



YOUNG FREEMEN

- 1976 -

NEWSLETTER

# THE GUILD OF YOUNG FREEMEN

Issue #3





## THE GUILD OF YOUNG FREEMEN

### NEWSLETTER

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# THE MASTER



**Dear All,**

As I don the Master's trappings of robe, chain and badge, I am aware I also have some rather large shoes to fill. Louise did such an excellent job steering us through some rather stormy seas and back to an even keel that, despite the difficulties of the last two years, membership remains strong, our relationship with the wider City is better than ever, and we have an excellent calendar of events to look forward to in the next year.

Building on this, the main focus for my year as Master is engagement, finding as many opportunities for members to meet and making the most of what the City has to offer. We are hoping to have a really full year, with staples such as the sheep drive, banquet and the Lord Mayor's show, but also many informal events to bring members together and engage with the wider city.

I have long had a fascination (as I'm sure have many members) with the history of

London and even made the changing role of the livery companies in the seventeenth century the focus of my MA. I really hope to share that passion with the Guild and have long promised to hold some young freemen's historical tours, with a good few pubs spattered in between. I am looking forward to arranging the first of these in the autumn.

My nominated charity for this year is the RNLI. As a sailor, I have a huge amount of respect for the work that the lifeboats do

in all manner of ways, and when one is in big waves far out at sea, just knowing they are there can be a blessing. I was, however, surprised to learn that the Tower Lifeboat Station is the busiest in the country. They are currently fundraising for a new station and construction is in the final stages. We will hopefully have the unique opportunity to tour both the old station before it is decommissioned and see the new one when it is finished early next year. I am hoping a tour and a drinks party along with some extra fundraising events will help raise something toward this excellent project.

I first joined the Young Freemen ten years ago, in which time I have seen behind the closed doors of the City, learnt about different companies and their traditions, and shared many a drink with like-minded people in the Cross Keys after an admissions court. I am very proud to be Master this year and I hope I can share some of that enthusiasm with other members, old and new. I look forward to sharing my year with you all.

**The Master**     *Rhys Jones*

# REFLECTIONS FROM THE IMMEDIATE MASTER



Two years ago, May 2020, we were in the midst of the first lockdown, hoping to be back to normal by the Autumn and holding Court Meetings via Zoom. It was a strange way to become Master, and even stranger as the year progressed and I attended a range of events online – from Livery lectures (networking was rather hampered but at least I didn't have the travel home) to gin tasting on my balcony (I very much enjoyed that!) and banquets (providing my own food, wearing a cocktail dress on top, leggings and fluffy socks on bottom).

It's been wonderful to see the City getting back to normal and experiencing a more typical Master's year. I would like to thank the Court again for extending my term. It's also been fantastic to see everyone face-to-face again at the various different events and welcome new members to the Guild.

I conservatively estimate I attended over 200 events as Master Young Freeman over the two years so it's very difficult to pick out favourites but the Sheep Drive, Lord Mayor's Show and, of course, our own Annual Banquet (such a special night) rank highly. I also valued the opportunity to meet other Masters and learn more about the other Livery Companies through our online and in-person 'Meet the Livery' events.

It's easy to forget that the Guild of Young Freeman is entirely volunteer-run so, as I become Immediate Past Master, I would like to thank the Wardens, Court, Clerk, Officers and Committee members for all their support and hard work 2020-22. Thank you.

It has been an immense privilege and I have enjoyed it so much!

**Immediate Past Master** *Louise Stirling*

# THE CLERK



As many of you will now know, Tukeer Hussain was obliged to resign as Clerk due to changes in his family circumstances. I know you would like to join me in paying tribute to his dedication and commitment to the Young Freeman and the wider Livery world during his time in office.

Due to the particular circumstances of Tukeer's resignation, the Master prevailed upon me to cut short my rather brief retirement from office and return to take up the administrative reins once again. This appointment will be on an interim basis. As one arrives, one departs.

In May this year, Miss Louise Starling completed her (extended) term as Master of the Young Freeman. I believe I can speak for all of us when I say that Louise has been truly exemplary in her leadership of the Guild during these past two years. Throughout this time, she has embodied the values of commitment, charitableness, and good conduct upon which so much of the City and Livery was constructed. For this, the Young

Freemen are very thankful.

The heavy chain of office has now passed to Mr Rhys Jones. Like Louise, something of a veteran member of the Guild. I have no doubt that his years of experience and strong Livery network will prove invaluable in taking the organisation forward.

And there will be no shortage of opportunity to do this. As evidenced from my overflowing Clerk's inbox, the unpleasantness of the last few years has now definitely passed, and delights and curiosities of the City and Livery social world abound once again!

There is no doubt that from conversations that I have had with other Clerks that the City and Livery are more aware than ever the vital role that we play as an organisation in ensuring the future of these institutions. Let us not be found wanting.

With an ever-enduring respect,

**The Clerk** *Jason Frost*



# WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

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## New Members:

Due to increased demand, we have held more Admissions Courts than previously, possibly due to a backlog from COVID days and have since held more interviews and are preparing to admit more members soon.

We congratulate all the new members of the Guild and look forward to getting to know you all over the years to come in our events and our volunteering efforts.



### 10th March 2022

Mr Benjamin Platten  
Mr Elliott Brooks  
Mr Dmitry Lysenko

### 28th April 2022

Mrs Jaspreet Hodgson  
Miss Ellice Whyte  
Mr Richard Bishop  
Mr Donal de Blacam  
Mr Peter Allen



### 30th June 2022

Mr Timothy Evans  
Mr George Godfrey  
Mr Asad Ansari  
Mr Jesse Singleton  
Mr Chris Cheung  
Mr Alex Bilbie  
Mr George Collins

# NEW MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

## Most recent joiners spotlight:

### Jaspreet Hodgson CC Goodman

Jaspreet holds a Masters degree from the University of Aberdeen in Philosophy and Politics. Jaspreet has been elected as a Common Councillor of the City in March 2022 representing the ward of Vintry, traditionally the center for the wine trade. She is an apprentice of the Worshipful Company of Vintners under their wine trade scheme and works for Bibendum Wine a FTSE 250 company leading a team responsible for selling high end wine and spirits, including fine wine, to premium sites across London and South East England.



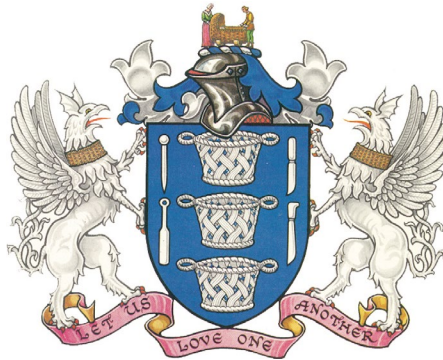
As always, the Guild encourages our members to bring a friend along to our open events, and extend the invitation to other members of your Livery Company especially those under 40 years old. This helps promote good causes and support inter-livery fellowship.

**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, Jonh Lam, at [membership@youngfreemen.org](mailto:membership@youngfreemen.org)**



# SPOTLIGHT ON THE CITY

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## The Worshipful Company of Basketmakers

**When I mention that I am a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers, the question that I invariably get asked is “But I bet you’ve never actually made a Basket?” “Erm yes, I have – several in fact”**

Basketmaking is a very ancient craft and the oldest known baskets discovered so far were found at Fayum in Egypt and have been carbon dated to around 10,000BC. The Worshipful Company of Basketmakers cannot claim such a long history but was formally constituted in 1569 to help support the trade.

Basketmaking has been called the mother of pottery, as a potter used a basket mould long before the invention of the wheel. Pieces of Neolithic Age pottery show that the clay had been moulded around a basket structure. Stone Age pots often were ornamented with basketwork patterns.

Moving through history, we encounter houses built of wattle, shields fashioned of

wickerwork, coracles or very large baskets covered with hide which the Romans saw on the Thames when they first came to this land.

Prior to 1569, English basketmakers obtained their freedom of the City and were permitted to practice their trade within its walls by joining the Butchers’ Company, whose members used baskets extensively. In those days, Pudding Lane was largely inhabited by basketmakers, turners and butchers. Like the butchers, the turners not only used baskets but also sold them; and we hear of basketmakers becoming Freeman of the Turners’ Company.

Unlike some Companies which have lost their trade connection altogether or have

adopted a modern alternative, we maintain a strong link with our origins by our support for basketry through prizes and awards; holding exhibitions; arranging tuition for members and their friends as well as in London schools; promoting our Yeomen Members who are all working basketmakers and through our support for the Basketmakers' Association.

For centuries our members were all professional Basketmakers, and we regulated their trade in the City. Today we welcome people from all walks of life

Basketry is relevant to modern life and found in many forms, ranging from hanging baskets of flowers, via the increasingly popular basketwork eco-friendly coffins, to baskets used for hot-air ballooning. Contemporary or traditional designs of basketwork, chairseating and even sculpture have boosted interest in the craft, as has a desire to avoid the litter and pollution caused by throw-away plastic bags.

Willow Giants made by basketmakers are believed to have been part of the Lord Mayor's Show since the Reign of Henry V.

I first got to know the Basketmakers via the Guild's association due to the Lord Mayor's Show, followed by a basketmaking day organised for us, my first attempt ... well it ended up as a frisbee for my cats instead of a fruit platter! Things have improved a lot since then, I've made a basket and several Christmas decorations out of willow. I look

forward to many more enjoyable days to come. Our well-known basketmaking days are a joy to attend, albeit you have to learn patience you just can't rush a basket, albeit you could make one out of rush. I personally prefer weaving with willow as when I tried chair caning with rush it just ended up twisted!

Little did I know at the time that my grandfather was a Liveryman of the Basketmakers, but it's true they are one of the friendliest Livery Companies.

As I leave the Guild of Young Freeman (no longer Young but creaky bones instead) I look forward to seeing you all at the Lord Mayor's Show on 12 November where hopefully I'll be joining you as a Basketmaker.

My one piece of advice to all Young Freeman is to take part in as many events as possible and join the events, membership or charity committees as it will open your eyes to many different opportunities around the City.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Young Freeman for their kind friendship and opening my eyes to the City and the Livery World, if it wasn't for you I probably would not have joined the Basketmakers.

***Court Assistant Sarah Harris – Liverymen of the Basketmakers***

# PAST EVENTS HIGHLIGHT

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

St John's Gate,  
St John's Lane, Clerkenwell,  
London EC1M 4DA

Saturday 22nd January 2022

It was a thoroughly enlightening private tour of a City hidden gem, the prestigious Museum of the Order of St. John located in Clerkenwell. This tour was our first event of 2022, it was a fantastic opportunity for the Master and other members to catch up after the festive period and to learn about the fascinating story of this City site.



## Meet the Watermen and Lightermen

Watermen's Hall, London  
EC3R 8EF

Thursday 3 February 2022

Our first 'Meet the Livery' event of 2022 was actually not with a Livery Company but with the Company of Watermen and Lightermen of the River Thames in February. Members enjoyed wine and cheese at their stunning 18th Century Georgian Hall and learnt about their history, charity and events calendar, including the oldest boat race in the world Doggett's Coat and Badge Race.



## Young Livery Inter-Livery Quiz

Bakers' Hall, 7 Harp Ln,  
London EC3R 6DP

Thursday 10th February 2022

11 February 2022 saw us host Young Livery Inter-Livery Quiz at Bakers Hall, with the kind permission of the Worshipful Company of Bakers. It was a fun and fiercely competitive evening as we attempted to regain the champions title after losing it in 2021 to the Merchant Taylors.

Provided by Quiz Coconut, attendees were challenged with fiendish questions and a creative flatlay competition!

Well done to the Worshipful Company of Coopers who took the crown and bravo to Team Young Freemen, made up of Louise Starling, Rhys Jones, Nadia Rossignoli-Syed, Jessica Goodman, Jack Armistead and Kate Bygrave, who came a very respectable second!

Put Thursday 9 February in the diary for 2023!



## Inter-Livery Pancake Race

Guildhall Yard,  
London EC2V 5AE  
Tuesday 1st March 2022

Alas, due to the typical British weather, this year's Pancake Race organised by the Worshipful Company of Poulters was sadly cancelled this year.

The Guild looks forward to participating in 2023.





# The United Guilds Service

St. Paul's Cathedral, London  
EC4M 8AD

Friday 1st April 2022

Six Young Freemen represented the Guild at the United Guilds Service at St Paul's Cathedral at the beginning of April followed by a delicious lunch at The Walbrook Club. As far as records show, the Service, first held in 1943 to lift the spirits of the City following the Blitz during the Second World War, was the first occasion on which all the Livery Companies and Guilds of the City combined to hold a religious Service. Since then it has become an annual event and remains one of the few occasions in the calendar at which the Livery Companies and Guilds can gather together as a whole and, after two years away due to COVID-19, it was wonderful to see so many Liverymen and Freemen gathered together.



## Meet the Fletchers

Farmers and Fletchers in the  
City, EC1A 7LD

Thursday 12 April 2022

As the name suggested, The Worshipful Company of Fletchers was originally made up of arrow makers. Today it has no industrial links but is open to all who are committed to supporting the traditions of the City of London and retains strong links with archery. Members of the Guild were delighted to join the Fletchers at their Hall for an evening reception and the second of our in-person Meet the Livery events.





## City of London Distillery Gin Tasting

City of London Distillery and  
Bar, London EC4Y 8DT  
Friday 1st May 2022

Guild members and guests enjoyed a juniper-infused evening at the City of London Distillery sampling the various gins and learning about the history of 'mother's ruin.' Now owned by Whitley Neill, it was noted that the City of London Gin bottle design is changing so members need to be fast online to get the original St. Paul's Cathedral inspired bottles (the Immediate Paster Master, Louise Starling, may have ordered six bottles in a panic ...)



## Inter-Livery Cask Race

Guildhall Yard,  
London EC2V 5AE  
Saturday 25th June 2022

The Inter-Livery Cask Race is an exciting new event run by the Coopers' Company, where teams from across the Livery will race off to be crowned cask race champions.

Participating teams of four persons rolled barrels provided by Hook Norton Brewery in Guildhall Yard in heats, before a thrilling race for the crown. Entries raised money towards the Coopers' Charity, primarily supporting those in hardship in Greater London and Surrey.

Young Freemen volunteered as marshals for the event and became fairly proficient Coopers by the end of it!



# The Household Division Beating Retreat

Horse Guards Parade,  
London W1D 5BR

6:30pm - 9:00pm,  
Tuesday 5th July 2022

Join other members of the Guild to watch 'The Sword & The Crown - a Military Musical Spectacular': a new setting of the annual Household Division Beating Retreat on the parade grounds at Horse Guards. Featuring the Band of the Honourable Artillery Company, the Band of the Royal Yeomanry, The Pipes & Drums of the London Scottish Regiment, and the Corps of Drums of The Honourable Artillery Company, this will be an evening of military pomp and precision not to be missed!

The dress code for this event is jacket and tie for gentlemen and an equivalent level of formality for ladies (smart dress or separates); no jeans or sports shoes.

Please Note: we have limited tickets for this event, so they will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. If we are unable to provide you with a ticket you will not be charged.

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





# The Annual Banquet

Apothecaries' Hall,  
Black Friars Lane,  
London EC4V 6EJ  
Friday 8th July 2022

This year's Annual Banquet was held at Apothecaries' Hall by the kind permission of the Master and Wardens of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries. The evening consisted of a drink's reception, followed by a sumptuous three-course dinner with wines, port, coffee, and chocolates.

Our guest speaker was the former Lord Mayor Sir David Wootton, who delivered an inspiring speech reminiscing his term as past President of the Guild and the progress the Guild has made since. Our President Alderman Timothy Hailes was also present as well as the Masters of the Playing Card Makers, Woolmen and the Clerk to the Glass-Sellers Livery Companies.



# ON THE CALENDAR UPCOMING EVENTS

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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 Sheep Drive

**Fishmongers' Hall, 110 Upper Thames St., London EC4R 3TJ**  
8:00am - 6:00pm, Sunday 25th September 2022



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. Coverage of the event is global with images syndicated across the world.

**Please note:** for those who have not attended a Sheep Drive before or are bringing guests: participation in this event is as a volunteer marshal, rather than to do a single drive. You (and

your guests) will be expected to volunteer for the full duration of the event.

**The event is free for Young Freemen and their guests and includes breakfast and a hot lunch. A standout event in our year, this event is truly one of a kind and not to be missed.**

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

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## The Lord Mayor's Show

**The Vestry of St. Michael's Cornhill, London EC3V 9DS**  
8:30am breakfast for 9:00am  
- 6:00pm, Saturday 12th November 2022



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. The day will begin with an early breakfast in the Vestry of St Michael's Cornhill (8:30am sharp), after which members and guests will robe and make their way to the float for the Procession which will pause on the Embankment for some much-needed libation around midday, before returning to the Guildhall where the Giants are displayed. After this, there will be an opportunity to watch the end of the parade whilst we make our way back to the vestry to deposit robes before rounding off what is expected to be a superb day with a two-course hot buffet and drinks reception at the City University Club.

**Tickets include breakfast, entry to the parade (which includes a light lunch at Embankment), as well as a two-course buffet with wine at the 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.**

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



# ON THE CALENDAR UPCOMING EVENTS

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## British Red Cross Christmas Market

**Guildhall, London EC2V 5AE**  
5:00pm - 9:00pm, Monday 21st  
November 2022



One of the Key charitable events in the City's calendar, the British Red Cross Christmas Market sees 100 stalls selling handmade and unique gifts fill Guildhall Yard, with other activities taking place in the Guildhall itself. The event is run by volunteers from a mixture of City organisations, and this year the Guild is privileged to be included in this.

Members of the Guild will act as stewards during the evening, assisting the British Red Cross in the organisation of attendees and stalls. The role of the stewards is vital to the success of the event, so members can be assured of a rewarding day of charity work at this fabulous philanthropic event.

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

## The Carol Service

**St. Michael's Cornhill, London EC3V 9DS**  
6:00pm - 7:00pm followed by  
drinks, Monday 5th December  
2022



The final event of 2022; the service will commence at 6:00pm in the Guild church, 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 Counting House next door, with nibbles and drink provided for members and their guests. We very much hope that you will be able join us to celebrate Christmas and our last event of the calendar year in the festive good cheer only Young Freemen know!

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

**Full details on all upcoming events can be found at**

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



# 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 Squire, EC2V 7HR
  5. Brewers' Hall, Aldermanbury Squire, EC2V 7HR
  6. Burchers' Hall, Bartholomew Bloose, EC1A 7EB
  7. Carpenters' Hall, Throgmorton Avenue, EC2N 2JJ
  8. Clothworkers' Hall, Dunster Court, Mincing Lane, EC3R 7AH
  9. Coopers' Hall, 13 Devonshire Squire, EC2M 4TH
  10. Cutlers' Hall, Wartwic 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, 6 Gresham Street, EC4V 2AL
- † St Michael's Church, Cornhill, EC3V 9DS  
 ■ St Paul's Cathedral, EC4M 8AD

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**Volume #3**

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**THE GUILD OF YOUNG FREEMEN**

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