



YOUNG FREEMEN

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NEWSLETTER

THE GUILD OF YOUNG FREEMEN

Issue #2





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THE MASTER



Dear All,

Happy New Year! Since our last Guild Newsletter was published in July 2021, we have seen a return to some kind of normal and it has been wonderful to see so many of you at our events!

The four pillars of the Livery are charity, education, fellowship and industry and I think we have definitely upheld these over the past six months. We raised over £400 for The Lord Mayor's Appeal and the Master's charity, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, through our Young Freeman Walk the City fundraiser, virtually circling the city 99.47 times in September. We also gave our time to support the Worshipful Company of Woolmen in their Sheep Drive on Southwark Bridge, escorting over 960 people as they exercised the ancient right of Freeman to drive sheep in the City. This fantastic event raises thousands of pounds for the Woolmen Charitable Trust and The Lord Mayor's Appeal and so many

people remarked on what a fantastic job the Young Freeman did on the day.

By taking part in several City events, we are educating ourselves on the history and traditions of the City of London – and nothing says that more than The Lord Mayor's Show in November, a day of pomp and pageantry dating back to 13th Century. Extinction Rebellion disruptions aside, it was a brilliant day bringing together Livery Companies, charities, City institutions and companies to celebrate the new Lord Mayor (and yes, we ended up getting decent coverage on BBC!) followed by a delicious meal at City Livery Club and a chance to chat.

One of the things I love about the Guild of Young Freemen is that it brings together people from so many different industries, professions and Livery Companies. I can be talking to a Merchant Taylor, an International Banker or a Basketmaker at one of our Informal Drinks and get an insight into their Company and, in some cases, get an introduction to find out more. Some of you will know that I joined the Young Freemen without a Livery Company in 2012 and it was through the Guild that I was introduced to and joined the Educators in 2016.

Our return to in-person events in July started with The Sword & The Crown Military Musical Spectacular on Horse Guards Parade and our Garden Party & Guild Bake Off and that conviviality of getting together again continued into the autumn.

For me, an absolute highlight of the past six months was our Annual Banquet in October – bringing together 130 Young Freemen and guests at Apothecaries Hall. A number of Livery Companies were present, not only in our members, but also with visiting Masters, Aldermen and Sheriff.

That we are ‘young’ freemen can sometimes imply inexperience and ignorance on the civic City but I do not believe this is the case. We very much follow the mode of Livery Companies and Guilds with the exception that we are volunteer run.

I would like to thank the Clerk, Wardens, Officers, Court and Committee members for all their support over the past six months and can only highlight this letter received after the Banquet stating “I was very impressed by the dedication and commitment of Members and their enthusiasm. The Livery is in safe hands.”

I’m so excited to see what 2022 holds for the Guild and I look forward to seeing you again soon.

The Master

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Louise Stirling". The script is elegant and cursive, with the first letters of "Louise" and "Stirling" being capitalized and prominent.

THE CLERK



As we find ourselves potentially standing at the precipice of another round of COVID-19, I think it is important for Civic and Civil Society organisations like ourselves to be steadfast in the face of difficulty.

Throughout my tenure as Clerk, however short in length and long in feeling, I have seen the best of the Guild, City and Livery tradition. When asked by our gracious editor for an extract in this newsletter about my time in office and a look to the future, there was only one thing I could think of: resilience.

As many of you will know, the City of London took many a bold step to tackle this pandemic with Guilds and Livery alike embracing generational change in a very short period of time.

Truthfully, I could have made a myriad of points on how the resilient nature of City groups of great significance have demonstrated the best of us all. However,

what I have been most impressed by is the work of our members, Court and Wardens in their sheer determination to keep the 'show going'.

It has also been a great pleasure to work with the Master and support her both on her objectives for the Guild but also on her visits to other Livery events where we represent the Guild.

We have not only survived some of the lowest moments, but left thriving with a sustained diary of events both fulfilling our City Duty and providing innovative events for our members. As your Clerk, I feel an overwhelming sense of pride to work for you all and encourage those who are keen to step-up to get in touch.

With an ever-enduring respect,

The Clerk *Jukeer Hussain*

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS



New Members:

The Admissions Court held on 24th November 2021 admitted less new members than usual, but admitted many members that had been admitted virtually in 2020 and 2021 who, due to Covid, were unable to have a face to face ceremony. We were also delighted to welcome a new member as per the below.

24th November 2021

Ms Jessica Goodman



Most recent joiners spotlight:

Jessica Goodman

An Oxford graduate in Mathematics, Jessica was granted Freedom of the City in 2016. Jessica works as a Manager in the Financial Modelling team at EY. In her spare time she can be found rowing on the Thames or cycling loops around Richmond Park.



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

SPOTLIGHT ON THE CITY



The Worshipful Company of Coopers

"Coopers? Don't they make barrels?" The immortal line that every Coopers' Liveryman is undoubtedly asked. The answer, of course, is "yes - amongst other things".

The Coopers' craft focuses on making vessels for containing liquids, as well as solids, constructed by thin slabs of wood bound together in a circular form with hoops. This could range from casks of various sizes, of which a barrel is one of them; to vats; buckets; tubs and troughs.

The Coopers' Fraternity came into being in the thirteenth century, at a time when uniquely English institutions, Common Law, Parliament and the legal system of royal courts were established. The earliest record of the London Coopers dates back to 1298, where the Coopers appeared before the Lord Mayor's Court on behalf of their trade to plead their case against a fine that was imposed of thirty-one shillings.

The granting of its Royal Charter by Henry VII in 1501 was a landmark moment for the Coopers of London. It created a company where formally there was a fraternity and trade guild. It granted legal status of a corporation, able to own property in perpetuity. Most importantly, it enabled the Coopers to own their own Hall.

In 1490, the Coopers of London were given land on the west side of Basinghall Street, abutting on part of the City's great heritage, Guildhall. Three Halls would be built on this site. The first was destroyed by the Great Fire of London. The second was pulled down following negotiations with the City of London Corporation who purchased a considerable portion of the site. Finally,

the third was tragically destroyed by enemy action in the Second World War and was compulsory purchased by the Corporation – sold for £48,500.

To this day, with tongue-in-cheek, Coopers complain that the Hall was sold for ‘pennies’ and practically ‘stolen’ by the Corporation. This is something Coopers take great pleasure in raising with the Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the Chamberlain’s Court when being granted the Freedom of the City of London, as the Chamberlain’s Court itself stands on this very site which Coopers’ Halls had stood for four hundred years.

Today the Coopers Company’s home is at 13 Devonshire Square, our fourth hall, a beautiful mid-Georgian building that has seen its own share of enemy action, being damaged by IRA bombs in 1992 and 1993.

Like all Livery Companies, the Coopers has its quirks and unique history. By tradition, it is the first Livery Company to be hosted at Mansion House by the new Lord Mayor. It was a Cooper, Sir Robert Willimott, who was the first Liveryman of a minor Company to become Lord Mayor. Another Cooper, Sir David Salomons, was the first Jewish and non-Christian to be elected Lord Mayor. Finally, the Coopers has a body that represents the Livery – the Society. This came about when the Livery challenged

the Court in reaffirming the historic rights of the Livery to elect the Wardens. To this day the Society, on behalf of the Livery, exercise this right along with organising social events.

Looking to the future, the Worshipful Company of Coopers is carrying out its strategic review considering the changing times in which we live. The Company is holding its inaugural cask race in Guildhall Yard, the very site of Roman London’s amphitheatre, this summer where teams from across the civic City are invited to enter. Finally, this article has drawn on two key histories of the Company: The Coopers Company and Craft (1933) by George Elkington and ‘Love as Brethren’ A Quincentennial History of the Cooper’s Company (2000) Pamela Maryfield – the first woman to be made a Liveryman of the Company.

Court Assistant Liam Randall – Coopers Company Liveryman

PAST EVENTS HIGHLIGHT

Garden Party and Charity Bake Off

The Church Gardens of St.
Michael's Cornhill,
London EC3V 9DS

Saturday 31st July 2021

This was a special event as the Guild welcomed the Master in her second term at the first event of our 2021-2022 year, and first in-person event since March 2020, with a relaxing garden party in the grounds of the Guild's church. This year we saw an excellent selection of baked goods which the Master had a difficult – but tasty – decision to make. Congratulations to Michael Polak for his winning Sticky Date Pudding!



Sheep Drive

Southwark Bridge, London
Sunday 26th September 2021

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 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.





The Annual Banquet

Apothecaries' Hall, Black
Friars Lane, London EC4V 6EJ
Friday 22nd October

This year's Annual Banquet was held at the Apothecaries' Hall by kind permission of the Master and Wardens of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries – it was a fantastic event where we were honored by the presences of Sheriff Alderman Alison Gowman, Masters from Educators, Fan Makers, Bakers, Guild of Freeman and Prime Warden Basketmakers, Alderman Emma Edhem and our President Alderman Timothy Hailes who gave the Response and Toast to the Company. It was wonderful to bring so many Young Freeman back together after so long as well as welcome many guests – some of whom are now in the membership pipeline!



The Lord Mayor's Show

The Vestry of St Michael's
Cornhill, London, EC3V 9DS
Saturday 13th November 2021

The Lord Mayor's Show is the world's oldest civic procession.

After having taken a year sabbatical due to the pandemic, this year saw a bumper amount of people coming to see Gog and Magog alongside the other fascinating floats.



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.

Private Tour of the Museum of the Order of St. John

St John's Gate, St John's Lane, Clerkenwell, London EC1M 4DA
2:45pm for 3:00pm - 4:30pm, Saturday 22nd January 2022

We hope you will join us in having a thoroughly enlightening private tour of a City hidden gem, the prestigious Museum of the Order of St. John located in Clerkenwell. Our first event of 2022, join the Master and other members to catch up after the festive period and learn about the fascinating story of this City site.

Please wear warm clothes and sensible shoes as some of the tour is outside. Following the 45-minute guided tour we will decamp to a nearby wine bar for further informal discussions about the Guild of Young Freemen and the Livery movement for those who are interested in becoming a part of the rich City traditions.

Prospective members are very much encouraged to attend this introductory event.



Meet the Watermen and Lightermen

Watermen's Hall, 16 - 18 St-Mary-at-Hill, London EC3R 8EF
6:30pm - 8:00pm, Thursday 3rd February 2022

The Guild is delighted to join the Company of Watermen and Lightermen of the River Thames for our first 'Meet the Livery' event of 2022 at their stunning 18th Century Georgian Waterman's Hall. The Company is a working guild and is actively involved with the life of the River and those who work on it - we look forward to finding out more! Cheese and wine will be provided.

Please note: this event is free to attend but we would ask you to confirm your attendance via the booking form so we can let Watermen's Hall know how many to cater for.

As with all Guild events, friends, family, and other guests are welcome.



Young Livery Inter-Livery Quiz

Bakers' Hall, 7 Harp Ln, London EC3R 6DP
7:00pm - 9:00pm, Friday 11th February 2022

The Guild of Young Freemen invite you to join us for an evening of tremendously fun and friendly competition at the annual Young Livery Inter-Livery Quiz. All proceeds will be donated to the Company charity of the winning team, or a charity of their choice if their Company/Guild does not have an official charity.

Teams of up to six will battle for quizzing domination in a professionally run quiz by Quiz Coconut, competing for the ultimate prize of fame and glory. With the kind permission of the Worshipful Company of Bakers, we will once again be in a City Livery Hall for this highlight of the Young Inter-Livery year.

Please note: you must be a member of a Livery Company or Guild to attend this event.

Details here: <https://youngfreemen.org/young-livery-inter-livery-quiz/>



ON THE CALENDAR UPCOMING EVENTS

Inter-Livery Pancake Race

Guildhall Yard,
London EC2V 5AE

10:00am for 10:30am - 2:30pm,
Tuesday 1st March 2022

The Worshipful Company of Poulterers organise this frenetic event where teams compete for glory and raise money for the Lord Mayor's Appeal. The Master will be representing the Guild in 2022 and supporters are welcome to join us at the touchlines and enjoy a pancake or two whilst spectating.

There is no need to book – just turn up and enjoy the fun!



The United Guilds Service

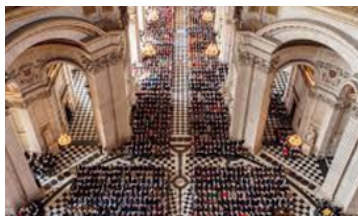
St. Paul's Cathedral,
London EC4M 8AD

11:00am for 11:30am - 12:30pm,
Friday 1st April 2022

The annual service celebrating the Guilds' and Liveries' contribution to the City, with a colourful procession of Masters and the Lord Mayor in State; a truly memorable event. First run at the suggestion of the Liveries after the Blitz it was hoped that the pageantry of the City would lift the spirits of the people, and the service has become a yearly fixture ever since.

Those attending will be loaned ceremonial robes for the occasion. This service provides an incredible opportunity to see St. Paul's Cathedral in action with it's superb organ and choir. Due to the limited provision of tickets we encourage you to book early to ensure your place.

This event is only open to Members of the Guild of Young Freemen.



Full details on all upcoming events can be found at

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

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