



GILD OF FREEMEN  
OF THE CITY OF LEICESTER



# Gildhall News



*Making Free Ceremony 2nd October 2024*



THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL  
OF THE  
LEICESTER GILD OF FREEMEN



Number 104

November 2024

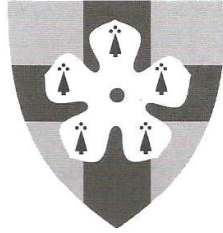
*Olympic Champ Visits Freeman's Holt*



*MacMillan's fund-raising Coffee Morning*



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Patron: Colonel Robert Martin OBE DL  
President: The Lord Mayor of Leicester

OFFICERS 2023–2024  
Master: M. Ballard  
Deputy Master: L. A. Roffee  
Clerk: (VACANT)  
Chamberlain: (VACANT)

WARDENS  
N. Cave,  
J. D. Lewitt,  
S. Freeman,  
K. Mardon (co-opted) & Jean Mardon

# **GILDHALL NEWS**

## **November 2024**

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## Editor's Comments

"If you wish to live and thrive, let a spider run alive."

— *Old saying*



It's that time of the year again—beautiful autumnal colours, especially when the sun shines; misty mornings; something magical about the darker nights and an extra hour in bed! – that's what makes autumn such a special time. But those cheeky spiders thinking they can come inside and spend the winter in our warm home can stay outside, thank you!

There's been a variety of events recently, including several Making Free Ceremonies, a Civic Service and a Mac-Millan's fund-raising Coffee Morning. Also, sadly, there was the funeral of Brian Mudford, who gave a considerable amount of his time to the Freeman of Leicester, including editing this newsletter for a number of years. We (that's me and my husband) took over from Brian in 2016 after patiently showing us the ropes – thank you Brian.

We've got some smashing contributions in this edition, which we hope you'll get the chance to have a read through, including a poem, a visit from an Olympic Champion and *'The changing face of Leicester'* will bring back fond memories of how things used to be. Thank you everyone for sending them in, it's always good to hear from you. If you'd like to share your memories or something about your family history, or perhaps you've got a pastime you'd like to share, we'd love to hear from you – so please put pen to paper, or fingers to keyboard. My contact details are on page 18.

*Val Moore*

## Report by Malcolm Ballard, Master of the Gild



How the weather changes so quickly from the nice warm sun to the downpours we have had! The heavy storms on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September brought a torrent so severe that we had our conservatory and garage flooded, fortunately it didn't get into the bungalow. We are still waiting for the insurance company to sort out the mess left behind.

There hasn't been a lot of activity with the Lord Mayor's office apart from a Civic Service on the 28<sup>th</sup> September at Leicester Cathedral, where five of us were robed and led a small procession.

There have been two ceremonies for new Freeman, the first being on Wednesday the second of October, when ten people were sworn in, in the presence of the Lord Mayor. The second ceremony was on Monday the fourteenth of October where eleven people were sworn in.

The Remembrance Day Service is from De Montfort Hall to the Arch of Re-

membrance and is on Sunday the tenth of November, where we will be robed and lead the procession. I hope the weather will be kind to us this year.

We will be holding a carol service at St Andrews Church (next to the Holt) on Monday the sixteenth of December. Please come along if you can, it would be good to see as many as possible in the church.

During November we would like to hold a Fish & Chip Supper with Bingo and a short quiz. As yet the date has not been fixed but we are hoping it will be around the middle of the month. It will be the same price as last year so as soon as the date is fixed you will receive a leaflet to fill in with the details.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable Christmas with family and friends, and I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year.

Malcolm Ballard  
Master of The Gild

### Report by Chair of the Board, Lynn Roffee



I hope this edition of the Gildhall News finds you well and in good health. We have had a busy period at Freeman's Holt since the last GHN. Since August, we have had a lot of work undertaken on the estate including fitting new intruder alarms in the office and community centre, two wet room renovations, a bungalow extensively renovated, and a flat roof replaced, with some planting out near the quiet garden area, amongst many other smaller jobs.

Work behind the scenes has continued producing a book written by one of our residents and previous Deputy, John Tolton, on the history of the Freeman of the City of Leicester. The progress of the book has unfortunately been slower than we would have liked but it is now moving in the right direction. The book will be of huge interest to all Freeman and hopefully the next edition of GHN will provide a publication update.

On 19<sup>th</sup> September, the Charity hosted the regional meeting for the Alms-house Association with thirty people attending from across the East Midlands. The attendees had the opportunity to tour the estate and were impressed with what they saw.

On 20<sup>th</sup> September, several Deputies and residents, Adam, and myself, attended the funeral of the late Brian Mudford. Brian had served as Deputy for many years and had been a former Chair of the Board. He had also served on the Gild Court for a long time, had been a former Master of the Gild and was the GHN Editor for many years. Brian resigned due to ill health from both the Board and Gild a couple of years ago.

A coffee morning was held on 30<sup>th</sup> September to support Macmillan Cancer Support on their annual coffee fund raising morning. Lots of homemade cakes and treats were brought in by Residents, Deputies and Staff which were fantastic. The "homemade" cake brought in by the Manager Adam Chilton, looked suspiciously like one that can be found on a shelf at Aldi, but it tasted nice,

nonetheless! We managed to raise £82 for Macmillan and had a lovely coffee morning too!

The forthcoming Christmas celebrations for Residents at Freeman's Holt includes a lunch outing to Kilworth Springs Golf Club and a visit by the Southfields Brass Band.

## **Freemen's Funday - Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

Please save this date for your diary. The full details of the event and invitations will be sent to all Freeman in the February 2025 Gildhall News.

### **Making Free Ceremonies**

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, Lucy Manship and I represented the Board of Deputies at the Making Free Ceremony, held in the Town Hall to Confer Hereditary Freedom of the City of Leicester to the following ten people:

*Mark Thomas Allen*

*Zoe Joanna Ayres*

*Allen Peter Hames*

*Phoebe Jessica Hames*

*Gregory Wilfred Kenney*

*Lily-Tai Linnell*

*Adam Peter Phillips*

*Lisa Ann Phillips (Staines)*

*Cathy Anne Rouse*

*Mary Dian Smith (nee Johnson)*

A second ceremony was held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October and Sue Freeman and I represented the Board of Deputies. The following eleven people were conferred their Hereditary Freedom: -

*Anita Lesley Bennett (nee Mortimer)*

*Toni Ann Bennett*

*William James Freer*

*Christopher Bill Hackett*

*Thomas Charles Lett*

*William Henry Lett*

*Danny Mortimer*

*Daisy Alice-Mortimer Mulingani (nee Mortimer)*

*Gregory Alex Patrick*

*Jack Leonard Patrick*

*Ria Rebecca Quinn (nee Patrick)*

On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all the new Freeman. Also, I would like to thank the Lord Mayor and the staff of the Member & Civic Support Office for arranging and hosting both ceremonies and to Kamal Adatia, City Barrister & Head of Standards who officiated the Oath. Thanks also to Brian, my husband, for taking the photos at the ceremonies.

## **Bungalow Vacancies**

We have two standard bungalows available which are ready to be allocated. Please contact the office if you would like more information. You are more than welcome to view the bungalows and estate.

The current Monthly Maintenance Contributions are:

Standard Bungalow - £174.68

Extended Bungalow - £244.51

## **Meeting Dates 2024**

The last Board Meeting in 2024 will be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December, 19:30.

All Freemen are very welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings which are held in the Community Centre at Freeman's Holt. Freemen can request copies of the minutes of these meetings – please contact the office if you would like a copy.

## **Charitable Payments**

We currently have two people who receive a monthly Charitable Payment. If you would like to apply for a Charitable Payment or want more information, please contact the office.

## **Receiving the Gildhall News via Email**

As you are aware, the costs of postage keep rising. The Board would be grateful if you could bear this in mind and choose to receive the Gildhall News electronically only via email. If you are happy not to receive a hard (i.e. printed) copy and to receive the Gildhall News via email instead, please contact the office to provide your details.

The Gildhall News and past editions are available to view on the Charity's website.

## **Website - Freeman's Cloud**

Just to make you aware, there is a section of the website called the '*Freemen's Cloud*.' Only Deputies and staff have access to this part of the website.

## **Contact Details**

Telephone - 0116 2834017

Email - office@leicesterfreemen.com

Address – 32 Freeman's Holt, Aylestone, Leicester, LE2 8NH.

Website – www.leicesterfreemen.co.uk



This is the last GHN of 2024 and, whilst it might be too early to be mentioning Christmas, may I, on behalf of the Board of Deputies, Adam and Sharon, wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and for those not celebrating the season, may I wish you Happy Holidays.

Kindest regards

Lynn Roffee  
Chair of the Board

## Programme of Future Events

Fish & Chip Supper — date to be arranged

Remembrance Service Sunday 10th November

Board Meeting Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30pm

Annual Pantomime Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December — all tickets have now been sold — contact Little Theatre direct if you still require tickets

Annual Freeman's Carol Concert on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm at St Andrew's Church, Aylestone, followed by refreshments of Mulled Wine and Mince Pies in the Community Centre at the Holt. **Cars should be parked at the Holt.**

Freemen's Funday—save the date—Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at Freeman's Holt. Further details to follow in February's edition of Gildhall News.

## Contributions to Gildhall News

### **The changing face of Leicester**

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of August this year Marks and Spencer's in Gallowtree Gate closed their doors on the public for the last time. They shut up shop, literally, for the last time. It has been there for as long as I can remember, and I was born in the middle of the war. M & S (as it is known today) has been situated on that site since 1930. Prior to its extension I, along with many others, would use it as a short cut to Fox Lane and the back entrance to Lewis's Department Store, another Leicester landmark that stood in the same place, from 1936 to 1993. Lewis's as a chain of stores went into liquidation in 1991, but the Leicester branch continued for two years after a management buyout under the name of 'Lewis's of Leicester'. The building was demolished in 1993 marking the end of Leicester's largest department store. Every year the store housed a Christmas Grotto with a visit from Father Christmas to the delight of the huge queues of children patiently waiting their turn to see him. Another annual feature in the store was the display of eggs in a large incubator each Easter that would hatch into a mass of fluffy yellow chicks.

Apart from M & S and Lewis's other major shops to close their doors to the public were Joseph Johnsons, taken over by Fenwick's who later themselves closed down a few years ago, Waring & Gillows, Marshall & Snelgrove, Morgan Squires, and the Co-op store in High Street.

The closure of shops has not been the only contributor to the changing face of Leicester. Public houses have disappeared at an alarming rate from the city centre and from the outlying areas. Such establishments as the White Swan, the Coventry Arms with its collection of brasses, the Crown & Thistle, and the Shakespeare are just a handful of the many pubs to close for business.

Social life was not dependant on the pubs. In my teenage years coffee bars were very popular, and in Leicester there was the Bond Street coffee bar, and the El Casa Bolero, better known as 'the Casa', owned by Mr & Mrs Pepper, who also owned a coffee bar in Queen Street opposite the Odeon, the name of which I cannot recall.

Mention of the Odeon brings to mind all the cinemas that have disappeared from the face of Leicester, not just in the city centre, but of the outskirts, including Oadby and Wigston. The Savoy, the Essoldo, the Picture House, the Cameo, the names go on and on. In the Leicester Mercury there were two columns listing the cinemas and the films being shown. A favourite in my childhood days was Saturday mornings at the ABC Minors at the Trocadero, where every break-age in the film gave rise to shouts of derision from a very vocal audience.

Finally, a major change in the face of Leicester from my early life was the loss of the Freeman's Common. It was a constant in my life from my childhood through to the year after I was made a freeman. My father had an allotment on the Common right up until the last part of the land was sold to the University and the gates were closed to the freemen for the last time.

I wonder what a time traveller from the 50's, or 60's, would make of Leicester today. No Palace Theatre or Opera House, no Bell Hotel, no policemen on a box at the Clock Tower directing traffic around the landmark, and no dodging electric powered bikes and scooters.

John Tolton

## **A Freeman Remembered: Edward Juba**

### **The first black man and ex-slave to become a Leicester Freeman.**

In 2003, the staff of The Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland started compiling an index relating to immigrants. It came about due to having had part of the National Archives exhibition "*From Strangers to Citizens*" displayed in their foyer at Wigston.

Pat Grundy, a former researcher at the Records Office, had a regular slot called "*News from the Record Office*" in the quarterly journal of Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland Family History Society (LRFHS). In the LRFHS Journal No.114 December 2003, Pat's item was about immigrants and included Edward Juba, a black slave, who was brought to the County. Below is an extract of what Pat wrote: -

*"It was fashionable in the eighteenth century for wealthy people to employ black boys as servants. They were known as Blackamoors\* and often dressed in exotic uniforms. They were sometimes baptised at the local church and at the end of their lives they appeared in burial registers.*

*One such man was Edward Juba who was a servant to Lord Wentworth of Kirkby Mallory. Edward must have been an exceptional character because, against all the conventions of the time, he grew up to become a Freeman.*

*He was thought to have been about ten years old when he was baptised, suggesting that he was born around 1724. Assuming that to have been correct, he would have been twenty-three years old when he was apprenticed to be a wool-comber and twenty-one years later, on 11 March 1768, Edward Juba became a Freeman.*

*Apprentices were not normally allowed to marry but Edward Juba married by licence in Leicester, a month after the start of his apprenticeship. His marriage to Anne Mugglestone lasted until her death in October 1768. She was buried at Earl Shilton where their children had been baptised. Edward himself was buried at Kirkby Mallory on 20 November 1774 in the place where his extraordinary life in England began”.*

Edward is believed to have come from Juba, in what is now known as South Sudan.

According to [Heritagegateway.org.uk](http://Heritagegateway.org.uk) website, Edward worked for Lord Wentworth for 13 years before he became an apprentice woolcomber in Peckleton. He was registered as an apprentice on 8th July 1747 and was made free on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1768. Extract from the Register of Leicester Freeman reads “*Edward Juba, a Black Moor, late servant of Lord Wentworth of Kirkby Mallory, co. Leic., p. to Thos. Hollyland of Peckleton, co. Leic., woolcomber from date £3 10s. 0d. “Qu. Service cleared.”*

On the BBC website, in an item now archived, Pat was reported as saying, “*He seems to have been very kindly treated there, and in his baptism entry, unusually, there are the names of three sponsors, one of whom is Wentworth himself.”*

Whilst Edward may have been thought well of, he had to undertake twenty-one years as an apprentice to become a qualified woolcomber.

\*Backamoor – Dictionary.com definition  
*archaic*

A Black African or other person with dark skin

Sensitive Note:

So called blackamoors, or Black Moors, were Black Slaves, originally enslaved North Africans, who worked in wealthy European households from 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The negative connotation of the term comes from its historical association with servitude and from the perception that Black Moors were strangely exotic. In 1596, Queen Elizabeth I targeted them for deportation.

*Lynn Roffee*

### **The recollections of Len Tolton – Part 3**

*[You may recollect in the last newsletter that Len had, after a quick wash and brush up, joined the army with the intention of giving the Kaiser a bloody nose. Well, things didn't work out quite as Len had intended.]*

For the first few weeks we trained at the Magazine and on Victoria Park in our

civilian cloths and then, having been issued with army cloths and equipment, went on to Luton. We were put in billets, myself with three others, occupying a front room in Park Street, drawing our rations daily which were cooked by the landlady of the house.

We were then issued with Japanese rifles, which I found to be very accurate, and I passed my firing test with ease. After a spell at Luton, we were sent to Hoddesdon to build trenches, and then returned to Luton. I volunteered for a draft to join the 1/4<sup>th</sup> who were then in France, but after it was found that I was only 17 I was returned to my unit.

We then went to St. Albans under canvas for the remainder of the summer of 1915, afterwards going into billets in Harpenden, and in early 1916 we returned to Luton.

At Easter we were sent to Ireland to help quell the rebellion, and after a rough voyage we landed at Kingstown from where we could see fires raging in Dublin. We then made our way along the railway line to Dublin, staying a night at Ballsbridge, and then on to occupy some new houses at Ringsend, I believe it was called.

*[There is an area in Dublin called Ringsend and Len would have passed through Ballsbridge to reach his destination from Kingstown, now better known as Dun Laoghaire – John Tolton]*

There was a lot of sniping going on and one of the Dublin police who was with us was shot in the leg, but that was the only excitement I saw.

I forgot to mention this before but by some queer army regulation I was a stretcher bearer. While in Luton our sergeant major asked if any of us knew anything about music, and as I had been taught to play the piano I stepped forward and was promptly made a stretcher bearer.

After the trouble had ended in Dublin we were sent to Fermoy, in the Old Barracks. Fermoy is a lovely town in the south of Ireland, and we spent a very happy ten months there, during which time I was injured in a collision with a car. After a spell in hospital I was sent on sick leave, crossing from Rosslare to Fishguard in a small fishing boat.

We were then sent to Salisbury Plain and early in 1917 were sent on to France, going over in an old paddle steamer. We landed at Le Havre and then on to the St Quentin area, traveling by train in trucks to hold 8 horses or 40 men at a speed of about 5 miles per hour. I remember that to brew up we would get off the train, run up to the engine, hold our mess tin under a pipe from the engine, when the driver would turn a wheel and pour boiling water into the tin. We would then wait for our truck to catch up and jump on again.

When we arrived at the Front the first sight that I had was a German plane shooting one of our dirigibles down in flames. Our first night in the trenches was in a reserve trench, in a salient with the Germans on three sides of us, and early in the morning we had heavy shelling from Jerry and four of our men were buried in a dugout. We got one of them out but he was dead, and it was decided to leave the others.

The same night we set off for the front line, through trenches which previ-

ously had been held by the French and were half full of mud. We set off with long waders on but most of us lost them on the way and I arrived at our dugout in stockings feet. Our dugout had previously had steps cut out but was now just a mud slide.

We had to live on bully beef and biscuits and tea and after several brews we ran out of water, so we filled our tins with water from an adjacent shell hole.

On the second night one of our young officers, in the early morning light, imprudently lifted his head above the trench and was promptly shot through the forehead, and when I reached him was already half buried in the mud. We could do nothing until nightfall, and then with the help of six men we tied a rope round him and hauled him out, having to stop and stand absolutely still every time Jerry sent up a flare, and as he was about 30 yards away it made a very trying time.

However, we made it, and carried him back from the top of the trenches to headquarters.

Two mornings after, Jerry retired from the salient to what was called the Hindenburg Line, and for the first few hours we thought the war was over, until some planes came over and bombed us. I remember going over to the shell hole we used to collect water from and in it we found two very dead bodies.

On going over to Jerry's front line, we discovered an amazing difference to our trenches, for it was spotless, and their reserve trenches were even better. They were very deep dugouts capable of holding over 100 men, with wire beds for their comfort. We had to be very careful for everywhere they had fitted booby traps.

Day by day we went forward carefully and found all buildings had been destroyed, and all cross roads had been blown up, leaving holes 100 feet deep and the same across. We only met the enemy once, when marching along a road, four deep, we were suddenly shelled by some small guns.

Eventually we came to the Hindenburg Line, and our great men in charge, who never came near enough to be hurt, ordered us to attack. Fortunately for our company we were in reserve, but those in front were expected to blow up a mass of barbed wire, and as we lay on the open ground, we could see the disastrous event, and as dawn broke, we retired.

Our next real encounter with the enemy was in front of Lens, and I can still remember their Minenwerfers, which were like a huge sausage with a small light, coming over at night and we would try to guess where they would fall and we would then dash the other way.

In the front line we were on one side that used to be a street and Jerry on the other side, and one night it was decided that some of our men would go over the top and capture one of the enemy. While waiting for the off I was busy in our cellar, which was equipped with a huge bed, boiling a dixie to brew some tea along with another man. We then heard a commotion and I remember saying "Let's hope that they all come back."

When suddenly down came three hand grenades setting fire to the old bed and blowing off some fingers of my companion and making a neat hole in my cheek. For the next few minutes, we kept very quiet, expecting Jerry had cap-

tered the trench, but fortunately it was just a raid, and we were very relieved when our men shouted down to us. It appeared that Jerry came over with a flame thrower.

After bandaging our wounds, we made our way back to the R.A.M.C. and then to hospital. After a few days there I was sent to a convalescent camp at Trouville, a most beautiful place, where I spent Christmas.

I almost forgot to mention that in September, before going to Lens, we have a spell of the most insane idea of our leaders, the attack on Passchendaele Ridge. Before going into the line, we were greatly encouraged to be told that in case our regiment was cut up no officer above the rank of lieutenant was to go with us.

As we went up to our position at midnight we met a lot of shellfire, one large shell dropping very near to our straggling line of men, and as I was in the rear along with my fellow stretcher bearers, I kicked what seemed to be a body, and on stooping down I groped along the body of a man until I reached his head, and I put my hand into his brains, for the top of his head had been blown off.

We carried him along until we reached a pillbox where we left him with the R.A.M.C.

On reaching the front line, which consisted of shell holes and captured pill boxes, we sat behind one of the pillboxes until dawn, when the usual barrage began, a most terrible ear shattering sound, and over the top we went, for about 200 yards, and then stopped.

The barrage then stopped and out came some Jerries carrying Red Cross flags and stretchers, and collected their wounded, while we did the same, but without flags.

The next night we lay in a shell hole until dawn, and down came the usual barrage. One shell exploded at the side of our shell hole blowing me about 20 feet into the air. When I landed, I felt a terrible pain in my stomach and I thought my inside had gone, but fortunately it was only bruised. I crawled to another shell hole and after the barrage stopped went back to my original shell hole, only to find my comrades frantically digging for my body.

*To be continued with Len surviving to the end of the war to return to a peacetime England.*

*John Tolton*

## **News from the Freeman of England and Wales Association (FEW) FEW 2024 AGM**

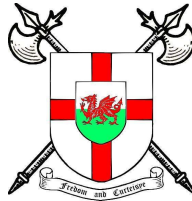
Unfortunately the required quorum of member Guilds was not reached by the closing date, so instead an internet 'Zoom' meeting has been arranged for the 19<sup>th</sup> October. Clearly the long journey to Berwick near the Scottish border was too much for most members. AGM and Court meetings are held at the invitation of member Guilds and Courts Leet, the March 2025 Court meeting is scheduled for Chester. Last one held at the Freeman's Holt was in March 2022.

## Roundup of other South Midlands FEW Area member's news.

On 8<sup>th</sup> October just shy of 20 applicants were admitted as Freemen of Coventry by the Lord Mayor in the Council Chamber, all new Freemen have 12 months free Guild membership. Coventry has no hereditary route to City Freedom – satisfactory completion of a 5 year local apprenticeship is the necessary qualification. When bookings for the annual Coventry & Leicester skittles match at the Barnacle Village Hall finally became available in late August, a date of 11<sup>th</sup> October was agreed, but as just less than 30 Coventry & Leicester members applied, there would not be a bar – so the event was cancelled. However, well done to Malcolm Ballard for enlisting 10 Leicester skittlers. Coventry Guild's Christmas Dinner will be on 7<sup>th</sup> December at the Hearsall Golf Club, at 33 Beechwood Avenue CV56DF. Contact is Guild Clerk Tony Archer on 01926-851439 or e-mail anthonaa@hotmail.com and Leicester Gild members would be welcome to attend.

The Henley-in-Arden and Warwick Courts Leet have concluded their traditional 'Trading Standards' type assessments of local fish & flesh, butter & bread etc, just the Ale Tasting rounds are currently in progress, with support from fellow Alcester and Bromsgrove Courts Leet. AGM's of Courts Leet are also in progress, where new Officers are elected and installed, and charity monies raised during the year agreed for distribution.

Derek Austin



## A Winning Formula!

One of the residents at Freemen's Holt very proudly asked if we would like to include his granddaughter's poem in the Gildhall News.

*A poem by Freya Branson, Age 13, the granddaughter of Michael & Jean Ayres and daughter of Trevor & Nicola Branson:*

### Charles Leclerc

The number sixteen on the front of my car  
The red of Ferrari, the best team by far  
At the front of the grid waiting for the lights to go out  
I can win this race, without a doubt

The lights go out and I'm still in the lead  
Taking the corners at amazing speed.  
Half way through, and I'm still on top  
Time to get ready for my pit stop

Tyres are changed, and I'm in front of Lewis and Max  
Just behind them are the rest of the pack  
One more lap until the chequered flag  
Don't crash now, the race is in the bag.

Across the line and I'm in first place  
Twenty-five points for winning the race  
On top of the podium, number one position  
On to the next race, a victory is my mission.

Freya Branson  
Wigston Academy

(Freya's poem has been entered into a competition—let's hope she wins, though we think she's a winner anyway!)

## Olympic Champ Visits Freeman's Holt!

Gold Medal Olympian, Lauren Henry, recently paid a visit to a couple of her very proud relatives, John and Joan Jesson, who live at Freeman's Holt.

Lauren won Gold in the Women's Quadruple Sculls rowing competition in a thrilling final in the Paris Olympic Games 2024. The team's medals were presented by HRH Princess Anne.

Lauren was keen to thank John and Joan for their interest and support in her rowing career, especially in the run up to the Olympics, and she wanted to show them her gold medal.



Lauren began her rowing career in Leicester as a teenager. Here's a piece from her blog:

*"I started rowing at Leicester Rowing Club on the Grand Union Canal, behind the King Power Stadium, when I was 13 years old. I fell in love with the sport, the feeling of being out on the water and being able to push myself to be the very best that I can be. I am still a member of Leicester Rowing Club and feel very proud to represent Leicester on the biggest stage."*

The Jesson Family



## Apologies

We sincerely apologise to Paula Palaethorpe for getting your name wrong in the last edition of Gildhall News. Paula did a grand job, together with Janet, in organizing and manning the Tombola stall at this summer's Garden Party.

We are aware that not all the individual photos from the Making Free Ceremonies have been included in this edition of Gildhall news—unfortunately, due to a technical problem, some of the photos were blurred and not considered good enough to be included. However, if we've missed you out and you have your own photo of the event which you'd like us to include in a later edition, then please send it to the editor (preferably by email). Perhaps you would also like to write a few lines about yourself and/or your family history.

### **GILD VACANCIES**

If you have a little time to spare, the Gild has the following vacancies, and would appreciate your support:

#### **Chamberlain for the Leicester Gild of Freeman**

We need a Gild Chamberlain to take over the Gild's book-keeping, and to organize social activities and outings for Gild Members and their families, residents of Freeman's Holt and, indeed, the Freeman of Leicester in general.

#### **Clerk for the Leicester Gild of Freeman**

A Gild Clerk is needed to liaise with Gild Members, the Lord Mayor's office and other Special Guests, to arrange events and meetings, and to pass on relevant information.

#### **We also need someone to deal with the Gild Product orders**

Anyone interested should contact  
Malcolm Ballard on 07775 791 144  
for an informal chat about what's involved

## ***Have you changed your address?***

In the event that is necessary to inform the Gild or the Board of any change in circumstances, the information should be sent to:

**Leicester Freeman's Deputies  
32 Freeman's Holt  
Old Church Street  
Aylestone  
Leicester LE2 8NH**

Telephone: **0116 283 4017**

E-mail: [office@leicesterfreemen.com](mailto:office@leicesterfreemen.com)

Leicester Freeman website: [www.leicesterfreemen.co.uk](http://www.leicesterfreemen.co.uk)

***Copy for the next issue should reach the Editor  
by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025***

Write with your suggestions and contributions to:

**Val Moore  
24 Freeman's Holt  
Leicester  
LE2 8NH**

Telephone: **0116 429 3947**

E-mail: [valmoore2@gmail.com](mailto:valmoore2@gmail.com)

**Leicester Freeman website:** [www.leicesterfreemen.co.uk](http://www.leicesterfreemen.co.uk)

**Gild e-mail address:** [leicester\\_gild@outlook.com](mailto:leicester_gild@outlook.com)

**Facebook:** search for "Leicester Gild"

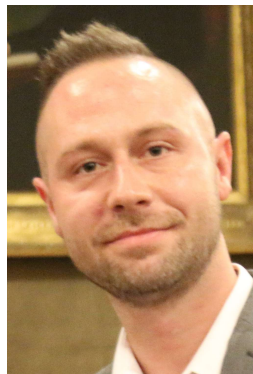
***Made Free 2024!***



***Allen P Hames***



***Cathy A Rouse***



***Gregory A Patrick***



***Danny Mortimer***



***Daisy A M Mulingani***



***Jack L Patrick***



***Zoe J Ayres***



***William H Lett***



***Ria R Quinn***



*Making Free Ceremony 14th October 2024*

**The Gild of Freemen of the City of Leicester**  
**GILD PRODUCTS ORDER FORM**

- |  |                          |          |
|--|--------------------------|----------|
| 1. Tie- navy   | ..... at £10.00 each     | = £..... |
| - green  | ..... at £10.00 each     | = £..... |
| 2. Gild Scarf  | ..... at £15.00 each     | = £..... |
| 3. Lapel Badge                                       | ..... at £2.50 each      | = £..... |
| 4. Cufflinks   | ..... at £16.00 per pair | = £..... |
| 5. Gild Pens   | ..... at £3.00 each      | = £..... |
| 6. Gown, made to measure,<br>(includes delivery)     | ..... price on request   | = £..... |
| 7. Register of the Freemen of Leicester<br>1986–1996 | £2.50 each               | = £..... |
| 8. Register of the Freemen of Leicester<br>1931–1985 | £3.50 each               | = £..... |

plus postage\* £3.20 second class  
£3.95 first class

**TOTAL = £.....**

I enclose cheque for the above total, made payable to:  
**“Gild of Leicester Freemen”**

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

..... POST CODE .....

EMAIL ADDRESS .....

TELEPHONE:.....

Signed .....

Please post to:

**Malcolm Ballard, 5, Snowdrop Close, Narborough, Leics LE19 3YB**

Tel: 0116 286 1507 or email: romalc@btinternet.com

\*Please note that any orders at and above £20 will need to be sent by recorded delivery at £7.25 (contact Malcolm for further details)



**GILD OF FREEMEN OF THE CITY OF LEICESTER**  
**Application for Full Membership**

Full Name .....  
(BLOCK LETTERS)

Address .....

..... Post Code .....

Tel No.: ..... email address .....

I am a duly sworn Freeman of the City of Leicester and apply to be enrolled as a Member of the Gild of Freeman, for which I enclose the sum of £10.00 (Enrolment fee of £1.00 plus the first annual subscription of £9.00).

Signature.....Date .....

**Application for Associate Membership**

Full Name .....  
(BLOCK LETTERS)

Address .....

..... Post Code .....

Tel No. ....e-mail address .....

I certify that I am the (please delete where applicable) SPOUSE / WIDOW / WIDOWER / SON / DAUGHTER / GRANDCHILD, aged 18 years or over of

Mr / Mrs / Ms .....(Freeman of Leicester)

**Or**

I am a full member of the Guild of Freeman of.....(City or Town)

I apply to be enrolled as an Associate Member of the Gild, for which I enclose the sum of £7.00 (Enrolment Fee of £1.00 plus the first Annual Subscription of £6.00)

Signature.....Date .....

Please make cheques payable to 'Gild of Leicester Freeman'  
and send with this application to:

**Malcolm Ballard, 5 Snowdrop Close, Narborough, Leics LE19 3YB**





**RENEWAL OF GILD MEMBERSHIP**  
*(Payment by Cheque)*  
**FOR THE YEAR 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2024 – 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2025**

I would like to pay the annual subscription for my membership/associate membership of the Gild for the year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024

Membership .....at £9.00 = £.....

Associate Membership .....at £6.00 = £.....

My name is (BLOCK CAPITALS).....

My address is (BLOCK CAPITALS).....

.....

Post code.....Telephone.....

e-mail address.....

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £.....

made payable to “**Gild of Leicester Freemen**”

Please post to:

**Malcolm Ballard,  
5, Snowdrop Close,  
Narborough,  
Leics LE19 3YB**

Any queries, please phone Malcolm on **0116 286 1507**

# RENEWAL OF GILD MEMBERSHIP

*(Payment by Standing Order)*

*(Kindly complete where marked by all dotted lines)*

To: **Malcolm Ballard,**  
**5, Snowdrop Close,**  
**Narborough,**  
**Leics LE19 3YB**

Date.....20.....

I, .....

agree to pay my Annual Subscription to the Gild of Leicester Freemen on 1<sup>st</sup> April each year by means of the signed Standing Order that I have sent to my bank.

I understand that the annual subscriptions at present are £9.00 for a full member and £6.00 for an associate member, and that I can stop or amend this Standing Order simply by giving instructions to my bank.

Signature.....

Address.....

.....

..... Post code .....

Tel. No.....

email .....

**Please complete the Standing Order form below,  
and send it to your Bank Manager**

**STANDING ORDER – PLEASE SEND TO YOUR BANK MANAGER**

To: The Manager.....Bank Plc

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Please pay to:- **Lloyds Bank Plc,  
Old Market Square Branch,  
Nottingham NG1 6FD**

(Bank Sort Code **30-96-18**)

For the account of the **Gild of Leicester Freeman** (Account No. 01409164)

the sum of £.....,

commencing 1st April 20....., and yearly thereafter until further notice.

.....(my surname and initial/s)

Name of account to be debited.....

Account No.....

Signature.....Date..... 20.....

Address.....

.....

Postcode .....

