



YOUNG FREEMEN

- 1976 -

SEMI ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
NEWSLETTER

THE GUILD OF YOUNG FREEMEN

Issue #9





ABOUT THE GUILD OF YOUNG FREEMEN

Founded in 1976, the Guild of Young Freemen of the City of London is a volunteer-run organisation dedicated to engaging young professionals under the age of 40 who are Freemen of the City of London and members of Livery Companies, with an interest in the heritage and traditions of the City of London — regardless of whether they have an existing affiliation with a Livery Company.

With a membership exceeding 300 young professionals and representing over 80 liverys, the Guild aims to foster inter-livery fellowship, forging long-lasting friendships and making a meaningful impact. As our members progress in their professional or civic careers, they follow in the footsteps of over 1,000 past members who have gone on to hold significant roles as captains of industry, corporate leaders, Livery Masters, Clerks, and even a few Lord Mayors.

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The Guild of
Young Freemen

NEWSLETTER

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Upcoming Events

31/07 – The Pillars of Tomorrow

11/09 – City Briefing

12/09 – Harnessing Heritage

23/09 – City Giving Day

28/09 – The Sheep Drive

10/10 – The Annual Banquet

08/11 – The Lord Mayor's Show

20/11 – City Briefing

28/11 – Christmas Banquet

03/12 – The Carol Service

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A FOREWORD FROM THE MASTER



Dear Members and Friends,

Writing this foreword, I am two weeks from becoming Master and half a decade into joining the Guild. In this short (within the City's history at least) period of time, it has developed and transformed, bolstered by its membership, reinforced by the Livery and strengthened by our ever-growing professionalism. It is at this moment that I am enormously proud to maintain and ultimately drive this progress forward.

This year we will keep up the high standards that have been set by the Court, our wardens and membership, namely the bringing together of young professionals, sharing our knowledge and expertise. Indeed, what a way to begin the year as we mean to carry on than with our 'Pillars of Tomorrow' event

alongside the Financial Services Group.

Of course, we must also be looking forward to what the Guild has to come, with an excellently crafted (not least from our equally excellent Middle & Renter Wardens, gallant Upper Warden and Learned Clerk and Deputy Clerk) and packed set of events to come.

- Sheep Drive: As wonderful as it is unique event, where we all get to participate in our right as Freemen, driving sheep across Southwark Bridge on the 28th of September. This is truly unforgettable and an opportunity to highlight our history to the public.

- Annual Banquet: Held on the 10th of October for the first time in Mansion House; an outstanding opportunity to come together, celebrate our success and give back for a great cause.
- Lord Mayor's Show: On Saturday the 8th of November we will continue our tradition of processing in the worlds oldest civic procession, sporting our unforgettable crimson gowns amongst the City's Liveries and supporters.
- The Second Reunion Spring Banquet: After the overwhelming success of our Reunion Banquet a few months ago and indeed being honoured by the presence and success of our former members, Jocelyn Stuart-Grumbar, William Hunt, Henry Pollard, and Michael Cooper to name just a few; we will be coming together once more.

We would not be able to do all of this without, as I have already expressed (but that which cannot be expressed enough), the tireless work of our fantastic Court who make all this possible. We are certainly all in safe hands for many years to come.

Last but not least, many of you may know me for my passion for rowing, a sport that has shaped much of my character and outlook.

As a keen oarsman, it is a joy to share that I'll be attending the historic Doggett's Coat and Badge Race this year alongside the Upper Warden of the Guild of Young Freemen, courtesy of the Fishmongers' Company. I was also especially thrilled to learn that one of our Guild members, Jessica Jue, crafted the trophy for the inaugural Bridge Challenge Plate at the last edition of the Royal Henley Regatta – a landmark moment in the history of women's rowing. As I look ahead to my year as Master, I do so with great enthusiasm, inspired by the talents, achievements and dedication of the Guild's members.

Finally, without mincing words, I encourage you to get involved. You get out what you put in within the Guild; here, we all have a great opportunity to give back, show the City the fantastic work we do, the professionalism we project, support we give and hurdles overcome. Let's make for a year of strength to strength.

Yours truly,

Reuben Braden-Bell

Master Young Freeman 2025/2026

A LETTER FROM THE CLERK



Dear Fellow Young Freemen,

Welcome to a new year with the Guild of Young Freemen.

First, congratulations to our new Master, Mr Reuben Braden-Bell, on his installation in May. I, for one, am very much looking forward to Reuben's year as he takes the reins of our ever-growing organisation. We enter an exciting chapter marked by several significant milestones — from our recent VAT registration to the planning currently underway for the granting of an official Coat of Arms for the Guild.

Thank you to those of you who have already paid your quarterage for 2025/2026 — your continued support is greatly appreciated. I hope you enjoy another year of membership

in the Guild and take full advantage of the opportunities it brings. With our 50th anniversary on the horizon, there has never been a better time to be a Young Freeman. There is much to look forward to, from our usual calendar of events — such as the Lord Mayor's Show with the Basketmakers and the Sheep Drive with the Woolmen — to our special Installation Banquet this year at Mansion House by the kind permission of our President and Patron, The Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor, Alderman Alastair King DL.

We are also proud to continue our partner and affiliated events with the Guild of Freemen and the Order of St John. Across the wider Livery movement, many Freemen and Liverymen are looking to reconnect with

the Guild and celebrate our shared history. I encourage you all to get involved, take pride in your membership, and be exemplary ambassadors for the future of the Livery.

The response to Committee sign-ups has been fantastic. For those taking part: you will get out of the Guild what you put in. Your involvement helps the Wardens deliver on the Court's objectives and ensures the smooth running of the Guild.

I would like to thank our outgoing Clerk, Mr Stephen Hodgson CC, for his tireless and dependable service to the Guild over the past three years. I'm personally grateful to have Stephen's counsel as I take on this role. Congratulations are also due to him on his recent election to the Court of Common Council in March, representing the Ward of Vintry. I know he will bring the same commitment and care to that role as he did as Clerk.

Congratulations as well to Dr Fraser Peck CC, our Middle Warden, who was also elected in March to represent the Ward of Farringdon Within. I warmly congratulate Court Assistant Ms Jaspreet Hodgson, Past Master and Member Mr James St John Davis, and Member Mr Aaron D'Souza on their re-election to the Court of Common Council. I

am proud to see so many Guild members represented in the Corporation.

I am grateful for the support of the Master, the Wardens, my Deputy, Ms Anna Kowalik, and our new Treasurer, Mr Maceo Frederick, whom I congratulate on taking up the role. I trust he will find it as rewarding as I did, and I look forward to working with him closely.

Since becoming Clerk, I've had the pleasure of representing the Guild at a number of events, including the Livery Charity Chairs Group Annual Conference 2025. I have been struck by the warmth of support for the Guild and the enthusiasm across the Livery for our growing presence.

In closing, thank you for your continued support and faith in the Court. I look forward to seeing you soon at one (or more!) of our many varied and special events in the year ahead.

Yours sincerely,

George Godfrey

The Clerk

NEWS FROM THE COURT

Installation Court



In May, the Guild of Young Freemen held its Installation Court to appoint our new Master and Wardens for the year ahead.

Reuben Braden-Bell was installed as Master, with Grace Abba becoming Immediate Past Master. Rafael Steinmetz Leffa was installed as Upper Warden, joined by Dr Fraser Peck CC as Middle Warden and Jacqueline Chan as Renter Warden.

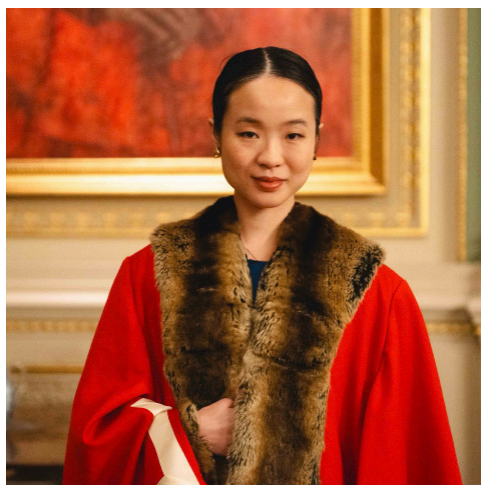
The Court also elected Mr George Godfrey as our new Clerk and appointed Mr Maceo Frederick, our former Deputy Clerk, as Treasurer.

In recognition of his impeccable knowledge and the great work that he has done as Clerk, the Court has awarded Stephen Hodgson CC the title of Honorary Clerk. His continued support will be instrumental as we look ahead to the Guild's 50th anniversary in 2026.

A heartfelt thank you to all who have served and all who continue to serve the Guild and its members.

NEWS FROM THE COURT

Jacqueline Chan Installed as Renter Warden



The Court of Assistants to the Guild of Young Freemen is delighted to install Jacqueline Chan as our new Renter Warden at our most recent Installation Court meeting.

Jacqueline joined the Court in May 2024 having served on the Membership Committee since July 2023 and the Communications Committee since its establishment in July 2024. She has been a member of the Guild since May 2023 and has played a key role in the professionalisation of the organisation.

Since joining the Guild, Jacqueline has interviewed over 150 prospective members, helping the Guild grow its membership. She supported the team in conducting thorough due diligence on prospective members, assessing candidates, and managing the overall administrative process. Additionally, her work was instrumental in professionalising the Guild's public image by founding the Communications Committee and developing a strategic approach to communications. She has emphasised and

helped implement the harmonisation of the Guild's public platforms, which has grown the audience across its social media.

Outside of the Guild, Jacqueline Chan is a Chartered Accountant, working as a financial auditor for the UK National Audit Office. Jacqueline is a member of the executive committee of St John Gateway, an organisation for individuals under 40 that supports the mission of the Most Venerable Order of St John.

She was made Freeman of The Worshipful Company of Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers in 2022 before progressing to Liveryman in 2023, she contributed to the 'Treasure of Gold and Silver Wire' exhibition at Guildhall, which celebrated the 400th anniversary of the first charter of the Company. She has since been made a Freeman of the Ironmongers' Company, one of the Great Twelve livery companies. In her spare time, Jacqueline enjoys reading about art and financial history.

NEWS FROM THE COURT

New Court Assistants and Officers

The Guild of Young Freemen would like to welcome our newly installed Court Assistants and Officers.



Jago Toner
Court Assistant

Jago is a Partner at Mariana UFP LLP, working with structured products and is based in the City of London. He holds various Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment qualifications. He is a Freeman of the City of London and a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of International Bankers, which he first joined through the Journeyman Scheme. He now chairs its Associates Committee, representing members of the Company under the age of 35. Jago has also served as a mentor for the Mansion House Scholarship Scheme for several years, sharing his knowledge and experience with early-career scholars.



Cameron Lane-Ley
Court Assistant

Cameron is a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Gunmakers. Cameron is an Associate Director in the Global Bid and Pursuit team at Howden Insurance Brokers; a chartered member of the Chartered Management Institute and member of the Institute for Leadership. He joined the London Insurance market after 8 years as an Officer of the British Army and remains a Reservist Officer, developing future leaders in the University Officer Training Corps.

NEWS FROM THE COURT

New Court Assistants and Officers



Chloe May Lightfoot
Court Assistant

Chloe is a Freeman of the Goldsmiths' Company. She attended The Goldsmiths' Centre Foundation Programme in 2014-15 and completed her apprenticeship in E.Wolfe & Company, one of the oldest jewellers in London. She won a gold award and the junior award in the Goldsmiths' Craft & Design Council Awards. She was subsequently awarded a grant by the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust to further her career before founding her own business.



Timothy Evans
Honorary Court Assistant

Tim is a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers and serves on the Company's Charity Committee. Professionally, Tim is a senior associate at Forsters LLP where he practises as a divorce and family law specialist. Tim is a recognised lawyer in the Legal 500. At Forsters, Tim runs a pro bono clinic in conjunction with Citizens Advice Wandsworth and sits on the charity and pro bono committees.

NEWS FROM THE COURT

New Court Assistants and Officers



George Godfrey
Clerk

George is a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Chartered Accountants and a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers. He was the Treasurer of the Guild of Young Freemen from July 2023 to May 2025. He volunteers as Honorary Secretary of Castle Baynard Ward Club. He is also a Council Member of the Historical Society of St John and the Treasurer of St John Gateway. Professionally, George is a Senior Manager at Sayers Butterworth LLP.



Stephen Hodgson CC
Honorary Clerk

Stephen Hodgson CC is a Chartered Accountant and Chartered Tax Adviser with more than 18 years of professional experience. He is Deputy Group Tax Director of a FTSE 100 business and chairs the Audit, Remuneration and Risk Committee and Tax Committee of a national trade association. He was elected as Common Councillor of the Ward of Vintry in March 2025 with his wife Deputy Jaspreet Hodgson CC. Stephen is a Court Assistant of the Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers, a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Chartered Accountants, and chairs the Lord Mayor's Briefing Group, which provides tax policy briefings.

NEWS FROM THE COURT

New Court Assistants and Officers



Maceo Frederick Treasurer

Maceo is a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers. Outside of the Guild, Maceo is an assistant direct tax manager at Chubb, a global provider of insurance products. He is part ACA qualified with the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

PRESS RELEASE

Installation of Honorary Clerk Stephen Hodgson and Middle Warden Fraser Peck as Common Councillors



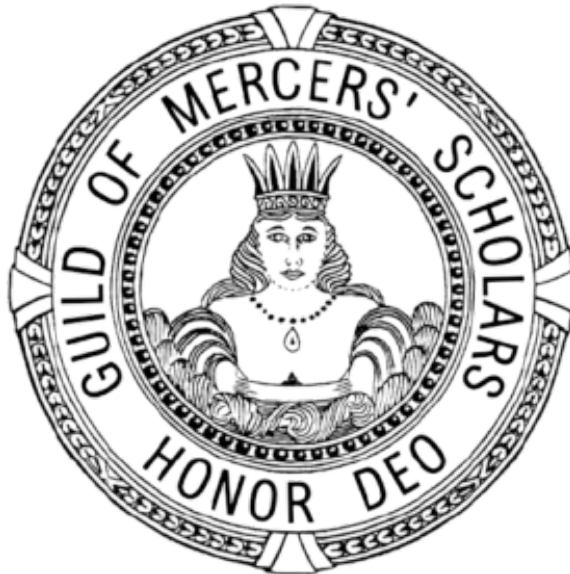
The Guild of Young Freemen is immensely proud of our Honorary Clerk, Stephen Hodgson CC, and our Middle Warden, Fraser Peck CC, who have been installed as Common Councillors for the Wards of Vintry and Farringdon Within, respectively. They were learned Clerk and Renter Warden at the time of their installation, which took place on 25th April, just hours before the Guild's First Reunion Banquet, which brought together

many other former Young Freemen in a wonderful celebration of tradition and community.

Congratulations to Stephen and Fraser on this outstanding achievement and on joining the ranks of fellow current and former Young Freemen who continue to contribute to the life of the City in so many different ways.

PRESS RELEASE

Installation of Grace Abba as Clerk to the Guild of Mercers' Scholar



Our now Immediate Past Master, Grace Abba, was installed as Clerk to the Guild of Mercers' Scholars on 3rd April. of its principal aims is to enable young people to become future Liverymen of City Livery Companies.

The Guild of Mercers' Scholars is a voluntarily-run Guild in the City of London, made up of alumni and associates from the Mercers' Company's family of schools. One We are certain Grace will bring her warmth, energy, and commitment to this new role — and continue to inspire the next generation of City leaders.

PRESS RELEASE

Buckingham Palace Garden Party



On 7th May, Master Young Freeman Grace Abba and her Consort, Harry Brown, attended the Buckingham Palace Royal Garden Party, representing the Guild of Young Freemen. The Master of the Guild was invited to the Garden Party, which is also attended by Masters of Livery Companies and other notable figures of the City of London.

The Garden Party hosted by Buckingham Palace was attended by His Majesty King Charles III, Her Majesty Queen Camilla, members of the Royal Family, and thousands of guests. It aims to recognise and reward public service. The Guild of Young Freemen is honoured for the recognition of its contribution.

SPOTLIGHT

Inaugural Reunion Banquet



On 25th April, the Guild of Young Freemen celebrated its inaugural Reunion Banquet at Stationers' Hall. The Guild of Young Freemen's Reunion Banquet is an annual event to welcome back former members of the Guild—originally known at its inception as the Society of Young Freemen.

It is an opportunity to reconnect with our community, celebrate its enduring legacy, and strengthen ties within the wider network of former members. The Guild of Young Freemen is committed to forging inter-livery fellowship, acting as a bridge between young professionals, the City of London, and Young Freemen across generations.

Following a short introduction by our Master Grace Abba (2024/2025), the Upper Warden and Master-Elect (2025/2026), Reuben Braden-Bell, delivered a reflective address on

the Guild's notable achievements over the past year.

The speech celebrated a successful programme of events, ranging from the annual banquet hosted with the Italian Ambassador to the ever-popular "Meet the Liveries" events throughout the year, the traditional Sheep Drive on Southwark Bridge to a record-breaking Inter-Livery Quiz, which welcomed an unprecedented number of participating Livery Companies and young livery company members. The Upper Warden also highlighted the key achievements of the Guild in 2024/2025, with the new affiliation with St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group and a partnership with the Guild of Freemen. Finally commenting on the record number of admissions of new members to date, which include the current Lady Mayoress, Florence King.

Our principal guest, Jocelyn Stuart-Grumbar, a former Young Freeman, now the Clerk to the Clothworkers' Company and CEO of the Clothworkers Foundation, as well as Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Vintners recalled his experience as a Young Freeman and spoke about the context of the establishment of the Guild of Young Freemen and the wider geopolitical and economic environment at the time.

It was an honour for the Guild that Deputy Henry Pollard (Liveryman of the Skinners' Company and Past Master of the Guild of Investment Managers), who was installed as Chief Commoner only hours before the banquet, chose to make the Guild's Reunion Banquet the first function he attended as Chief Commoner.

Among our guests, we had William Hunt TD, Founder and Past President of the Society of Young Freemen 1979/1980, Michael Cooper OBE MA, Past President of the Society of Young Freemen 1997/1998 and Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Parish Clerks.

We have also welcomed the following VIP guests some of whom were former members of the Guild from the following livery companies:

- Philip Lawford (Second Master Warden, Drapers' Company)
- Andrew McMurtie (Upper Warden of the Worshipful Company of Salters)
- Thomas Rastrick (Beadle, Worshipful Company of Cutlers)
- Mark Watson-Gandy OBE CStJ (Past Master, Worshipful Company of Scriveners)
- David Bole (Master of the Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards)
- Antony Robson (Master, Worshipful Company of Fanmakers)
- Elise Rasmussen (Immediate Past Master, Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders)
- Tony Ginman (Master, Worshipful Company of Lightmongers)
- Mei Sim Lai OBE DL (Past Master Worshipful Company of World Traders)
- Tim Skeet (Upper Warden, Worshipful Company of International Bankers)
- Jordan Buck (Junior Warden, Worshipful Company of International Bankers)
- James Drabble (Court Assistant, Worshipful Company of Arts Scholars)
- Lisa Rutter (Immediate Past Master, Guild of Freemen)

Finally, we would like to thank our Middle Warden Rafael Steinmetz Leffa, Renter Warden Dr Fraser Peck CC, Renter Warden Elect Jacqueline Chan, Treasurer George Godfrey, Deputy Clerks Anna Kowalik and Maceo Frederick, who were committed to ensuring this evening would not only be a success but become a permanent fixture in both the Guild and City calendars, helping strengthen the connections between current and former members of the Guild or the Society of Young Freemen.







SPOTLIGHT

Jocelyn Stuart-Grumbar's Speech from the Inaugural Reunion Banquet



By Jocelyn Stuart-Grumbar

*Chief Executive of the Clothworkers' Foundation and Clerk to the
Clothworkers' Company
Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Vintners*

They say that 'Talking is the craft. Listening is the art.' Well, I'm working on the **Craft** and I'm really hoping that you're already consummate practitioners of the **Art**!

It really is such a privilege to have been asked to speak at this, your first, **Reunion Dinner**. I believe that the idea of holding a Reunion Dinner was strongly encouraged the incoming Chief Commoner, **Deputy Henry Pollard**.

Before I go any further, and ahead of their Installation on 21st May, I would like to congratulate **Reuben Braden-Bell** on his Election as Master of The Guild and also Court Assistant Miss **Jacqueline Chan** on her Election as Renter Warden.

In my only Dickensian flourish of the evening, I would conjure Dickens' fabled opening words from **The Tale of Two Cities: 'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times'**. Well, which is it for us? It won't surprise you to hear that I do not reach a firm conclusion, but I DO seek to shed a little cause for optimism!

I'm not someone who spends a lot of time looking back, but next year is The **Guild of Young Freemen's 50th anniversary**. I was one of the very early members of what was then The **Society of Young Freemen**, so a look in the rear-view mirror is probably called for. But I promise that, once we've revisited the 1970s, I'll do my best to bring my drone down in the fertile terrain of the future.

Back, first, to the Society. A couple of abiding memories are of there being a frequent need to explain our name and that the **society-of-young-free-men** was not some sort of dating agency and that, yes, women were involved, too!

I vividly remember our taking part in the **Lord Mayor's Show** for Sir Robin Gillett, sporting bright red sweatshirts, with SYF embossed on them in white foam lettering, together with cardboard bowler hats. This was in an age when being given a freebie sweatshirt was really rather exciting!

The Society was great fun, and one of the ways of meeting others. Strange though it may seem, meeting people took place **almost entirely in the real world** - at work or at play. There really wasn't any other way!

People help to anchor us in time. To remind ourselves just how long ago 1976 is, let's see which stars arrived in or left the UK firmament in that year:

Born in 1976 were:

Keeley Hawes, Sir Chris Hoy, Alan Carr, and Benedict Cumberbatch,

And, taking their leave, were:

Agatha Christie, L S Lowry, General Montgomery, and Benjamin Britten

Often, in the last few months, we have been tempted to feel that the World and our own country are in a pretty perilous place. However, the late-'seventies was a turbulent and uncertain time, too. Leonid Brezhnev was still ossified to the levers of power in the Soviet Union; as was Mao Ze Dong in China, where the Cultural Revolution was ongoing; and the siege of Jimmy Carter's American Embassy in Teheran lay just ahead.



But the world at large is too broad and perplexing a palette for us tonight. So, let's try to situate ourselves back in UK of the 'seventies - infamous for the 'Three-Day Week' and 'The Winter of Discontent'.

May I invite you to join me aboard the then brand-new Intercity 125 train - still with the famous slamming doors - on a whistle stop ride through 1976. To hit and maintain our much-vaunted speed, you'll be glad to know that we won't stop at all stations on the way!

The year got off to a bracing start:

All within the very first month of the year:

- **Hurricane**-force winds of up to 105 mph killed 22 people.
- The **Third Cod War** saw British and Icelandic ships clash at sea.
- The first commercial **Concorde** flight left Heathrow for Bahrain.
- And, there were 12 **Provisional IRA** bombs in London's West End.

In March:

- A 29-year-old Prince of Wales cut the ribbon at **Brent Cross Shopping Centre**.
- And Anita Roddick opened the first branch of **The Body Shop**, in Brighton.

In April:

- The UK won the Eurovision Song Contest for the third time with the song 'Save all your kisses for me' by Brotherhood of Man.

In June and July:

- Saw temperatures attaining at least 26.7 °C every day.

In London, for five consecutive days, the **temperature exceeded 35 °C** (or 95°F as we used to call it, as it sounded much more impressive!). These were early intimations of **Climate Change**.

In August:

- 10,000 Protestant and Catholic women demonstrated together, for **peace in Northern Ireland**.

- 100 police officers and 60 carnival-goers were injured during riots at the **Notting Hill Carnival**.
- The **Grunwick Strike**, which was to last until June 1977, started during this month. Do look it up – it's a fascinating story.

The month of October:

- Saw the opening of the **National Theatre** on the then undiscovered South Bank.

And – totally exhausted – we now reach December:

- Punk band the **Sex Pistols** achieved notoriety as they expleted several swear words live on TV, following the release of their debut single *Anarchy in the UK*.
- Chancellor of the Exchequer **Denis Healey** announced that he had successfully negotiated a £2.3 billion loan from the **International Monetary Fund** on condition that £2.5 billion was cut from public spending.
- **Inflation** stood at 16.5% – one of the highest since records began in 1750.
- ...and, in a rather odd choice of month, December saw the opening of Rutland Water, the largest reservoir in England.

To sum up the sense of the nineteen-seventies, there's a truly awful joke from that time:

'Why did British-made cars have heated rear windows? To keep your hands warm when you had to get out and push!'

As someone who is very much a 'glass half full' person, my purpose in painting this picture of a rather bleak time, is to say that, if we are indeed **going to hell in a handcart**, we've been doing so for a very long time! But, in fact, if you think about my tale of **strikes, bombs, riots, record temperatures, hurricanes, trade wars, persistent high inflation, and a bail-out from the IMF**, whilst there is no cause for complacency – especially in relation to such intractable challenges as climate or child poverty – most of the hallmarks of the 'seventies that I cite are not anything like such major features of the UK's situation today.

Whilst I was a member of The Society, as it then was, I did not actually work in the City, only doing so nearly 40 years later, when I joined **The Clothworkers'**, in 2015. During a number of long stints, I've had a lot of fun, including, in the 'eighties, being involved launching **J&B Scotch Whisky** in a then still pretty closed China and also in Spain in the years following the death of **General Franco**; then having a hand in developing Bombay Sapphire Gin; and, a bit later, being involved in setting up businesses for **James Dyson** in Spain, Italy, the USA and, as MD, in **China**. I then spent two in **Sheffield** with a technology start-up which we floated on the AIM market. It's still burning cash!

In a conversation yesterday about the Churchill Fellowships, their ethos of **'Travel to learn; return to inspire'** was cited. That's what I've been lucky to do – well, certainly the first part – and I strongly commend it.

So, for this lap, I'm in the vibrant and fast-changing City where, at Clothworkers', we are involved in the very exciting development on our freehold site, at **50 Fenchurch Street**, whilst seeing record grantmaking activity.

Whatever we each do – whether here in the City or elsewhere – we need to have a firm eye to the connectedness of the City of London to the **real economy**, and to our **manufacturing base**, if we and others are not to see the City as some sort of casino. Our collective stake in capitalism and the free market must not be taken for granted. The alternative has not served other societies well.

We can and do bridle at so much that we hear on the News. But I'd say a couple of things:

- When you think back to the picture I have painted of the 'seventies, we have made progress on so many fronts, and the tools that have since become available to us and those that we're on the cusp of embracing, will enable **further positive progress**, if we use them well.
- It would be easy to feel that we are buffeted around – the **prisoners of events**.

- However, if we are to realise the **immense promise** that science and technology offer us, we must not, for one moment, allow ourselves to think we have **no 'agency'**. As soon as we do that, we roll over.
- As individuals and, even more so, collectively, we do have the scope – and obligation – to **make a difference**.
- To do so, we need to **'be present'** – physically. The sense of purpose that is fostered in this way, is so powerful, energising and fulfilling.
- Change is bracing but essential. It should not lightly discard the **tried and tested**, nor fail to **learn from history** – which is littered with setbacks and new birth. Change need not be polemical nor adversarial. The most resilient change is that which **brings people with it**.

The very fact that you are here, brought together by an organisation that actively seeks purpose – that you encourage each other in your endeavours – means The Guild is in a really good place as it reaches its **50th birthday** next year. Much work has gone on to professionalise The Guild and to ensure it is reflective of a **meritocratic and inclusive City**. The **Middle Warden** tells me that a number of Companies have been extremely supportive along the way. These include The **Woolmen**, The **Basketmakers'**, The **Drapers'**, The **Apothecaries'**, amongst others. Your distinguished Past Honorary Presidents, Aldermen **Parmley**, **Wootton** and **Hailes**, and now **The Lord Mayor**, **Alderman Alastair King**, have been and

remain huge believers in what this body can bring to the affairs of the City and, so, the wider world the City seeks to serve.

It is a racing certainty that many people in this room will actually have a part in making the world an **unimaginably better place**.

There are a few watchwords that are worth reflecting on – they all seem to start with the letter 'i'! For me, these are **imagination, ingenuity, innovation, inclusion, inspiration, interdependency** – plus, importantly, a good dose of **irreverence**, especially when it comes to mediocrity and apathy. All of these will help us each achieve the biggest 'i' of all – that of **IMPACT**.

If so, someone standing here in another fifty years, at your centenary – when **Stationers' Hall** will probably look just as it does today – will be able to say that remarkable progress really has been made, and **you** will have had a hand in this.

And now, may I ask that we all join in a Toast to:

The Guild of Young Freemen and the Master 'Root and branch, may it continue and flourish, forever.'

The Guild of Young Freemen!

Thank you, Master and Members of the Guild, for allowing me to address you all.

Jocelyn Stuart-Grumbar



SPOTLIGHT

In Conversation with: Chief Commoner Henry Pollard On Civic Duty and the Future of the City



By Lilidh Matthews

Entrepreneur and Trustee

*Young Gardener of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners
and Young Freeman*

Henry Pollard's journey through the City of London is a tale of civic duty, global perspective and quiet transformation. A former member of the Guild of Young Freeman (from when it was a Society), Henry now serves as Chief Commoner — one of the city's oldest and most respected civic roles. With decades of experience internationally and in the Square Mile, Henry embodies the city's modern outlook on tradition. I had the privilege of speaking with him about his early career, time in the Guild, his passion for public service and why the values of the Livery (and its youngest members) are more relevant now than ever.

First impressions: From Choirboy to Commoner

"I first came to the City to sing at Skinners' Hall when I was a 13-year-old choirboy at Tonbridge School." Henry recalls, "There was a real Dick Whittington - dog meets sheriff - moment." The early encounter with civic and livery tradition planted a seed "I was fascinated by the old governments of the City and the representation of different trades from Medieval times to today." While the Skinners' Company is no longer involved in the fur trade, it supports eight schools and remains a living link to medieval times.

A global career in Commodities and Finance

Henry took an international trajectory, living in Paris, Mexico City, and Spain.

"At 18, I was suddenly on a sugar trading desk in Paris, the most beautiful city" he says, "it was meant to be a short gap before joining the army." Instead Henry decided he enjoyed Paris more than a muddy German field, although he reflected with a smile, "I wish I had done short service or something similar but you can't do everything." From Paris, he moved to Mexico City to work for a coffee producer and shipper exploring commodity origins firsthand. "I didn't go to Brazil because they speak Portuguese and I wanted to learn Spanish."

One linguistic choice helped shape future client relationships, particularly when working for a hedge fund based in Gibraltar and living in Sotogrande. He worked across Latin America *"I would fly to Miami and travel all points south, Colombia, Venezuela, Argentina, Chile, Peru - I was only 22 and it was great fun to go away on 6 week tours."* More importantly, building client trust so early taught Henry the value of connecting people and systems – a theme that has run throughout his professional and civic life.

Returning to the City and Civic Life: From Finance to Founding C&E Capital

Returning to London, Henry joined GT (later Invesco), one of the world's largest investment houses, and worked there for nearly 20 years with institutional clients. In 2015, he decided to forge his own path *"Around 10 years ago, I set up my own business – C&E Capital – representing boutique fund managers and alternative investment strategies."* With C&E Capital, Henry has promoted everything from sector-specific equity funds and bond portfolios to hedge funds and, more recently, funds focused on white hydrogen and social housing. *"These are radically different themes, but that's what makes it exciting, being able to connect innovative ideas with the right audiences and watching them light up with the same enthusiasm I have. That same passion, connecting people with purpose, has been central in both my business and civic life."*

A calling to serve: Civic Responsibility and Common Council

Henry felt increasingly drawn to the Square Mile's historic institutions, despite moving to the country following marriage. Already familiar with Livery through the Skinners, he wanted to contribute more than just a commuter's footprint. *"I asked myself, what else can I do beyond the desk? I wanted to stand for something."*



Henry Pollard with the current Upper Warden Rafael Steinmetz Leffa at the last Reunion Banquet, on the same day as the Chief Commoner's Installation

Rather than his local parish council, Henry set his sights on the City, particularly the Ward of Dowgate where Skinners' Hall had first inspired him as a boy. After losing his first election, he stood again in a by-election and was elected in 2002.

"I've now served 23 years on various committees and boards." Chairing the City of London Police authority Board was clearly meaningful, *"We have the smallest force in the UK geographically, but we lead nationally on economic and cyber crime. It was our armed unit that took out the terrorists during the London Bridge and Borough Market attack. I'm proud of that."* But not every experience has been as high. As Chair of the Markets Board, Henry oversaw the City's three historic wholesale markets – Billingsgate, Smithfield and New Spitalfields. *"With great sadness, by 2028, we won't be running a meat or fish market."* The City voted to give up control, a decision he believes will one day be regretted. *"Wholesale markets should be part of every great city."*

The Role of Chief Commoner

Established in 1444, the role once involved overseeing City land and rent. If you fast forward 500 years, today it's part of a civic leadership team, alongside the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs, representing the City to its communities and international visitors. Among many other themes, three priorities emerged in our conversation, *"helping new Members integrate, we've had 60 elected since 2022; supporting investment management, my career for 40 years; and recognising the armed forces, especially veterans, reservists and cadets. People should appreciate how much the military does for us."* One unexpected legacy? A police horse named after him, PH Pollard, still on duty seven years later and the first animal to appear in an official Chief Commoner's portrait. Reflecting on transformation during his time he says, *"When I first arrived, the NatWest Tower was the tallest building. Now the skyline constantly evolves. That shows demand, ambition and growth."* And just like the skyline, the city's institutions evolve too, *"I was recently sat at a dinner with the Master of Entrepreneurs, a new Livery Company. A mix of ancient and modern. That's how the City stays relevant."* In the same way that the city has evolved, the role has evolved over time too, remaining relevant and preserving what makes the city special.



Henry Pollard and PH Pollard the Horse

Youth legacy and the Future: The Guild of Young Freemen and the Power of the Young

Henry joined the Guild of Young Freemen when it was still the Society of Young Freemen. *"The average age in the Corporation used to be around 75. That's no longer the case. There's greater diversity, more women, more young people, and more collective spirit among livery companies."*

It connects young professionals to centuries of tradition and teaches you how the Square Mile works: the Ward system, Aldermen, Court of Common Council — that knowledge opens doors, not just for service but for building community. *"I was curious. It was a way to understand the City from the inside. I never imagined I'd one day be Chief Commoner."*

Henry has introduced seventeen apprentices to the Skinners Company and helped many others find their way into civic life, actively interested in the next generation. *"I spoke to a Founding Warden of the Worshipful Company of Nurses who has one apprentice, who is also a member of the Guild of Young Freemen."* It's about finding what you enjoy, *"if you're an accountant then the Accountants' Company is meaningful, although liveries like the Fanmakers have evolved from the fans that people wave at society events to the aeronautical industry."* There's something for everyone and Henry emphasises it is about finding what excites you.



Buckingham Palace Garden Party in May 2025
From left to right: Henry Pollard, Young Freeman Epona Smith, current Renter Warden Jacqueline Chan and Michelle Pollard

He also proudly supports the Guild of Investment Managers, which has a charitable mission helping people gain access to the industry through bursaries and qualifications. *"The great thing is opportunity. The City's always been inclusive. It's never blocked people based on background, race or gender. That's its strength."* Reflecting on legacy, Henry adds: *"We're part of a society moving forward. It's about doing your best in every role and inspiring the next generation to do the same."*

Final reflections and Advice

Asking Henry about his guiding values, Henry is quick to answer: *"Have fun. Be Kind. Recognise that everyone has different strengths and help others grow, even if they're not like you."*

Henry's most vivid memory of the Society of Young Freemen was marching in the Lord Mayor's Show in freezing November weather, decades ago. *"We didn't have gowns back then, just red t-shirts. My sister turned blue, so we had to stop halfway for ginger wine in a pub to warm up."*

Looking back, Henry reflects on his three guiding pillars: *"Family and friends. My work. And the City of London Corporation, my great pro bono draw in life."*

His advice? *"Look into the City's electoral process. Stand for something. Give back. Be Charitable. Help your community however you can."*

As for the future of the City, he emphasises how stewardship, entrepreneurialism and community have pulled it forward, *"If we hadn't evolved, we wouldn't be relevant. And if we weren't relevant, we wouldn't still be here."*

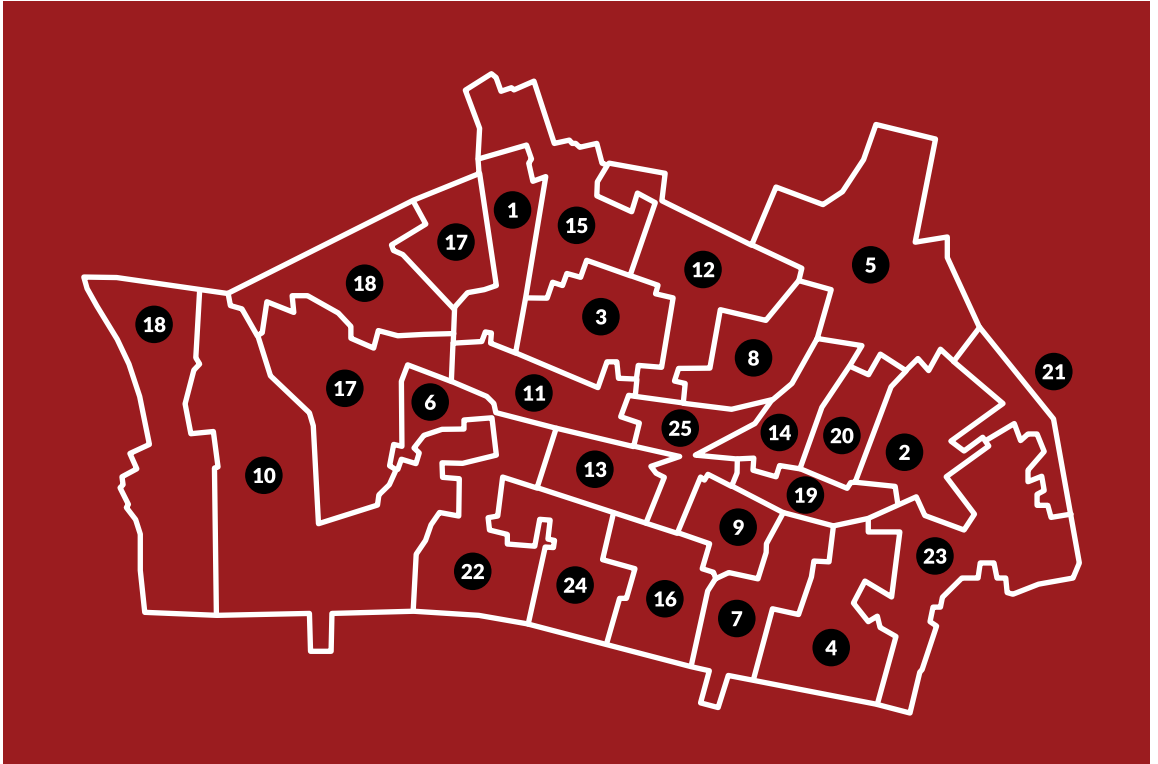
"...because we are still here, that means we're still relevant"

Official portraits of Henry Pollard by courtesy of photographer Clive Totman



SPOTLIGHT

The Wards of the City of London



By Rafael Steinmetz Leffa

Asset manager

Upper Warden of the Guild of Young Freemen (2025/2026)

The City of London is divided into 25 historic Wards, each with its own distinct character and identity. Originally established in medieval times, the Wards served as military, judicial, and administrative divisions, forming the backbone of civic organisation in the Square Mile. Over the centuries, their boundaries and roles have evolved in response to shifts in population, commerce, and electoral representation.

The 25 Wards of the City of London are:

1. Aldersgate
2. Aldgate
3. Bassishaw
4. Billingsgate
5. Bishopsgate (Within and Without)
6. Bread Street
7. Bridge and Bridge Without
8. Broad Street
9. Candlewick
10. Castle Baynard
11. Cheap
12. Coleman Street
13. Cordwainer
14. Cornhill
15. Cripplegate (Within and Without)
16. Dowgate
17. Farringdon Within
18. Farringdon Without
19. Langbourn
20. Lime Street
21. Portsoken
22. Queenhithe
23. Tower
24. Vintry
25. Walbrook

The Composition of each Ward

Today, some Wards retain a predominantly residential character—such as Portsoken and Cripplegate—while others serve as major centres of commerce and industry. Wards like Aldgate and Billingsgate, for instance, are closely linked to the insurance and maritime sectors, respectively, underscoring the City's enduring position as a global business hub.

Each Ward's identity is shaped by a blend of historical legacy and contemporary dynamics. Some are home to significant residential populations, while others are dominated by business voters, often reflecting the nature of the firms headquartered within their boundaries. This variation is deeply rooted in the City's rich history, with livery halls, historic architecture, and centuries-old associations all contributing to the unique character of each Ward.

Ward Clubs

Ward Clubs serve as social forums for both residents and workers, playing an important role in the civic life of the City of London. Though rooted in local tradition, these clubs are inclusive spaces that welcome voters and non-voters alike — bringing together individuals from diverse backgrounds who share a common interest in the City's heritage, its present workings, and its future.

In future editions, I will be offering a closer look at the composition of each Ward, including details on their voter base, the number of Common Councillors representing them, and general background information. I'll also highlight the activities of each Ward Club and their role in fostering civic engagement. This initiative will serve not only as a resource but also as an opportunity to **revitalise our engagement with the Ward Clubs** — encouraging more young Freemen to develop a deeper understanding of the City's structure and take a more active role in its civic fabric.

SPOTLIGHT

Inter-Livery Quiz 2025



On 19th February 2025, the Guild of Young Freemen hosted the 10th edition of the Young Inter-Livery Quiz at Drapers' Hall. We welcomed over 170 participants, including teams from 23 different Livery Companies, with over 40 Livery Companies and Guilds represented by the participants altogether.

The Young Inter-Livery Quiz is an annual competition organised by the Guild to foster fellowship among younger members of the City's Livery Companies, Companies without Livery, and Guilds. Open to members aged 40 and under, the event offers a lively evening of friendly rivalry, networking, and the chance to showcase general knowledge in a fun and engaging atmosphere. Proceeds

from the quiz go towards the chosen charities of the winning and runner-up teams, making it a fantastic opportunity to support good causes while strengthening inter-livery connections.



After a long evening of entertaining games and spirited debates — particularly over questions like, « What is the Livery Company with the longest name? » — which, much to the quizmaster’s dismay, proved to be a minefield of potential disputes among participants. The winners were announced as follows:

First place: The Dractuaries – a combined team of the Worshipful Company of Drapers and the Worshipful Company of Actuaries.



Second place: The Guild of Young Freemen’s Deputy Clerk’s team, led by Anna Kowalik, comprising young members from the Guild, the Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers, the Worshipful Company of Farriers, the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers, and the Guild of Mercer Scholars.



Third place: The Goldsmiths & Merchant Taylors team, led by fellow Young Freeman and Goldsmith, Chloe Lightfoot.



The first-place team received a £1,000 donation for their chosen charity, second place earned £500, and third place received £250.

This was only possible with the help, assistance and kind generosity of the Drapers’ Company and the work of the Court Assistants of the Guild of Young Freemen and its events committee.

We would like to thank the Worshipful Company of Drapers for hosting us and our Court Assistant and Freeman of the Drapers, Michael Polak, for his efforts in the organisation of this event.

We would also like to thank fellow Young Freemen and Liverymen, Freemen and Apprentices of those following liveries for their participation and look forward to next year:

- The Worshipful Company of Drapers
- The Worshipful Company of Fishmongers
- The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths
- The Worshipful Company of Merchant Taylors
- The Worshipful Company of Skinners
- The Worshipful Company of Haberdashers
- The Worshipful Company of Ironmongers
- The Worshipful Company of Vintners
- The Worshipful Company of Clothworkers
- The Worshipful Company of Leathersellers
- The Worshipful Company of Barbers
- The Worshipful Company of Bakers
- The Worshipful Company of Tallow Chandlers
- The Worshipful Company of Carpenters
- The Worshipful Company of Coopers
- The Worshipful Company of Woolmen
- The Worshipful Company of Scriveners
- The Worshipful Company of Broderers
- The Worshipful Company of Stationers
- The Worshipful Company of Basketmakers
- The Worshipful Company of Farriers
- The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries
- The Worshipful Company of Needle makers
- The Worshipful Company of Gardeners
- The Worshipful Company of Gunmakers
- The Worshipful Company of Gold and

Silver Wyre Drawers

- The Worshipful Company of Fan Makers
- The Honourable Company of Air Pilots
- The Worshipful Company of Scientific Instrument Makers
- The Worshipful Company of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
- The Worshipful Company of Actuaries
- The Worshipful Company of Insurers
- The Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects
- The Worshipful Company of Information Technologists
- The Worshipful Company of International Bankers
- The Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers
- The Worshipful Company of Security Professionals
- The Worshipful Company of Nurses
- The Worshipful Company of Entrepreneurs
- The Company of Communicators
- The Guild of Mercers' Scholars







SPOTLIGHT

The Worshipful Company of Armourers and Brasiers



By Hollis S. Johnson

Parliamentary Aide

*Apprentice of the Worshipful Company of Security Professionals,
Future Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Communicators and
Young Freeman*

Since England's inception, the nation has possessed a long and complex history when it comes to warfare. Whether defensive or offensive, from the Vikings to the Russians, the Land of the Rose has often found itself entrenched in battle, resulting in the high demand of one particular commodity: armour. Therefore, it comes as little surprise that the Company of Armourers and Brasiers', having celebrated its 700th anniversary in 2022, boasts its own vast and vibrant history steeped in the City of London's rich heritage.

Within the 14th century, recognized as an age of disorder and turbulence, flagged by events such as the Black Death, the Peasants'

Revolt and the Hundred Years' War, armour was a coveted industry. Historians will sadly admit, however, that there is little known about London's original armourers as they seldom documented their work for two very distinct reasons: the first due to the fact that many of the tradesmen were illiterate and, the second, because recording trade secrets on paper would have been considered risky business. Thus, their knowledge and skills were often passed by word of mouth until the year 1322 when the armourers gathered together and formed a unified front. In an effort to preserve the reputation of their trade as well as ensure that standards and protocols were maintained, the craftsmen

negotiated with the City of London authorities to create a legal agreement which would regulate their trade. While the document outlined specific regulations such as parameters over the quality of materials, its overarching intent was to establish a monopoly over the industry which would consequently stifle third-party tradesmen from conducting business within the City.

The agreement was a mutually beneficial enterprise as it allowed the City of London, in a time when the City was not fully autonomous, a sense of control over its commerce operations. And, while the Crown may have been satisfied with their new partnership, the work of the armourers did not always result in public favor. Within the cramped, overpopulated streets of London, residences squashed next to workshops, any tenants saddled beside an armourer's place of work would have been considered rather unlucky. One such resident is quoted complaining, "His great hammers shake the walls of our tenement, deprive us and our servants of rest by day and night, spoil the wine and ale in our cellar and fill our homes with the smoke of sea coal."

The final products of such a noisy craft were distributed amongst the army, from archers to spearmen to infantry. When picturing the ancient articles of the Armourers and Brasiers', one likely conjures images of the

traditional 'knight in shining armour', ready to charge into the fray of a battlefield. In reality, the armour produced during the time of the Livery's establishment was often constructed of materials including iron, leather, linen and other various textiles as opposed to the expected shining steel. It was not until decades later that the battle fashions evolved.

The 15th century hallmarked a period of advancement for the Company. Not only was a formal Court and apprenticeship scheme established but the overall trade itself had changed dramatically. Armour technology had developed into the usage of full plates of exposed armour, and it became fashionable to sport what, at the time, was called an 'all white' look. The new, bright and polished steel ensemble was often decorated with intricate designs influenced by lineage, status, regional styles and personal tastes. As the armour techniques progressed, so did the armourers themselves. On a cold December day in the year 1428, the Company had finally found themselves a home. Along the northern end of London's Coleman Street sat the Dragon Tavern and five small shops, all of which became the Armourers' new headquarters. The location was later moved further down the street to number 25 in the year 1837. The neoclassical exterior was designed by one of John Soane's (architect of the Bank of



England) pupils, Joseph Henry Good, with artificial stone figures flanking the Company coat of arms, dressed in medieval steel and brazen armour. Since its completion, the structure has remained relatively untouched apart for an incident in 1940 during the brutal London Blitz when the Hall was hit by an incendiary bomb. Luckily, a fireman had been passing by that evening and, in an act of heroism, broke inside to extinguish the fire. Any visitors of the Hall today can find a tribute to the 'unknown fireman' engraved on a decorative cartouche.

And, while the Company had situated itself in its new residence, the trade began to suffer a slow but steady decline. By the 17th century, wearing armour was a rare occurrence, ultimately posing a threat to the Company's and its members' livelihoods. Thus, the membership transitioned their work to the brasiers trade. From dishes and

pan to wares and cauldrons, the business of brassware offered regular demand, finalizing armour's transition from a status of necessity to antiquity. During the 1800's, the artifacts within the Company's collection, many of which had been donated by past masters, became of great interest to collectors, dealers and historians with the medieval armour relics being the most coveted. With their business sustained and legacy cemented, the Company began to shift its focus to charitable work. In 1979, the Gauntlet Trust was launched, its mission to merge accumulated charitable funds to support the Materials Science community. Today, the Armourers and Brasiers' Company maintains its efforts to promote Materials Science through its charity and networking pursuits, and its Hall remains a living testament to the Livery's storied past and enduring legacy.



SPOTLIGHT

Meet our Members: Jessica Jue



Jessica Jue joined the Guild of Young Freemen in June 2024. She is a Freeman of both the Goldsmiths' Company and the Worshipful Company of Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers. Based at the prestigious Goldsmiths' Centre, she has exhibited her work with FIVE, a fine metal collective, and her stunning pieces have been acquired by the Victoria and Albert Museum for their permanent collection, as well as featured in the National Museum of Scotland and the Goldsmiths' Company Silver Collection.

This year, Jessica was selected to create the trophy for the first ever Women's event in the Intermediate category of the Royal Henley Regatta.

How were you selected to create the new trophy?

I was invited to submit a proposal for "The Bridge Challenge Plate" trophy alongside a few other silversmiths. After several days of research and extensive design work, I was absolutely delighted to learn that my design had been selected. It was particularly exciting, as I had never been approached to

design anything like this before, and I was thrilled to contribute my artistic vision to such a prominent commission.

What was your design process?

My design process for this trophy involved extensive sketching, model-making and CAD

work, which was quite different from my usual fluid and intuitive approach. For this specific commission, there were many factors to consider, such as functionality, practicality and the trophy's longevity, so I had to carefully think through every step of the piece's construction. It was especially satisfying to then apply my signature style of fluid, painterly strands of gold to the surface, thoughtfully combining shape and pattern into a cohesive whole.

How have you incorporated the themes of Thamesis and Isis, and did you draw anything from the original creator being a woman (Ann Seymour Damer), unique in her field at that time?

The concept embodies the theme of connection, merging the iconic sculptures of Isis and Tamesis from Henley Bridge with the dynamic energy of swirling gold and rippling water. This flowing, layered design symbolises the fluidity of progress, the determination of athletes striving for excellence, and the artistry that reflects both the sport of rowing and Henley's rich cultural legacy.

Inspired by the original sculptures by 18th-century artist Ann Seymour Damer, an extraordinary woman who was one of the few recognised female sculptors of her time, the piece weaves in her legacy through a distinctly feminine and fluid aesthetic. The gold strands intertwine with the figures, echoing the movement of water and honouring the ongoing contributions of women in both art and sport. Damer's pioneering spirit is reflected in the design's

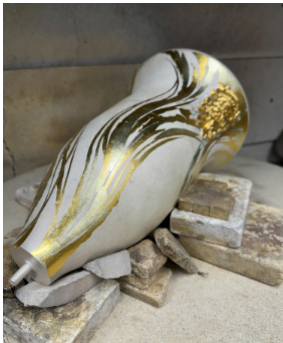
balance of elegance, strength and historical resonance.

The race and the trophy are created to increase parity in the event, bringing the number of women's races closer again to the men's. Have you felt the importance of this during the design process?

Absolutely, the importance of increasing parity between women's and men's races was something I felt deeply throughout the entire design process. Knowing that this trophy would represent a meaningful step towards greater equality at such a historic and prestigious event gave the commission an added sense of purpose. I was very conscious of designing something that not only celebrated the athletic excellence of the competitors but also honoured the significance of this moment for women in sport. That awareness informed both the symbolism and the form of the piece, from the flowing, interconnected elements that suggest unity and progress, to the inspiration drawn from Ann Seymour Damer, a pioneering female sculptor. It felt like a powerful opportunity to contribute artistically to a broader cultural shift.

Describe the process of making the trophy. Will it be a traditional style trophy? I can see a lot of your work has a contemporary feel and is very sculptural and textured. What techniques do you use?

The trophy is a contemporary piece crafted using traditional silversmithing techniques.



Its creation involved a wide range of skills, including hammering, soldering, spinning, gold fusing, casting, polishing and engraving, many of which were carried out with the help of a few incredibly skilled craftspeople.

My work is known for its organic and sculptural qualities, and many of my signature techniques were applied to this trophy as well. These include surface texturing with a hammer and the use of Keum-Boo, an ancient Korean technique. I begin by alloying the specific colours of gold I need and rolling them out into thin sheets of foil, which are then fused onto silver using heat and pressure. This process creates a strong, permanent bond through the exchange of electrons between the metals. For this trophy, both 18ct green gold and 24ct yellow gold foil were fused to the surface using this method.

How many hours does it take to create the piece?

The last few months have felt like a bit of a blur, and it is difficult to say exactly how much time went into making this trophy. I estimate that at least two solid months were spent purely on the making process alone.

In the past, I have taken on commissions from museums such as the V&A Museum and the National Museums Scotland. However, the most challenging part of this project was undoubtedly taking on a functional commission of this scale and complexity for the first time. Fortunately, I was lucky to have several experienced makers around me who generously shared their knowledge and helped make the journey as smooth as possible.

I would especially like to thank master silversmith Clive Burr, who is based at the Goldsmiths' Centre, where my studio is also located. Clive has been incredibly generous with his time and expertise, guiding me from start to finish, beginning with technical drawings and continuing through to the construction and final finishing of the piece.

This experience has truly inspired me, and I

look forward to pursuing more large-scale works like this in the future.

Have you enjoyed designing and making the trophy? How does it feel to be creating something for such a prestigious event? Some of the trophies are now over 100 years old. How does it feel to know that this may be your work someday that someone will be lifting aloft?

Designing and making the trophy for Henley Royal Regatta has been an incredibly rewarding experience. I have truly enjoyed the process; it has definitely pushed me creatively and technically in ways that have helped me grow as a maker. Being given the opportunity to create something for such a prestigious and historic event has been a real honour.

Knowing that this trophy could become part of Henley's long tradition, alongside trophies celebrated for over a century, is both humbling and surreal. The thought of the winners lifting this trophy high in victory is incredibly exciting. The idea that it might hold personal meaning for them fills me with pride and joy. It is a privilege to contribute a small chapter to such a rich legacy.

You discovered the world of Livery Companies through your education and profession. As a trade freeman, how have your livery companies supported you in your journey in jewellery making and silversmithing?

My introduction to the world of livery companies came through my education and early professional experiences, with the Goldsmiths' Company playing a pivotal role in shaping my development as a silversmith and jeweller. Since completing my training, I have remained closely connected with the Goldsmiths' Centre, where I am now based and continue to develop my practice in my workshop.

Exhibiting at Goldsmiths' Fair has been a turning point in my career, offering invaluable

exposure and the opportunity to connect with a wider audience. In 2021, I was honoured when the Company commissioned my Whispering Reeds Beaker for its Collection. This experience affirmed my path and deepened my appreciation of the Company's commitment to contemporary craftsmanship. I have also been fortunate to receive several awards through the Goldsmiths' Craft and Design Council, which have recognised and encouraged my creative progress.

In addition to the Goldsmiths' Company, I am also a member of the Wyre Drawers Company, who have been wonderfully supportive in introducing me to their wider network and in championing artist-makers. Their efforts to support makers through fairs and exhibitions have provided valuable platforms to share my work and engage with new audiences.

Both the Goldsmiths' and Wyre Drawers companies have provided me with professional opportunities, mentorship and encouragement at key stages of my journey. These experiences have been instrumental in my growth as a maker and have instilled in me a strong desire to give back, to support the next generation of craftspeople, share knowledge and contribute to the vibrant future of our craft.

Finally, what does it mean for you to be a member of the Guild of Young Freemen?

What I love about the Guild of Young Freemen is the opportunity to meet and connect with young professionals across a wide range of industries. It has been inspiring to share experiences with like minded individuals who are equally passionate about their work and their place in the City's future.

To me, the Guild represents a space where tradition meets modern ambition, a place to grow together and be part of a community that supports one another.



PAST EVENTS HIGHLIGHT

Saving Sight Banquet

**Mansion House,
London, EC4N 8BH**

6:30 PM - 10:30 PM

Wednesday 5th February 2025

On Wednesday 5th February 2025, members of the Guild of Young Freemen had the privilege of attending the Saving Sight Banquet at Mansion House, held in the presence of HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO GCStJ. The evening, presented by The Rt Hon. the Lord Mayor, Alderman Alastair King KStJ DL, alongside Sir Andrew Cash OBE KStJ, Chair of St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group, raised over £500,000 to support the hospital's vital, sight-saving work in the Holy Land.



Prior to the banquet, HRH Princess Raiyah bint Al Hussein DStJ joined a special Freedom of the City of London ceremony for Dr Ahmad Ma'ali KStJ, Chief Executive Officer of St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital.

Representing the Guild were Middle Warden Rafael Steinmetz Leffa, Renter Warden Dr Fraser Peck, Court Assistants Jacqueline Chan, Michael Polak, and Dmitry Lysenko, Treasurer George Godfrey, and fellow Young Freemen Lewis Hooper.

It was a truly inspiring evening, with speeches from HRH The Duke of Gloucester, Dr Ahmad Ma'ali KStJ, Sir Andrew Cash OBE KStJ, and Mr David H. Verity KStJ MD MA FRCOPhth, who shared the life-changing impact of the hospital's work. HRH Princess Raiyah bint Al Hussein also reflected on the rich history of the institution, while the Lord Mayor of London highlighted the deep ties between the Most Venerable Order of St John and the City of London.

The Guild is grateful for the kind invitation extended by the Executive Head of the UK Office and the Board of Trustees of the St John Eye Hospital Group. We are proud of the strategic affiliation between the Guild and the charity. We hope that our own charitable endeavours will serve as a platform to bring together the many groups that champion the same mission of supporting the humanitarian work of the Most Venerable Order of St John of Jerusalem, including St John Gateway, St John iYouth, and Guild St John.



The Worshipful Company of Masons' Master's Banquet

Mansion House,
London, EC4N 8BH

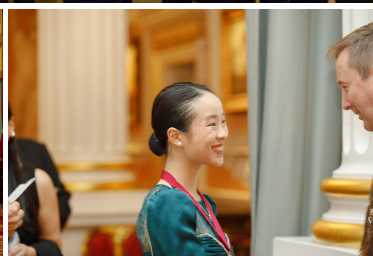
6:30 PM - 10:30 PM

Tuesday 25th March 2025

The Master of the Worshipful Company of Masons, Matthew Hampson, has kindly extended the invitation to his Master's Banquet at Mansion House to the Guild of Young Freemen. The Guild was represented by the Upper Warden, Reuben Braden-Bell, and the Renter Warden Elect, Jacqueline Chan. Guests from the Young Freemen included Tim Hailes (Past Honorary President), George Godfrey (Treasurer), Michael Polak (Court Assistant), Anna Kowalik (Deputy Clerk), Maceo Frederick (Deputy Clerk), and fellow Young Freemen Alex Bilbie and Jessica Jue.

At the end of the evening, the Young Freemen were honoured to be joined by the Guild's Honorary President and Patron the Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor, Alastair John Naisbitt King DL and Chris Hayward, the Policy Chairman of the City of London Corporation.

The Guild is proud of the friendship it nurtures with the Livery Companies of the City of London. We would like to thank the Masons' Company again for the invitation and for the great evening.



Meet the Livery: The Worshipful Company of Pewterers

Pewterers' Hall,
London, EC2V 7DE

7:15 PM - 8:45 PM

Thursday 3rd April 2025

On 3rd April, we held a "Meet the Livery" reception with the Pewterers' Company at their Company's hall, following the Admission Court.

During the evening, Richard Parsons, Past Master Pewterer (2018-19), and Cdre Mike Walliker CBE, the Clerk and the CEO to the Pewterers' Company, spoke about the history and the work of the Pewterers' Company to support for the trade, education and neurological research.

We would like to thank the Pewterers' Company for their warm hospitality and for welcoming us into their hall.

The "Meet the Livery" series aims to promote the work of ancient and modern Livery Companies and connect our community of young professionals with City institutions.



The Worshipful Company of Farriers' Annual Livery Banquet

Mansion House,
London, EC4N 8BH

6:30 PM - 10:30 PM

Friday 9th May 2025

On 9th May, the Worshipful Company of Farriers generously welcomed the Guild of Young Freemen to its Annual Livery Banquet at Mansion House, by kind invitation of the Master, Mr John Chilman. The evening was held in the presence of the Rt Hon The Lord Mayor, Alderman Alastair King DL, the Lady Mayoress Florence King, and the Sheriffs, Gregory Jones KC and David Chalk.

The Guild was represented by Upper Warden Reuben Braden-Bell, Renter Warden Fraser Peck CC, Deputy Clerk Anna Kowalik, and Beadle Benedict Butterworth.

The evening featured the ceremonial signing of the Armed Forces Covenant and celebrated the Farriers' strong ties to the City of London and the Armed Forces. The Guild is grateful to the Company for its kind invitation and the opportunity to participate in such a distinguished occasion.



Inter Livery Charity Clay Shoot

The West London Shooting School,
Sharvel Lane, Northolt, UB5 6RA

All day

Thursday 15th May 2025



This year, the Guild of Young Freemen made its first-ever appearance at the recent Inter-livery Charity Clay Shoot, held at the West London Shooting School.

Representing the Guild were Court Assistant Jago Toner, Deputy Clerk Anna Kowalik, Beadle Benedict Butterworth, and fellow Young Freeman Carl-Warren Dudley. The event was attended by a great number of liveries and raised funds for various charities, including The Lord Mayors Appeal, The Princes Trust and The Sheriff's & Records Charity.

This year, top honours went to the Court of Gunmakers, perhaps unsurprisingly!—with the Pattenmakers and Grocers taking second and third place respectively. A huge well done to them all!

As for the Guild, while our shooting may not have set any records (let's just say the clays had a lucky day), the camaraderie and good humour more than made up for it. We're already looking ahead to next year—hopefully returning with two teams and, fingers crossed, slightly sharper aim!



Meet the Livery: The Worshipful Company of Pavors

Ironmongers' Hall,
London, EC2Y 8AA

7:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Thursday 29th May 2025

On 29th of May, we held one of our "Meet the Livery" events with The Worshipful Company of Pavors at Ironmongers' Hall, following an Admission Court.

During the evening, Charlie Laing, Master Pavior (2025-2026), spoke about the history and the work of the Worshipful Company of Pavors, the evolution of the trade and their peculiar connection to pigs.

The Meet the Livery series aims to promote the history and work of different Livery Companies and connect our community of young professionals with City institutions.



Affiliated Charity Event - Rebuilding Gaza: Transforming Lives Through Eyecare

**Apothecaries' Hall,
London, EC4V 6ER**
6:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Wednesday 16th July 2025

Our Master, Reuben Braden-Bell, alongside Renter Warden Jacqueline Chan and Court Assistant Dmitry Lysenko, represented the Guild of Young Freemen at the 'Rebuilding Gaza: Transforming Lives Through Eyecare' event of its affiliated charity, the St John Eye Hospital Group. Many fellow Young Freemen and prospective members also attended the event to support the charitable affiliation of the Guild.



During the evening at the Apothecaries' Hall, BBC journalist Samira Ahmed was in conversation with the CEO of the Hospital, Ahmad Ma'Ali, to raise awareness about the work of the Eye Hospital and its impact in the Holy Land. Master Young Freeman Reuben Braden-Bell spoke about the mission of the Guild of Young Freemen to connect young professionals, nurture leaders and future captains of industry and foster inter-livery fellowship. The event was followed by a drinks reception in the courtyard of Apothecaries' Hall, where our fellow Young Freemen connected with representatives of various St John organisations, including St John Ambulance, and St John International.



We want to thank Master Apothecary Dr Julia Neild, Nick Royle, the Clerk, and the Court of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries for their generosity and for selecting the Guild of Young Freemen as one of their three supported organisations for the year. This allowed us to help our affiliated charity and host this event on behalf of St John Eye Hospital Group. We are also grateful to the Apothecaries' Hall and their staff for their hospitality. Finally, we would like to thank our Middle Warden and Liveryman of the Apothecaries, Fraser Peck CC, for organising this arrangement with his livery company.

The 3rd Annual Evening of Cards with The Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards

Freemasons Arms, 81-82 Long Acre,
London, WC2E 9NG
6:15 PM - 10:30 PM
Monday 21st July 2025

The Young Freemen joined the Makers of
Playing Cards for a night of Swedish Pursuit at
the Freemasons Arms. Congratulations to our
winning Young Freemen: Rit Singh, Sophie
Tindley and Peter Denton!



ON THE CALENDAR UPCOMING EVENTS

A brief overview of some of our upcoming events, bookings and further details may be found on our website. As with all Guild events, friends, family, and other guests are welcome.

The Pillars of Tomorrow: The Young Freemen & Financial Services Group of Livery Companies Banquet

Girdlers' Hall, London, EC2V 5DD

**6:30 PM - 10:30 PM
Thursday 31st July 2025**



The Guild of Young Freemen, in partnership with the Worshipful Company of International Bankers, is pleased to welcome members of the Financial Services Group of Livery Companies to a special banquet hosted at Girdlers' Hall, by kind permission of the Master and Wardens of the Worshipful Company of Girdlers.

The evening will highlight how the next generation is helping to carry forward the traditions, values, and civic responsibilities that define the Square Mile and how the FSG livery companies together with the Guild play a key role in this.

We are honoured to welcome Mr Robert Wigley OStJ, BSc, HonDBA, FCA, CCMI, chairman of UK Finance and Past Master of the Worshipful Company of International Bankers, as our keynote speaker.

This event is only open to members of the Guild of Young Freemen and invited organisations.

City Briefing by the Livery Committee

Guildhall, London, EC2V 7HH

**5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
Thursday 11th September 2025**



City briefings give a short introduction to the work of the Corporation, especially the relationship with the livery companies. There is opportunity to ask questions of the speakers and the Briefing is followed by a networking reception.

ON THE CALENDAR UPCOMING EVENTS

Harnessing Heritage: The City's Equine Legacy

Saddlers' Hall, London, EC2V 6BR

**6:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Friday 12th September 2025**



Set in the historic surroundings of Saddlers' Hall, this special evening brings together the Guild of Young Freemen and four of the City's most distinguished equestrian liveryies — the Farriers, Loriners, Saddlers, and Coachmakers — for a unique celebration of London's rich heritage of horse and craft.

Through a convivial reception and a lively discussion with the Masters and the Patron of these Worshipful Companies, we'll explore the enduring legacy of trades that once shaped the very rhythm of City life — from forge and tack to carriage and saddle. Whether preserving ancient skills or adapting them for a modern world, these liveryies remain proud custodians of a timeless connection between craftsmanship, community, and the noble horse.

This event is only open to members of the Guild of Young Freemen and invited organisations.

City Giving Day

Mansion House, London, EC4N 8BH

**From 4:00 PM
Tuesday 23rd September 2025**



The City Giving Day Treasure Hunt is the perfect way to support The Lord Mayor's Appeal and have fun at the same time. Participants will arrive at Mansion House for 4:00 PM, where our team of Young Freemen will be given a clue. The team will crack it together to find the next prize and finally the treasure. The hunt should take you no longer than 45 mins.

The first team back is the winner. No special gear or clothing is necessary – participants will receive a City Giving Day Treasure Hunt t-shirt and are not expected to walk any further than half a mile. It is an opportunity to learn something new about the City along the way.

Please register online stating your Company as "Guild of Young Freemen" and we will form into teams on the day: <https://www.thelordmayorsappeal.org/news-and-events/events-calendar/1087/treasure-hunt-2025/>

Registration for the Treasure Hunt is £10 per person.

ON THE CALENDAR UPCOMING EVENTS

The Sheep Drive

**Riverscape, 10 Queen Street Place,
London, EC4R 1BE**

**8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sunday 28th September 2025**



The Sheep Drive is a major City event involving some 1,000+ Freemen of the City of London and their friends and family crossing the bridge with their sheep, raising tens of thousands of pounds for the Lord Mayor's Appeal and the Woolmen's Charitable Trust. This year the event takes place on Southwark Bridge.

Members and Prospective Members of the Guild have a vital part to play in this event. As volunteer marshals, the Young Freemen are the public face of the Sheep Drive, leading people across the bridge, dressed in their scarlet robes. Coverage of the event is global with images syndicated across the world.

In addition to enjoying a unique experience and playing a vital role in a pivotal City event, volunteers will enjoy a free breakfast and free hot lunch at the Livery Fair.

Please note: participation in this event is strictly as a volunteer marshal (rather than undertaking a single sheep drive like other attendees). You (and any prospective members you bring as guests) must be available to volunteer for the duration of the event from 8.00am to 5.00pm.

Guild members are welcome to bring prospective members as guests to this event.

The Annual Banquet

Mansion House, London, EC4N 8BH

Friday 10th October 2025



The Annual Banquet 2025 will be held at Mansion House. This glittering evening is one of the highlights of the Guild's year, and to enjoy the fabulous hospitality of a City banquet. The evening will start with a drinks reception, followed by a sumptuous 3-course dinner with wines, port, petits fours, and coffee.

We are honoured to welcome Mrs Susan Jeune d'Allegeershecque CMG, OStJ, the Secretary-General of the Most Venerable Order of St John and the former British High Commissioner to Canada, as our keynote speaker.

The dress code is white tie with livery badges and decorations, national dress, or mess dress for serving officers. Livery-affiliated members are encouraged to wear their livery badges and other decorations.

Guild members are welcome to bring friends, family, and other guests to this event.

ON THE CALENDAR UPCOMING EVENTS

The Lord Mayor's Show

**The Vestry of St Michael's Cornhill,
London EC3V 9DS**

**8:30 AM for 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Saturday 8th November 2025**



The Lord Mayor's Show is the world's oldest civic procession and the Guild is incredibly privileged to play a prominent role by escorting the giant statues of Gog and Magog, the ancient defenders of the City, under the watchful eye of the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers.

Tickets include breakfast, entry to the parade (which includes a light lunch at Embankment), as well as the luncheon and drinks reception.

Places are limited owing to the unprecedented size of the procession and demand for tickets, so do please book as early as possible to avoid disappointment.

Guild members are welcome to bring prospective members as guests to this event.

City Briefing by the Livery Committee

Guildhall, London, EC2V 7HH

**5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
Thursday 20th November 2025**



City briefings give a short introduction to the work of the Corporation, especially the relationship with the livery companies. There is opportunity to ask questions of the speakers and the Briefing is followed by a networking reception.

ON THE CALENDAR UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Banquet

Innholders' Hall, London, EC4R 2RH

Friday 28th November 2025



Guild members and their personal guests are invited to the Guild's Christmas Banquet 2025, which will be held at Ironmongers' Hall on Friday 28th November 2025 by kind permission of the Master and Wardens of the Worshipful Company of Innholders.

This glittering evening is one of the highlights of the Guild's year and a wonderful opportunity to begin the festive season with the fabulous hospitality of a City banquet, including the traditional singing of Christmas carols.

The evening will start with a drinks reception while guests enjoy the ornate surroundings of Innholders' Hall, followed by a sumptuous three-course dinner with wines, port, petits fours, and coffee. Afterwards, members and guests will decamp to a nearby venue to continue the festivities.

The dress code is black tie with livery badges and decorations, national dress, or mess dress for serving officers. Livery-affiliated members are encouraged to wear their livery badges and other decorations.

The Carol Service

St. Michael's Cornhill, London EC3V 9DS

**6:00 PM - 7:00 PM followed by drinks
Wednesday 3rd December 2025**



The final event of 2025; the service will commence at 6.00pm in the Guild church of St Michael's Cornhill, and will conclude at 7.00pm with mulled wine and mince pies. The Master will deliver a traditional reading along with other City dignitaries, with the wonderful church choir singing a selection of carols. The service will be followed by a drinks reception at the Jamaica Wine House next door, with nibbles and drinks provided for members and their guests.

Guild members are welcome to bring friends, family, and other guests to this event.

PARTNER EVENTS



A visit to the Society of Antiquaries & Supper with the Guild of Freeman

Society of Antiquaries of London, Burlington House, W1J 0BE

Tuesday 2nd September 2025, 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

The Society of Antiquaries is the centre of antiquarian learning, discovery and community. At the time of the visit alongside all that is usually on offer to see, the Society will be showcasing the 1225 Magna Carta in this its 800th Anniversary year. We will then move on for a supper at a nearby Brasserie.



Lunch at and tour of Mercers' Hall with the Guild of Freeman

Mercers' Hall, Ironmonger Lane, London, EC2V 8HE

Monday 3rd November 2025, 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM

The Mercers' Company ranks 1st in the Livery order of precedence. It is a rare opportunity to dine in this prestigious Company's Hall. The Master of the Guild of Freeman has arranged an interesting speaker who will amuse us with sayings that have derived from the City of London – such as 'mind your p's and q's'.



Guild of Freeman's Annual Banquet

Guildhall, Basinghall Street, London, EC2V 7HH

Friday 5th December 2025, 6:30 PM - 10:30 PM

The most glittering event of the Guild of Freeman's calendar is the Annual Banquet in the magnificent medieval surroundings of Guildhall, watched over by Gog and Magog, the legendary protective giants of the City. A sumptuous four-course dinner accompanied by excellent wines.

OTHER EVENTS



8th Annual Cribbage Tournament with the Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards

The Old Doctor Butler's Head Pub, London, EC2V 5BT

Monday 3rd November 2025

This event is organised by the Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards. Cribbage is a card game traditionally for two players where players score points by forming card combinations and become the first player to get 121 points. No prior experience is required. For more information, please contact the Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards via their website: <https://www.makersofplayingcards.org/>



“All Fours” Card Playing Evening with the Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards

The Bishop's Finger Pub, London, EC1A 9JR

Monday 12th January 2026

This event is organised by the Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards. All Four is a traditional trick-taking card game. The game involves bidding, dealing, and playing through rounds where players aim to capture “High”, “Low”, “Jack” and “Game” points. For more information, please contact the Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards via their website: <https://www.makersofplayingcards.org/>

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS



At the last admissions court we have admitted the following members:

30th of January 2025

Mr Daniel Jon Dalton
Mr Christopher Veazey-Doucet
Mr Louie Di Costanzo
Mr Mark James
Miss Selina Chotai
Mr Ashley Mason
Mr Michael de Winton
Miss Lydia Thomas
Mr Nicholas William Thompson
Mrs Charlotte (Charley) Teale
Mr Rory Van Niekerk
Mr Kishan Parshotam JP
Ms Helena Barr
Don Alejandro José García de Piedra y Morales
Miss Marianna Wanda Helena Hunt
Mr Joseph Sharpe
Mr Peter Edward Denton
Miss Joyce Nie
Miss Tara-Bella Halai
Mr Matthew Tragheim
Miss Epona Li
Dr Mona Kab Omir



3rd of April 2025

Mr Ashley Waters
Mr Joshua Wells
Mr Jake Christopher White
Mr Josh Cole
Mr Benjamin Champion
Miss Mallory Anne Long
Mr Tawanda Chitunhu
Mr Oliver Faragher
Miss Sophie Maytum
Lt Cdr Jacob Ball
Mr Carl Dudley
Mr John (Ching Jack) Choi
Mr Connor McLean
Miss Clare Jessica Grimes
Mr Connor McNally
Miss Jennifer Clark
Mr Alexander Burns
Mr Luke Jarmyn
Mr Richard Osborne
Mr Ryan Paterson-Brown



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS



25th of April 2025

Miss Charlotte Potter
Miss Lilidh Matthews
Miss Imogen Carter
Mr Nicola Bonicelli
Dr Edward Shelley
Miss Lucinda Denney
Miss Athina Manon Gina Sophie Danhier
Miss Naomi Chapelhow
Ms Tierney Riordan



29th of May 2025

Mr Rishab Jain
Mr Adwet Sharma
Dr Jamie Carrahar
Miss Charlotte Burrows
Miss Devon Johnson
Mr James Burgess
Miss Hollis Johnson
Miss Alysia Tay

The Guild will have another Admission Court on the 31st of July 2025, where we expect many new members to be admitted.

The Admissions Court is traditionally followed up by a casual drink at a pub in the City, the details of which can be found on our website.

We hope as many members as possible can be present to welcome the newly admitted members and get acquainted with one another.

NEW MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

Recent joiners spotlight:



Dr Jamie Carrahar MBE

Jamie is a Chartered Management Accountant and a senior university lecturer in accountancy and taxation. He is a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Educators and Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Chartered Secretaries. A career Army Reservist, Jamie is currently seconded to the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall.



Lilly Wilson

Lilly is an Investment Associate for one of the largest metals and mining private equity funds globally, taking her places from Mozambique to Guinea, West Africa. Lilly recently spoke at the House of Commons on investors' risk appetite towards critical minerals projects in the UK. Lilly volunteers for the Haberdashers' Company Aspire mentor program and has been a committee volunteer for Women in Mining UK for the past three years. In her spare time, Lilly enjoys running in Regent's Park, ballet, and making Pimms.

NEW MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT



Tawanda Chitunhu

Tawanda Chitunhu is a dedicated professional in Commercial Banking, specialising in supporting FCA-regulated entities in the Insurance, Fund Management and Asset Management Sectors as part of the Financial Services team at Coutts & Co Commercial. As a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of International Bankers and a mentor at both the University of Westminster and Migrant Leaders charity, Tawanda is passionate about fostering talent and guiding aspiring professionals. Through these roles, he aims to inspire the next generation and promote inclusivity within the industry.



Ashley Mason JP

Ashley gained the Freedom of the City of London after finishing his year as Sheriff of York in 2022. He is a member of the Company of Merchant Adventurers of York, where he chairs the charity committee. He obtained the Service Medal of the Order of St John in 2023 for voluntary service to the British Red Cross and the Order of St John. While his professional life involves a portfolio of paid and voluntary roles, Ashley is an entrepreneur at heart. He hopes to join a London-based livery company in the coming years.

NEW MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT



Adwet Sharma

Adwet is a government relations consultant with Edelman, a global public affairs firm which advises clients on navigating geopolitics and public policy. He has deep experience in political affairs, formerly serving as the Ambassador Liaison at the NATO Association of Canada and as a staffer in Canada's provincial governments. Having obtained his Freedom of the City in 2022, Adwet is passionate about Canada - U.K relations and sits on the board of the British-Canadian Chamber of Trade and Commerce. Having grown up in Oxford (close to RAF Brize Norton), Adwet is an aviation enthusiast who enjoys meeting folks from all walks of life.



Sholto Royle

Sholto was commissioned from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 2023 into the Royal Logistic Corps, joining the 19 Tank Transporter Squadron (The Carmen's Own). He was deployed to Estonia on Operation CABRIT for six months, where he commanded the heavy armour movement for NATO forces throughout the country. Sholto first became interested in Livery Companies because of the influence of his father, who is the clerk to the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries. Sholto will be running the Edinburgh Marathon for Combat Stress in 2026.

NEW MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT



Alysia Tay

Alysia is a Senior Legal Counsel at Fidelity International and has been a qualified solicitor since 2018. She previously worked at Clifford Chance and Kirkland & Ellis. She is also a Freeman of the City of London Solicitors' Company. Alongside her legal career, Alysia has supported charitable causes through fundraising and has provided mentoring and work shadowing opportunities to students.



Lieutenant Commander Jacob Ball

Jacob works as a Digital Delivery Manager at Charles Stanley Wealth Management. In addition he is an officer in the Royal Naval Reserve and Equerry to HRH Prince Michael of Kent, as well as the head of force generation for the Submarine Operations Specialisation nationally. He is a member of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners and a Steward of the Worshipful Company of Plumbers and sits on their Social committee.

NEW MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT



Michael de Winton

Michael works as an Analyst for the Investment Management team in the Corporation of Lloyd's. Previously, he served as a regular officer in the Royal Logistic Corps and continues to serve in the Army reserves whilst also being active in the Lloyd's Military Network helping new service leavers join the Lloyd's Market. In his spare time Michael enjoys offshore sailing and will be competing in this year's Fastnet race.

As always, the Guild encourages our members to bring a friend along to our open events, and extend the invitation to other members of your Livery Company especially those under 40 years old. This helps promote good causes and supports inter-livery fellowship.

If you know anyone who might be interested in joining The Guild of Young Freemen, please direct their attention to

<https://youngfreemen.org/membership/>

or get in touch with Middle Warden, Fraser Peck, at membership@youngfreemen.org

THE COURT

The Court of Assistants is the Guild's principal governing body; led by the Master and supported by the Upper, Middle, and Renter Wardens, Officers, and Court Assistants, it acts as the Guild's executive committee and sets out the agenda of the Guild. Each Warden chairs one of the committees of the Guild, which are the Communications, Membership and Events Committees.

The day-to-day management of the Guild is delegated to the Clerk, who in larger Livery Companies holds the role of Chief Executive. The Court meets regularly throughout the year to undertake its duties in relation to the strategy and governance of the Guild and the administration of its social and charitable activities.



THE COURT

The Master, Wardens, and Past Masters

Mr Reuben Braden-Bell
Master

Mr Rafael Steinmetz-Leffa
Upper Warden
Chair of the Events Committee

Mr Fraser Peck CC
Middle Warden
Chair of the Membership Committee

Ms Jacqueline Chan
Renter Warden
Chair of the Communications Committee

Ms Grace Abba
Immediate Past Master

Mr Sam Chadd
Junior Past Master

Mr Rhys Jones
Senior Past Master

Officers of the Court

Mr George Godfrey
The Clerk

Mr Maceo Frederick
Treasurer

Ms Anna Kowalik
Deputy Clerk

Mr Benedict Butterworth
Beadle

Mr Jonathan Hooley
The Swordbearer & Military Liaison

Assistants to the Court

Ms Caroline Roddis

Mr Dmitry Lysenko

Mr Jago Toner

Deputy Jaspreet Hodgson CC

Mr Michael Polak

Mr Cameron Lane-Ley

Mr Jack Thornborough

Mr Salman Ali

Mr Jack Armitstead

Ms Chloe Lightfoot

Honorary Members of the Court

Alderman Alastair King DL
Honorary President

The Rev Henry Eatlock-Taylor
Honorary Chaplain

Mr Stephen Hodgson CC
Honorary Clerk

Mr Tim Evans
Honorary Court Assistant

THE LOCATION OF THE CITY'S LIVERY HALLS



1. Apothecaries' Hall, Black Friars Lane, EC4V 6EJ
 2. Armourers' Hall, 81 Coleman Street, EC2R 5BJ
 3. Bakers' Hall, Harp Lane, EC3R 6DP
 4. Barber-Surgeons' Hall, Monkwell Square, EC2V 7HR
 5. Brewers' Hall, Aldermanbury Square, EC2V 7HR
 6. Butchers' Hall, Bartholomew Close, EC1A 7EB
 7. Carpenters' Hall, Throgmorton Avenue, EC2N 2JJ
 8. Clothworkers' Hall, Dunster Court, Mincing Lane, EC3R 7AH
 9. Coopers' Hall, 13 Devonshire Square, EC2M 4TH
 10. Cutlers' Hall, Warwick Lane, EC4M 7BR
 11. Drapers' Hall, Throgmorton Street, EC2N 2DQ
 12. Dyers' Hall, 11-13 Dowgate Hill, EC4R 2ST
 14. Farmers & Fletchers, 3 Cloth Street, EC1A 7LD
 15. Fishmongers, London Bridge, EC4R 9EL
 16. Founders' Hall, 1 Cloth Fair, Clerkenwell, EC1A 7HT
 17. Girdlers' Hall, Basinghall Avenue, EC2V 5DD
 18. Glaziers' Hall, 9 Montague Close, London Bridge, SE1 9DD
 19. Goldsmiths' Hall, Foster Lane, EC2V 6BN
 20. Grocers' Hall, Princes Street, EC2R 8AD
 21. Haberdashers' Hall, 18 West Smithfield, EC1A 9HQ
 22. Innholders' Hall, 30 College Street, EC4R 2RH
 23. Ironmongers' Hall, Shaftesbury Place, Barbican, EC2Y 8AA
 24. Leathersellers' Hall, 7 St Helen's Place, EC3A 6AB
 25. Master Mariners' Hall, HQS Wellington, Temple Stairs, Victoria Embankment, WC2R 2PN
 26. Mercers' Hall, Ironmonger Lane, EC2V 8HE
 27. Merchant Taylors' Hall, 30 Threadneedle Street, EC2R 8JB
 28. Painter-Stainers' Hall, 9 Little Trinity Lane, EC4V 2AD
 29. Pewterers' Hall, Oat Lane, EC2V 7DE
 30. Plaisterers' Hall, 1 London Wall, EC2Y 5JU
 31. Saddlers' Hall, 40 Gutter Lane, EC2V 6BR
 32. Salters' Hall, 4 Fore Street, EC2Y 5DE
 33. Skinners' Hall, 81/2 Dowgate Hill, EC4R 2SP
 34. Stationers' Hall, Ave Maria Lane, EC4M 7DD
 35. Tallow Chandlers' Hall, 4 Dowgate Hill, EC4R 2SH
 36. Vintners' Hall, Upper Thames Street, EC4V 3BG
 37. Watermen's Hall, 16 St Mary-at-Hill, EC3R 8EF
 38. Wax Chandlers' Hall, 6 Gresham Street, EC4V 2AL
 39. Information Technologists' Hall, 39A Bartholomew Close, EC1A 7JN
- † St Michael's Church, Cornhill, EC3V 9DS
 ‡ St Paul's Cathedral, EC4M 8AD

THE GUILD OF YOUNG FREEMEN

NEWSLETTER

Issue #9

PUBLICATION DATE 28/07/2025

THE GUILD OF YOUNG FREEMEN