



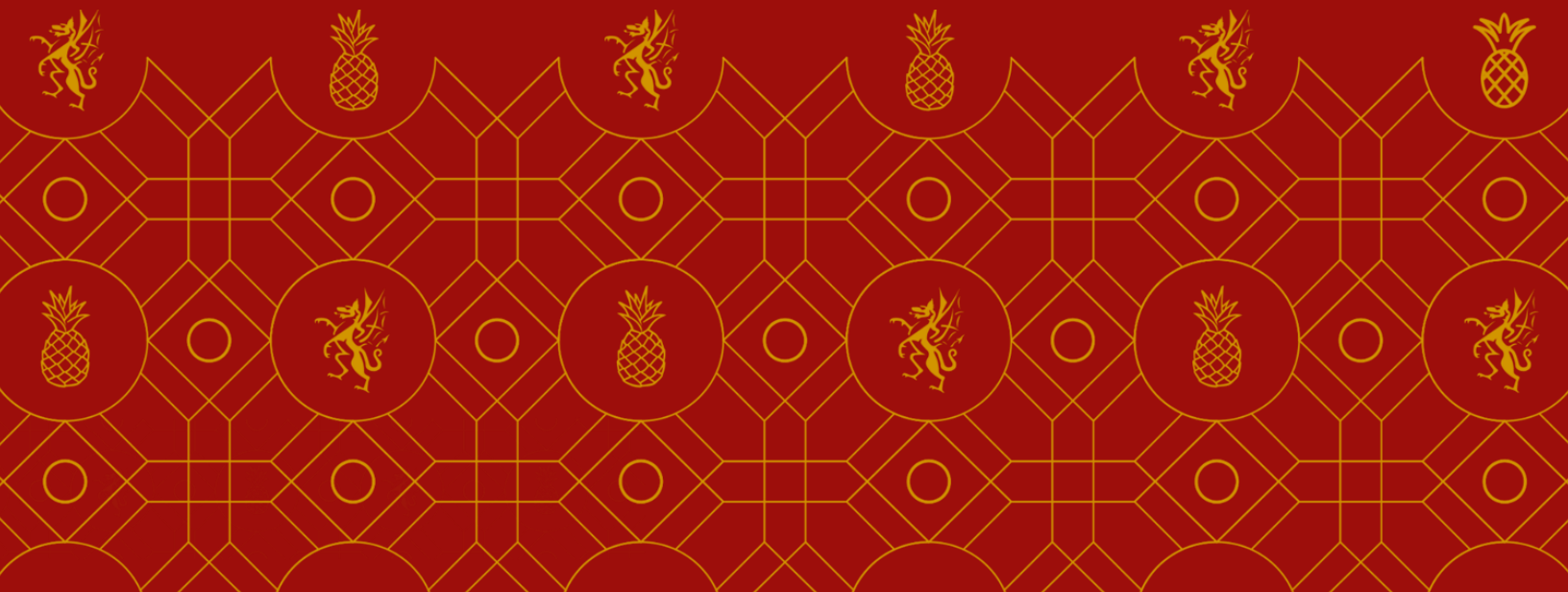
YOUNG FREEMEN

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THE GUILD OF YOUNG FREEMEN

NEWSLETTER

Issue #1





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SUMMER 2021



In this issue ...

Updates from the Court

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Master Louise Starling shares her thoughts on an unusual term as Master, reflects on her themes and gives thanks to those who have helped with the Guild's efforts in the past year.

Photos – Lord Mayor's Show 2019 (above), Sheep Drive 2019 (left), The Beating Retreat (below)



Dates for your diary

26 September – Sheep Drive

22 October – Annual Banquet

13 November – Lord Mayor's Show

A Minute with ... The Master

Dear All,

When I took office as Master of the Guild of Young Freemen in May 2020, talk was very much of 'return to normal' by Autumn. How wrong I was! However, after 15 months of Zoom and "you're on mute", I am delighted to direct your attention to some wonderful events over the next few months including the Sheep Drive in September, Lord Mayor's Show in November and our Annual Banquet - postponed three times over the past year but fourth time's the charm - in October!

As my second term as Master commences, I would like to remind you of my themes - they are: **Education**; reflecting my position as a Liveryman of the Educators Company, and my determination to expand on the Guild's outreach work with the various City/Livery-endowed schools; **Diversity**: technically I am the first female Master of the Guild (the last woman to hold the role of Chairman of the Society of Young Freemen, as we used to be called, was in 2011) and I believe that the Guild is ideally placed to contribute to the Livery-wide work in demonstrating that the City and Livery is indeed an open and welcoming environment for all; and **History**: hoping the Guild can be at the centre of promoting engagement and interest in the history and traditions of the City and Livery to a younger and wider audience.

I would like to thank the Wardens, Court, members of our Events, Charity and Membership committees and, of course, you - for your continued support of the Guild and the City of London.



I would particularly like to take this opportunity to thank Jason Frost, our erstwhile and outgoing Learned Clerk who has been a great support to myself and many more over the past three years. Unlike a Livery Company, the role of Young Freemen Clerk is voluntary and we are indebted to those who ensure the effective and efficient management of the Guild ... and always, no matter how much a Master might think they are in charge, the Clerk is always right!

I can't wait to see you face to face soon,

Louise Stirling

Master

A Letter from The Clerk

Dear Young Freemen,

As the nation emerges from the most significant period of upheaval to everyday life since the Second World War, it is beholden upon organisations like those associated with the City and Livery to help to rebuild society in the post-Covid world.

Throughout the past eighteen months one of the deprivations felt most keenly has been our enforced separation from one another. In a pre-pandemic world dominated by arguments about the apparent increasing atomisation of our society, the recent exigencies have served to remind society that, no matter how digitally connected we might be, there is no real substitute for the simple pleasure of human fellowship.

As all good Young Freemen know, to be part of our organisation, and indeed the wider City and Livery tradition, is to be one who deeply treasures that peculiarly mystical blend of fellowship, revelry and historical curiosity. In the service of our wider community, we have been obliged to shut away our crimson robes and golden pineapples; and to await safer times.

Young Freemen, this time is now upon us. Buff up your shoes, brush down your silks and prepare to toast the Horn Pipers once again!

Jason Frost

Clerk



Welcome to New Members

New Members

We are delighted to welcome the following members:

25th March 2021

- Mr Theodore Frazer
- Mr Thomas Clowes-Pritchard
- Mr Andreas Payne
- Mr Ben Howland

15th July 2021

- Mr Jordan Meade
- Ms Mathilde Pillot
- Mr Reuben Braden-Bell
- Mr Alistair Lamyman

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 Renter Warden, Grace Abba, at membership@youngfreemen.org

Photo from March 2020 Admissions Court

Spotlight on our members:

Theodore Frazer

Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Educators.

Assistant Director of Music Bridewell Schools King Edward's School Witley and Barrow Hills School. Organist and Singer, keen rugby player and motorbike rider.

Reuben Braden-Bell

Member of the Worshipful Company of Security Professionals.

Account Manager (United Kingdom and Germany) at Dragonfly, a geopolitical and security intelligence service for the world's leading organisations. A alumni of St Andrew's university and a qualified rock-climbing instructor and enjoys rowing.



Update on the Court

Tukeer Hussain appointed as Clerk

The Court of Assistants to the Guild of Young Freemen are delighted to have elected Tukeer Hussain as our Clerk at our most recent Installation Court. Tukeer has been a Court Assistant since 2018 and a member of the Guild since late 2017.



Grace Abba Elected as Renter Warden

The Court of Assistants to the Guild of Young Freemen are delighted to have elected Grace Abba as our Renter Warden for 2021-2022 at our most recent Installation Court. Grace has been a member of the Guild since 2018.



Two new Court Assistants

Moawia Bin-Sufyan JP

Moawia is an Investment Director but is also involved with many different charities, private and public bodies across the UK and Overseas. His Livery Companies are the Worshipful Company of Educators and the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers.



Chris Sanders

Chris is a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of International Bankers, Portfolio Manager at Northcross Capital, member of Coleman Street Ward Club and Elector in Bassishaw Ward. Keen rock climber and occasional martial artist.

Further details can be found at <https://youngfreemen.org/the-court/>

The Guild of Young Freemen has three committees – Events, Membership and Charity. Each committee is chaired by a Warden and made up of Court Assistants and members, providing an opportunity for members to deepen their involvement in the running of the Guild. It is recommended that those who are interested in joining the Court in the future should consider joining one of the Guild's committees.

Spotlight on the City

Each newsletter will spotlight a Livery Company, Guild, Ward Club or other institution connected with the City of London.

The Guild of Mercers' Scholars

The Guild of Mercers' Scholars is a voluntarily run Guild in the City of London, made up of alumni and associates of the Mercers' Company's cluster of schools. Amongst its principal objectives is enabling its members to become Liverymen of City Companies.

By engaging with pupils and former pupils of the Mercers' Cluster of schools, the Guild of Mercers' Scholars aims to demonstrate and promote helpful reciprocal communication, outreach and recognition with the Worshipful Company of Mercers and amongst all members and partners.



"To encourage former pupils of Mercers' Foundation and Associated Schools and others to become Freeman and Liverymen"

The Guild of Mercers' Scholars is the oldest organisation of its type and one of only two in the City of London; its origins date to an early lunch meeting in June 1947 of Liverymen of City of London Companies who all had in common that they had attended Mercers' School. This luncheon was held at Tallow Chandlers' Hall by courtesy of Old Mercer Major Stanley W Wells MBE who was Master of that Company. The Old Mercer Liverymen were joined by the Headmaster of Mercers' School and the Master and Wardens of the Mercers' Company.

With the closing of Mercers' School in 1959 it was decided, in order to protect the long-term future of the Guild, to invite membership from former pupils from other schools in the Mercers' Cluster, a policy that has had considerable success, with many former pupils of those schools having now passed through the Master's chair. Today the Guild has over 200 members, plus over 40 Apprentices working towards Freedom of the City and full membership of the Guild.

Pétanque with The Guild of Mercers' Scholars - Friday 27th August 2021

Join us for a fun-filled evening as we challenge the Mercers' Scholars for dominance on the pétanque pitch! There is no need for experience and all levels are welcome. Taking place at Balls Brothers in the Hays Galleria in Southwark we will convene for pre-match drinks and nibbles and set up teams before the games get underway! [**BOOK HERE**](#)

On the calendar: upcoming and highlighted

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.

Garden Party and Charity Bake Off

The Church Gardens of St. Michael's Cornhill
13:00 - 17:00, Saturday 31 July

Join other members of the Guild with a relaxing garden party in the grounds of the Guild's church and taste the delicious entries for the charity bake-off.

Booking closes on Thursday



Sheep Drive

Southwark Bridge, Sunday 26 September

The Sheep Drive is a major City event involving some 600 Freemen of the City of London crossing the bridge with their sheep, raising tens of thousands of pounds for the Lord Mayor's Appeal and the Woolmens' Charitable Trust, and the Guild has a vital part to play in this event. As marshals the Young Freemen will be the public face of the Sheep Drive, leading people across the bridge, dressed in their scarlet robes.



The Annual Banquet

Apothecaries' Hall, Friday 22 October

This year's Annual Banquet will be held at Apothecaries' Hall by kind permission of the Master and Wardens of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries – we expect tickets will sell out fast for this event so book early to avoid disappointment.



The Lord Mayor's Show

Saturday 13 November 2021

The Lord Mayor's Show is the world's oldest civic procession, and the Guild is very privileged to play such 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.



Full details on all upcoming events can be found at
<https://youngfreemen.org/events/>

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Disclaimer: Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that information in this newsletter is correct at the time of publication, the Guild cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions. The opinions expressed in reports and articles in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the Guild.