson	Judith Gwen	J.W.	Mrs
					Mark Alexander		
Milbourne	Michael Stewart	M.S.	Mr	Watson-Lee	Strachen	M.A.S	Mr
Milbourne	David Michael	D.M.	Mr	Watson -Lee	Peter James	P.J.	Mr
Milbourne	Alexander	Α.	Mr	Wilson	Thomas Dobson	T.D.	Mr
Milbourne	Stephanie Helen	S.H.	Ms				

## Applications for membership received during 2017

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

Davy John McElwee	Company of Cordwainers
Jack Denby McElwee	Company of Cordwainers
Fionna Louise Wilmshurst	Company of Curriers
Holly Alison Olivia Wilmshurst	Company of Curriers
Rebeka Ann Wilmshurst	Company of Curriers

Following a First 2016 and a Second Call at Candlemas and a Third Call being made without objection at the May Day Guild Day the following was granted the Freedom.

Jack Andrew Elliott

Company of Masons

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

Norman Cyril Johnson	Company of Masons
Anthony Pritchard	Company of Joiners

At the Candlemas and May Day Guild Days First and Second Calls were made and at the Martinmas Guild Day a Third Call was made without objection and the following was therefore granted the Freedom.

Michael Bulmer

**Company of Plumbers** 

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

Company of Joiners
Company of Drapers
Company of Masons
(

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

Kimberley Mullaney

**Company of Drapers** 

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

Alan Oliver	<b>Company of Plumbers</b>
Susan Staverley	Company of Butchers
Stuart Trow	Company of Joiners

Third Calls will be arranged for the Candlemas Guild Day in 2018 for the following

Kimberley Mullaney	Company of Drapers
Alan Oliver	Company of Plumbers
Susan Staveley	Company of Butchers
Stuart Trow	Company of Joiners

# **Membership Criteria**

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

### **Guild Servitude**

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

### **Durham Servitude**

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

### **Hereditary Freedom**

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

### **Customary Freedom**

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

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

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

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



Mr Bob Elliott

147 Gilesgate Durham DH1 1QQ Tel: 0191 3830934 Email: robert.elliott934@btinternet.com

## **Obituaries**



**John Heslop** (Curriers' Company) 12th April 1945 – 4th April 2017

John Heslop was admitted a Durham Freeman to the Curriers Company on 9th February 1987, was appointed Warden of the Company on the resignation of Michael Howarth in December 2001, and Chairman of the Wardens in succession to Alan Atkinson in January 2006.

He was a fine Warden, Colleague and Friend and always had the best interests of the Durham Freemen at heart. The lead-up to the passing of the Local Democracy Act 2009 and the Equality Act 2010 meant a great deal of hard work from John, the engendering of goodwill – and good sense – in the application of the Acts to corporations such as the Freemen whereby women and men are enabled to be admitted to the Freedom on the same terms. It was quickly seen how important and beneficial to the good estate, let alone the numbers, of the Freemen the addition of women to the Freemen was to be.

John saw through the balloting procedures and their warm acceptance with total success. The day in February 2012 of the first admission of women to the Durham Freedom was a very happy one both for John's family and for the Companies.

He enlarged the facilities of the Freemen to offer charitable funding to local causes which were relevant to their aims and objectives – aid to apprenticeships, acknowledgement of projects involving work and craftsmanship, projects which further the understanding of the historical continuity of effort and imagination in local society.

John was a prudent and fair-minded reformer, an encourager and an enabler and he promoted the recently established Freemen Charitable Trust with enthusiasm and care.

John was a keen networker and good communicator with the Freemen of England and Wales. But, of course, as a career teacher in County Durham, especially at Wellfield Comprehensive School at Wingate and a cause-advocate for the Association of Headmasters and Headmistresses, that was to be expected. His clarity of thought and discretion were much appreciated in Freemen Meetings of Wardens and Trustees.

His family have always been a grand support for the Freemen.

John retired as Chairman of the Durham Wardens in 2016.

It has been a great shock to all that John sadly died on Tuesday 4th April 2017 in Spain, on holiday. R.I.P.



Haydon Watson (Plumbers' Company) 17th February 1937 - 18th April 2017

Haydon was admitted to the Plumbers' Company on 8 May 2006 and became a staunch supporter of the Durham City Freemen, regularly attending Guild Days, Members meetings and the Annual Dinner. His engaging personality was evident at these events and he formed many lasting friendships among the members.

His early life was spent in Framwellgate Moor where he attended the local school until he was 11 years old, before transferring to Whinney Hill Secondary Modern School in Durham City to complete his formal education.

During these formative years living in 'The Moor', Haydon was a member of St Aidan's Church Lads Brigade and also part of the band where he played the Bugle.

Haydon served his time as a plumbing apprentice at Whitfields; a plumbing and heating company in Claypath, Durham City, where he met his wife June.

He worked for a number of plumbing companies in the region but spent a large part of his plumbing and heating career at Bilcloughs of North Shields, where he rose to the rank of supervisor. Haydon was a dedicated worker, so much so that he continued working long after retirement age.



Robert Ainsley Elliott (Masons' Company) 22nd October 1937 - 17th June 2017

Bob was born in Durham just before the outbreak of the war, to a family who owned a well established building firm, with whom he served his apprenticeship. He became a meticulous carpenter. He enjoyed sport and travel. He joined the RAF to see the world and ended up in hospital with a slipped disc. Nothing to do with the square-bashing, etc. he blamed it on rowing on the River Wear the day before he went to join up.

Newcastle United was his football club and he played football himself as well as basketball. He went down to the midlands in 1961 for work and spent the rest of his working life in that part of the world.

Bob was admitted to the Masons Company on 7 August 1967. He worked in Coventry for a while and then joined Bovis on Marks & Spencer work, which took him all around the country, His work was of such a high standard that later in his career he was involved with projects for the National Trust.



**Jim Marsden** (Curriers Company) 21st December 1927 – 26th June 2017

Jim Marsden was admitted a Durham Freeman to the Curriers Company on 3rd November 2008.

Born in Whinney Hill, Jim moved to Misletoe Street and attended St Margaret's School then the Durham Johnston School. He spent much of his youth pursuing country pastimes around the family's brickyard ponds at Tursdale, and in WW2 at age 16 he volunteered for the Royal Observer Corps. Called up in 1945 he served in the UK and Germany as an ordnance disposal expert with the Royal Engineers, then as a Battery Surveyor with the Royal Artillery. At his demob he became an articled pupil in civil engineering with Durham County Council, and on his 25th birthday, having already passed all his professional exams, he became the youngest person in the UK to have ever qualified as a Chartered Engineer.

One of Jim's first positions with DCC was as Rights of Way Officer for the County, then Resident Engineer for the Felling By-Pass and the construction of the current Baths Bridge, before becoming Head of the DCC Highways Lab. Married in 1957, Jim designed and built a bungalow behind Claypath, which he lived in for the remainder of his life. In 1967 he was appointed Chief Materials Engineer for the NE Road Construction Unit, working on all the motorways and trunk roads from the Borders to the Humber. He ended his career aged 65 as Chief Materials Engineer for Bullen and Partners and Lead Assessor for the National Physics Laboratories.

Jim served on many national and local bodies, including the Rescue Section of the NE Civil Defence Corps, Secretary to the Durham University Geological Society, on the NE Sports Council, and as Chairman then Vice-President of the Durham City Angling Club ... he was a passionate trout and salmon fisherman, and also a keen boating enthusiast.

He was immensely proud of his City and County, and especially proud to be admitted as a Freeman and to see his son Robert and granddaughter Nicola follow him into the Curriers' Company.

## **Chairman of the Trustees Report**



Norman Hart Image courtesy of Tom Banks

I must confess that I am finding it very hard to believe that it is just over two years since Roger Norris retired as Chair of the Trustees and that my two year period as Chair has also come to an end.

What was, by far, the most important and saddest event in 2017 was the sudden and unexpected death of John Heslop on the 4th April while he was on holiday in Spain.

It would be almost impossible in a short report like this to try and describe how much the Freemen of Durham owe to John as Chair of the Wardens. Suffice to say that in his ten years in office he almost single handedly secured the future of the Freemen.

A very well attended service of celebration to commemorate John's life was held in the Town Hall on the 5th May.

To turn to more mundane events.

I suppose the first event to report on in the year was the meeting that Alan Ribchester and Eric Bulmer attended at County Hall on the 19th April. There they met the DCC Head of Culture and Sport and the Cultural Development manager when the renovation of the Guildhall Balcony and the provision of Audio equipment to enhance public tours of the building were discussed.

The next event to report was a Stakeholder workshop on the 5th July to discuss the future of the City Riverbanks when the Freemen were represented by Malcolm Proud.

On the 7th October we had our Annual Dinner in the Town Hall which was both very enjoyable and well hosted by Eric Bulmer (Chairman of the Wardens).

The Guest Speaker was Alex Nelson who was described as the Third Warden of the Clothworkers Guild of London but who is better known to most of us being business owner and manager of, inter alia, the railway station at Chester-le-Street.

One of our newer Trustees Phil Dyer, who proposed a toast to our guests gave a very interesting and informative insight regarding the work of our recently established History group.

As ever the Freemen have been busy supporting local charities and just to mention a few, there were 1. Recyke y' bike. A charity which transforms old or unwanted bikes into safe machines for both the local community and charities based in Africa – were awarded £500

2. The Durham Pointers, which is a group comprising over 70 volunteers, who provide information, advice and directions to visitors to the City were presented with a cheque for  $\pm 1,350$ . at our Annual dinner.

3.Tin Arts which is a "Not for profit' organisation and which offers inspiration to people of all ages with a learning disability, autism or additional needs to realise their potential through dance and a wider performing arts received a grant of £500

4. The organises the of the Remembrance Day Parade benefited from an award of £1,000

5. Nevilles Cross Primary School were awarded a grant of £500.

To conclude, I believe that I can report on another very successful year with a slight increase in membership.

As ever the only cloud on the horizon is our frustration with Durham CC in trying to settle the Sands rent revue but I think with the sterling efforts of our Secretary Philip Wills, backed by our professional advisor, Andrew Toes, I think we can see light at the end of the tunnel.

I am pleased to report that following a frustrating dialogue with Durham County Council regarding a settlement of a rent revue, we have now reached an agreement. This has been due on our part, to the sterling efforts of our Secretary Philip Wills, backed by our professional advisor, Andrew Toes.

## **Treasurers Report**



Stewart Atkin

As we look back over 2017 the scenery has been very similar to recent years: low interest rates, uncertainty and mixed signals for the financial markets. Not to mention the "B" word.

The last quarter saw a slight lift in Bank Rate much to the chagrin of savers who saw no improvement in rates, simply borrowers having to pay a little more. The negotiations in Brussels have done little for the confidence of markets and industry alike.

The Freemen have a portfolio of investments which is designed to provide a healthy return together with capital preservation. Dividend and bond income has held up over the past year whilst the FTSE index has seen modest gains. At the time of writing the income yield was running at 4%; slightly down on the same time 12 months ago. Our investments are spread across 20+ companies and we have seen a small fall in value in recent months. We meet our broker on a regular basis and there have been some disposals and acquisitions during December in line with our wish to hold capital values reasonably steady over the longer term.

The Freemen continue to make funds available to support local charities and good causes through our Charitable Trust.

# **Charitable Trust Report**

The Charitable Trust, the charitable giving arm of the Freemen, continues to support local organisations and communities. The Trust currently comprises of the following members: Eric Bulmer (Freeman) Chairman John Booth (Freeman) Appointed following the death of John Heslop (Freeman) Joe McElwee (Freeman) Stewart Atkin (Trustee) Alan Ribchester (Trustee)

During 2017 the "Trust" provided support to the following organisations;

### TIN Arts (£500)

TIN Arts, a 'Not for Profit' organisation was set up at the end of the 1990s, offers inspiration to people of all ages with a learning disability, autism or additional needs to realise their potential through dance and the wider performing arts.



It delivers training and support in its dance space at Framwellgate Moor Community Centre, where it is now undertaking a major refurbishment.

The Charitable Trust were pleased to support them in their endeavour with a donation of £500 towards the cost of equipment, that included support rails to assist the less mobile of its clients.

### The Durham Pointers (£1350)

Since the loss of a tourist information office in the city the 'Pointers' have been acting and information centre for visitors.



The 'Pointers' relies completely on raising its own funding to support its activities of providing information, advice and directions to local, regional, national and international visitors to Durham City. The whole operation relies totally on volunteers of which there are over 70 who operate seven days a week throughout the whole of spring/summer (Easter to October).

The Charitable Trust has agreed to support the Pointers with the sum of £1350 to redesign a range of printed material including, a children's quiz leaflet, a marketplace leaflet and a conceptual map. The Freemen logo will be prominently displayed on all their leaflets and brochures etc.

Representatives from the Pointers attended our Annual Dinner when they were presented with their cheque.

### Remembrance Parade (£1000)

Arthur Lockyear of the Advisory Group for the above event is working with 'D' Rifles Company, 5th Battalion the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, and the local police, prison, ambulance and fire and rescue services. The intention is to develop this most important event into one of the biggest and most prestigious occasions of its kind in the north of England.



The funding granted of £1000 will provide the opportunity to increase the servicemen taking part with 140 extra participants (35 troops each from the Royal Air Force Regiment, the Royal Regiment of Scotland, the Light Dragoons and Royal Lancers, and a military Band).

We feel privileged to be able to offer tangible support to this year's parade. We know the act of remembrance still means a great deal to very many local families. People remain extremely proud of the history and heritage of the Durham Light Infantry and their successors which engenders the total respect of the citizens of Durham."

### Recyke Y' bike (£500)

As a North East charity, Recyke y'bike started in 2006, and has been operating for ten years. In 2014 they took the step to expand out of their Byker home and open their second shop in Durham City on North Road.

They take in donations of used bikes from local residents, and fix them up for sale. The surpluses this generates are used to fund their work with the unemployed, refugees and asylum seekers in the North East. As well as selling these refurbished bikes locally they also send around 500 bikes a year to development projects in Kenya and The Gambia.



The funding granted of £500, will enable them to purchase a new range of tools to increase the scope of their work.

### Neville's Cross Primary School PTA (£500)

The school's Parent Teachers Association (PTA) are very close to raising £60,000 for a multi use games area (MUGA) to provide a usable surface throughout the year to enable a diverse range of activities including football, hockey, netball, tennis, basketball, etc.

A large portion of the money was raised by 4 parents swimming the English Channel in a relay team in July 2016.

This facility will be available for use by local community groups when not being used by the school. The funding granted of £500 will go towards their target of £60,000.

### Sponsored Craft Apprentice (Durham University) (£7500)

in keeping with the heritage and roots of the Freemen, an element of our funding goes to support the training of individuals who are explicitly working at a high level in a craft and wherever possible in maintaining the fabric of heritage buildings within the city for the benefit of local people.



Stephen Hay is in the second year of his apprenticeship and is working with a dedicated woodworking team at Durham University, that have responsibility for maintaining digital links on the Palace Green and the peninsular.

### Freemen Website

The Durham City Freemen website remains a 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 and easy way of communicating information to all our members and the public at large.

The site supports our aim to enhance the Freemen's profile to ensure that the general public are aware of our heritage and role in supporting local charities, community projects and reporting timely news items and events as they happen. More information regarding the activities of the Freemen is available than ever before in its history.

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** who will be happy to publish articles on the website.



#### www.durhamcityfreemen.org

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

# Calendar of involvement during 2017

### 17<sup>th</sup> February

An initial meeting between Eric Bulmer, the co-ordinator of the Freemen History Group and Chris Caple senior lecturer (Department of Archaeology) Durham University, to discuss research training opportunities for the History Group and to access the Archaeology labs.

#### 22<sup>nd</sup> February

Eric Bulmer, Chairman of the Wardens and Freemen Trustee, Alan Ribchester, met with Steve Howells to discuss the Freemen's involvement in a proposed project to open up the Town Hall to the general public.

#### 24<sup>th</sup> February

Introductory/archive research and retrieval training session for the History Group at the County Record Office.

### 1<sup>st</sup> March

History Group members attended a talk and Introduction to archive research and retrieval techniques by Francis Gotto, Assistant Keeper at the Palace Green Library in Durham.

#### 17<sup>th</sup> March

A number of Wardens, representing the Freemen attended the Mayors Civic Dinner at the Town Hall, where the Chairman of the Wardens gave the toast to the City of Durham.

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

Eric Bulmer Chairman of the Charitable Trust, met with Arthur Lockyear a member of the Durham Remembrance Parade Advisory Group to discuss the Freemen's involvement and possible support for this years event.

#### 29<sup>th</sup> March

History Group members attended a talk on 'Reading Artefacts' by Chris Cable at the Department of Archaeology.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> April

The History Group attended a training session at the Department of Archaeology on 'Analysing Artefacts.'

### 7<sup>th</sup> April

The Chairman of the Wardens gave a presentation of the history of the Durham City Freemen to the Chester-le-Street Rotary Club.

#### 10<sup>th</sup> April

History Group members attended a 'Drawing of Artefacts' session at the Department of Archaeology.

#### 26<sup>th</sup> May

The Chairman of the Wardens together with the Kathleen Vasey, Warden of the Butchers' Company held a meeting with representatives of the Durham Pointers to discuss opportunities for developing a closer relationship.

### 8<sup>th</sup> July

Freemen and friends visited the Berwick Guild.

### 7<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> September Heritage Open Days

The Freemen together with members of the History Group, supported this 4 day event with presentations describing the 'History of the Freemen and Guild Hall.'

### 27<sup>th</sup> October

The Chairman of the Charitable Trust and Alan Ribchester met with Bruno van Dyke, Director of the Development and Alumni Relations Office at Durham University, with a view to strengthening relationships between our organisations.

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

The Chairman of the Wardens together with Kathleen Vasey and Joe McElwee represented the Freemen at the Remembrance Festival Service held in the Cathedral.

### 12<sup>th</sup> November

Wardens and Members representing the Freemen attended the Remembrance Service and Parade as part of the Mayors civic party.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> December

Members of the Freemen mounted a display stand in the Town Hall during the Mayors charity event during the Christmas festival.

### 12<sup>th</sup> December

An initial visit took place by Eric Bulmer and John Booth of the Charitable Trust, to gain awareness of the work and development of Durham Hospital Radio, following a request for support for their community project.

# **Freemen Social Activities**

### Berwick Visit Saturday 8 July 2017

As part of an initiative to develop a closer relationship with our neighbouring Guilds, a group of Freemen and friends were guests of the Berwick Guild and enjoyed their excellent hospitality.

A Contingent of 14 from Durham, that included Freemen and non-Freemen from the History Group, together with friends and family, enjoyed a very interesting day with the Berwick Guild that included a talk and tour of the Guild Hall/Town Hall, followed by a light lunch.



A guided walk on the walls of Berwick was arranged for the afternoon and in the evening, we were their guests for dinner in the Guild Hall.

The day was a great success and we will offer similar hospitality when we invite the Berwick Guild to Durham in June 2018.

### Annual Dinner 2017

We were delighted to have the Mayor and Mayoress supporting our Annual Dinner.

The event was extremely successful with 84 guests enjoying dinner in the wonderful setting of the Town Hall. Our Guests this year included, members of Berwick, York and Trinity House Guilds, the President of the Freemen of England and Wales (FEW) and the Master of York Guild.



Our guest speaker on this occasion was Alex Nelson who is: Third Warden of the Clothworkers Company in London Chair of the Clothworkers Foundation Owner of the Chester-le-Track business

Alex is a Londoner by birth but now resides locally in Co. Durham. He graduated from University College in in 1983.



Professionally, Alex trained in the bus industry in Norfolk and returned to the North East in 1985 and switched from buses to railways. His business, Chester-le-Track, employs eight people, operating the railway stations at Chester-le-Street and Eaglescliffe.

He is now an active member of the Clothworkers' Company, and has just completed serving as Third Warden.

He is Chairman of the Clothworkers' Foundation which distributes around £5m per annum. He has also edited the annual magazine Castellum for the past 30 years for the Durham Castle Society.

Alex gave an extremely interesting and informative talk on the work and history of the London Livery Companies (Guilds), particularly focusing on the Cloth Workers Company in London that ranks 12th in priority of the London Guilds, much to the annoyance of the Dyers Guild that are 13th. For almost 400 years they have been at loggerheads with the Cloth Workers Guild, which has only recently been smoothed over with a 'Bury the Hatchet Dinner' every year when both Guilds meet.

Alex's captivating talk, included numerous facts relating to the history of the London Guilds many of which mirrored our structure in a number of ways, in fact he described the Durham City Freemen as a microcosm of the London Guild. His talk was laced with gentle humour and irony which made for a most enjoyable evening.

## **Moving Forward**



2018 will herald closer links with our neighbouring Guilds, with a visit by the Berwick Guild on Saturday 16 June. It is hoped that our members and friends will take the opportunity to join us in the activities on the day.

We are planning to form closer links with the Cathedral and the University of Durham. What we currently share is being part of the heritage of our city and what we hope to develop are opportunities that build on the relationship for the benefit of all parties.

The Charitable Trust will be more proactive in 2018 visiting and working with local charities and community groups, to provide the 'Trust' with a greater understanding of their work and developments. This will assist the 'Trust' in the way it distributes its funding.

The History Group will embark on its main project of uncovering the 'History of the Freemen and Guilds of Durham City'. Their research will be linked to artefacts recovered from the bed of the River Wear beneath Elvet Bridge and focus on the 8 remaining Companies, that will shed light on the life and work of Freemen (some of them may be ancestors of current Freemen). The target for the publication of a booklet is 2020.

As you can see from the tenor of my 'Foreword' and 'Moving Forward,' that we are creating opportunities for members to take a more active role, as we believe this is essential in facing the challenging objectives of sustaining and developing our organisation.

To underpin this objective, we have a management structure in place that creates 2 Warden vacancies every year and I encourage members to consider putting their names forward in the forthcoming elections.

If you would like to be involved in shaping the Freemen's future, please contact myself or your Warden directly.

Eric Bulmer Chairman of the Wardens Warden of the Plumbers' Company Tel: 0191 378 0554 Mobile: 07894 064 057 Email: eckabulmer@gmail.com

