

THE NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE  
*freeman*  
MAGAZINE





The Coat of Arms of the City of Newcastle upon Tyne.



The Badge of the Guild of the Freemen of Newcastle upon Tyne.



### Front Cover Picture Town Moor Gate Forsyth Road

Design by **Andy McDermott** local craftsman. Depicting at the base rig and furrows, the halberds –with which the Freemen protected the City, the top line reflecting the undulations of the hills and the 'spoked' wheel can be either the passing of time or the rays of the sun which sets behind to the west.

# Foreword



**WELCOME** to the inaugural edition of our new magazine, which builds upon the Guild Newsletter, that for many years has served to keep Freemen, friends and colleagues in touch on a range of issues.

At the outset, may I express a big thank you to Alan Robson Steward of the Bakers and Brewers, who with such dogged determination has ensured the Newsletter was sustained and distributed, Alan and rightly so has persuaded the Steward Committee (the executive of twelve Stewards, who are elected at the Michaelmas Guild on an annual basis by the Incorporated Companies of the Freemen of

Newcastle upon Tyne to manage the day to day affairs of the Freemen) to more effectively communicate through this particular medium. We were delighted to respond and I hope this magazine, which we intend to publish on a bi-annual basis, will prove to be informative and even at times provocative.

As guardians of the Newcastle Town Moors, the Freemen of the City have a pivotal role to play in caring for this highly treasured environmental asset. The responsibility that falls upon the shoulders of the Stewards Committee, in maintaining this open space so that the public at large can enjoy traditional rights of 'air and exercise' should never be underestimated.

Feedback is very much welcomed. Do not hesitate to get in touch and let us know of your views. Ideas whether in relation to this publication or the commitment of the Freemen in all that we do, are actively encouraged.

**L R Fenwick CBE**  
Chairman, Stewards Committee



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# New look



**I**n the 1970's the Gild of Freemen was publishing an A5 mono-colour booklet for its membership - the "Gild magazine". It changed to an A4 "Newsletter" when Alan Robson took the job of Editor 20 years ago. The publication remained as an A4 newsletter, albeit with a few changes in format, until the July 2006 issue.

Today, thanks to the financial backing of the Steward's Committee, the format of the publication has been revised, giving it an image worthy of the Freemen of Newcastle upon Tyne. (The decision to revert to

A5 size was made to circumvent the new postal charges) The publication will be issued twice a year, in May and November.

It will be mailed to all Freemen of Newcastle upon Tyne and include some widows and daughters with whom contact is kept. To ensure you continue to receive a copy it is important that we have your current and correct address on the database in Moor Bank Lodge. Therefore please ensure that Mrs. P. Ansell (Administrator) is notified quickly of any change of address. Likewise, if you know

of any Newcastle upon Tyne Freeman who is not receiving The Newcastle upon Tyne Freemen Magazine, get them to write to Mrs P. Ansell. You will find Mrs Ansell's contact details at the back of the publication.

This publication will continue to give news on what is currently happening within the freelage of Newcastle upon Tyne and also nationally within the Freemen of England and Wales. We will also maintain our educational roll with regard to the historical connections of Freemen, the City of Newcastle and the duties and

benefits associated with being a Freeman of Newcastle upon Tyne.

Should you wish to contribute any items please send your ideas to the Editorial Team, (Alan Robson, Jim Johnson and Pat Ansell) to Moor Bank Lodge Clarendon Road Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4NL. or e-mail [freemenmagazine@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:freemenmagazine@tiscali.co.uk), for consideration ,they will be welcome!

The Editorial Team hope you like the new format and enjoy reading its content! Editorial team

**N.B.**

The Gild of Freemen - facilitate the 'social' side of matters, whilst the Stewards Committee of the Freemen and Town Moor Money Charity, by statute, deal with charitable and business matters relating to management and lettings and use of the Town Moor.

# committee members



City Mace Bearer

City Sword Bearer

Front Row - left to right

H.D.Wilson, K.Hall, Councillor Diane Packham Lord Mayor, L.R.Fenwick,  
Chairman of the Stewards Committee, P.Anderson and I.F.Miller.

Back Row - left to right,

D.M.Lowdon, A.R.Bainbridge, S.A.Alderson, Vice Chairman, S.Ovens City Council Acting  
Head of Administration, R.M.Grey, W.G.Frizzle, J.Johnson, and F.H.Alder.



## The Hoppings

THE weather was kind for the Town Moor Hoppings again this year.

Improved supply of waste bins helped with site cleaning and there was little ground reinstatement required. However the world cup affected numbers attending the event and Car Park receipts were down 21%.

There was some vehicular damage to the service road and repair work has been carried out. Problems, which arose with conduct on site, were brought to the attention of the Showmen and dealt with.

Figures have not been finalised but signs are there will be an operating surplus, which is split 50/50 with the City Council. Once again this year the Town Moor has either hosted or facilitated many events.

# committee report

## Town Moors.

AFTER a long cold and wet start to the year, conditions changed drastically. The grazing was very good in late spring, then due to the scorching hot weather and lack of rain there was concern about the lack of grass growth (No wonder farmers grumble about the weather!). Some grazers reduced numbers for a period, and recently brought some cows back for the last few weeks. All in all, the beasts have done well this year. This season there were 551 cattle decanted onto the various Town Moors and calvings temporarily lifted the numbers, however mothers and calves are returned to the farm as soon as possible.



## Footpaths cycleways

PHASE 1 of the major scheme by the City Council to upgrade the footpaths/cycleways across the Town Moor was completed satisfactorily before the grazing season began. Phase 2 (from Kenton Road/Grandstand Road junction to Claremont Road) will commence as soon as possible following the removal of the cattle on the 31st October. The final stage of Phase 2 incorporates the removal of old lighting columns and the link up and switch on of the new lights and CCTV cameras.



## Castle Leases Moor

PLANNING permission was granted for the reinstatement of traditional metal fencing of Castle Leases Moor on 20th April, work began on the specially manufactured posts and rails to reflect the original 19th century specification.

Installation commenced on 2nd October it is an anticipated 3 months programme, at a budget of £117,000. An application for a grant from the Heritage Lottery was refused as it was viewed as being Renovation rather than Preservation, despite there still being a small section of the original fence remaining.

This project will improve the security of grazing stock, hopefully cutting down on repairs and call outs due to vandalism of timer fencing, but above that it is an environmental improvement linking with the Victorian park, which was originally Town Moor land.

## Working with the City Council

ARISING out of representation by Mr Fenwick (Chairman of the Stewards Committee) at Guild and also to the Chief Executive and leader of the City Council, a new structure to joint meetings with the City Council Officers has been put in place. The Freemen consider this to be a more open forum with greater transparency and partnership, the first meeting will take place on 24th October 2006. Whilst the terms of reference and inherent powers remain limited and do not reflect those of the former Town Moor Joint Sub Committee this is a positive step forward and is welcomed.

# committee report

## Nuns Moor (North)

The major reclamation scheme on Nuns Moor, Cowgate steam, (Devils Burn) which primarily involved extensive drainage work has been satisfactorily completed, the improvement is visible! A rustic post and restraining wire fence has been installed to protect both works and cattle. The drainage work and ancillary costs meant a total spend of £42,724.43. Three pedestrian bridges are required to complete the scheme. A specialist bridge manufacturer has been awarded the contract to remove, supply and install the 4m, 6m and 7m bridges, complete with self closing latch gates. The cost of this work is £35,000. The Freemen have received praise from the City Council and rightly so, not only for improvement of the area also covering the cost.

## Nuns Moor (South)

Another area of Town Moor which required drainage work to link up runs to the correct catchment pit. This was carried out in September at a cost of and £5,949 there is already a visible improvement to an area, which was subject to ponding.

## The Borough Freedom

(Family Succession) Bill re Lady Freeman

THE Bill was scheduled to be read in the House of Commons on 20th October, regrettably, the House ran out of time and remaining Bills were deferred. At the time of publication the rescheduled date is not available, should you wish to check progress of the Bill the web site address is - [www.bills.ais.co.uk](http://www.bills.ais.co.uk)

# committee report

## Dukes Moor

THE Kenton Road /Grandstand Road Allotments site is set to be vacated in December 2006 and a Winter works programme will then progress to incorporate the area into the adjoining Dukes Moor.

Due to vandalism and theft six trees have been replaced, and four new trees have been planted on Dukes Moor and are doing well. To complete the refurbishment of the Blue House landscaping and the driveway facility have been completed. In addition a brick boundary wall adjoining Grandstand Road was constructed to replace the piling fence line. The garden was planted with environmentally friendly structural shrubs and hedging, the tenant (a member of staff) has introduced his own under planting. The cost of the wall £7,400, planting of both areas, £383 and all in all this has enhanced the area as a whole.

It is hoped that this will give readers a small insight into the unseen work, which is necessary to maintain this vital open space in good condition. It is not always easy, juggling staff time etc., to meet the many demands on the Town Moors whilst still maintaining the grazing pasture and it is the Freeman's grazing rights, enshrined in the Newcastle upon Tyne Town Moor Act, which protect this valuable asset to the City.



## St. Mary Magdalene & Holy Jesus Trust

WE wish to bring to the attention of our new readers, and to remind Freeman, that there are vacancies in Freeman designated accommodation in the bungalows of the St. Mary Magdalene & Holy Jesus Trust.

Trustees are appointed by the Church, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, City Council, voluntary sector and the Freeman. The charity exists mainly to provide sheltered housing to those with limited means. All applicants have to meet certain financial criteria, although each application is considered on its own merit. There is an allocation of accommodation afforded to the Freeman of Newcastle upon Tyne over the age of 50 years (married couples or single), or a widow or unmarried daughter of a Freeman living in Newcastle upon Tyne. The definition of "unmarried daughter" also includes a daughter who is a widow or divorcee.

The bungalows in Spital Tongues provide a safe and friendly atmosphere, with home help and personal assistance available to

those who may require these services. There is a main dining room where residents can enjoy a mid-day meal if they do not feel like cooking for themselves and regular social activities are arranged, should you wish to

“  
Existing residents affectionately call it their “Shangri-la”, as they are convinced that living there adds at least 10 years to their life span! ”

participate. Existing residents affectionately call it their “Shangri-la”, as they are convinced that living there adds at least 10 years to their life span!

St. Mary Magdalene & Holy Jesus Trust offers self-contained independent living, set in private landscaped gardens just a short bus ride from the City centre.

Applicants are given every opportunity to look around the Trust's properties and facilities before taking the decision to accept a property. Looking at the location and benefits- this is an opportunity which should be given serious consideration if you are looking to 'downsize' and cut your overheads!

For economic reasons, bungalows allocated to Freeman use can not continue to remain empty and could be reallocated. Should you, or anyone you know who meets the qualifications and may be interested in this accommodation, please contact:

Miss Sharon Hepple,  
General Manager, St Mary Magdalene & Holy Jesus Trust,  
Claremont Road,  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4NN

Telephone number  
0191 2697920. Email:  
[st.marymagdalene@btconnect.com](mailto:st.marymagdalene@btconnect.com)





# Town Moor Money Charity

UNDER the Newcastle upon Town Moor Act 1988, the Stewards' Committee is empowered to designate a limited proportion of the Town Moor as "Intakes". It is the rents arising from the lease of intakes which provide income for the Town Moor Money Charity.

Grants are available from the Town Moor Money Charity for Freemen of Newcastle upon Tyne, their widows and their daughters. Such grants means tested are made towards living expenses, education or help towards the purchase of mobility aides.

From the age of 18, sons and

daughters of Freemen of Newcastle upon Tyne can apply on their own behalf for assistance in meeting their financial obligations in higher education. However, it is important to remember that a son of a Freeman of Newcastle upon Tyne is eligible to become a Freeman himself at the age of 20 years. Therefore he must take up the freelage if his education grant is to continue past the age of 19 years. As the law stands at the moment, daughters of Freemen are naturally not affected by this stipulation and their grant will automatically continue at 20 years and beyond.



Whether you are a Freeman of Newcastle upon Tyne, a Freeman's widow, daughter or son in need of financial assistance, your application is made in the same way. You must request an official 'green' form from the Senior Steward of the Incorporated Company, which your father's/ late husband's was a member. The Town Moor Money Charity Trustees will require full details, therefore the applicant and the Senior Steward must ensure that the forms are completed correctly. If the required assistance is in connection with higher education, course details should be provided on a separate sheet of paper. The completed form must be returned to your Company Senior Steward who will forward it onto the Trustees for consideration.

Grants for the Town Moor Money Charity are paid out in June and December each year. Once the first grant has been awarded a form will be automatically sent out in time for the next distribution.

In cases of extreme hardship, the Trustees may consider applications outside of the normal distribution dates by calling an Extraordinary Meeting.

If you do not know the name and address of the appropriate Senior Steward, this can be obtained from the web site [www.freemenofnewcastle.org](http://www.freemenofnewcastle.org) or Mrs P. Ansell, Administrator, Moor Bank Lodge, Claremont Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4NL.

Cases have come to light where an applicant has struggled financially for many years, unaware that help was at hand. It is worth completing an application form, the forms are not complicated, and the answer will be a simple 'yes' or 'no'!

Should you be aware of someone within your family who is in need of financial aid, and meets the criteria, please encourage them to apply. Unless they submit the first 'green' application form they will never know if they qualify for assistance!

In the June 2006 distribution, the Town Moor Money Charity paid out £63,337.00 to 211 beneficiaries (33 of whom were students).

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# A message from the Master of the guild



IT was of great disappointment that the Horse Racing night had to be cancelled because of lack of interest. It's disheartening for the Guild Court of Assistance members after months of planning to put on events and not get enough response from Guild members to attend.

In the last Guild newsletter I ask members for some ideas on the activities you would like to

be arranged, but to date not one member has come up with any ideas. This is your Guild and we would like to see more members becoming involved in its activities.

Ok, now I have got that of my chest, let's start to look forward to the festive season. Already, shops have their Christmas stocks on show, there are even houses already decorated with lights appearing on TV news, and the Guild is already planning the Christmas Buffet. This is always a good time to meet fellow Guild members and their families and enjoy good food and a few drinks. This is a popular event so if you have not attended before, why not make the effort and come along. To do so, get your booking form returned to the

Gild Hon. Treasurer before the 11th December.

Those Newcastle Freeman who are not members of the Guild, and would like to join, you can obtain application forms from the Hon. Treasurer of the Guild. His address is at the back of this journal.

My time as Master of the Guild has flown by. I only have 6 months left before I hand over to the current Senior Warden. I have enjoyed my time in the chair and thank all those who have support me in my role.

As this is the last newsletter of the year, may I be the first to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

**Leslie Hogarth**  
Master of the Newcastle  
Guild of Freeman



## Christmas present suggestions



A Freeman of Newcastle silk tie bearing the Newcastle upon Tyne Coat of Arms (a choice of single crest or repeat crest is available). You must obtain an order form from your Company Stewards. Sales of the silk ties are dealt with at Moor Bank Lodge by mail order only. Price per tie (including packing and postage is only £21.

Alternatively, as a stocking filler, The Newcastle Guild of Freeman have their own ties which you can buy direct from their Hon. Treasurer. Price £7.00 each (including P&P). They are not silk, but are very smart with a single under-knot woven Guild crest. Tie available in navy blue or maroon.

Also available from the Guild Hon. Treasurer are ceremonial robes, complete with the Newcastle upon Tyne Guild badge. Price only £44 each (including P&P)



# Lincoln Weekend

A report by Captain Stephen Healy (Gild Senior Warden)

SO yet again the jamboree in some far-flung borough, as the Association Freeman of England and Wales held its Annual General Meeting and social weekend. This time, the "yellowbellies" of Lincoln were the generous and amiable hosts.

As we approached Lincolnshire on the drive down, we had our "I-spy" books to hand, but strangely failed to notch up maximum points by spotting any combine harvesters. All

went well until the outskirts of Lincoln itself, whereupon a devilish temporary one-way system conspired to confuse many attendees, including some of the locals! The need for negotiating this hazard was the location of the event hotel, which was right in the city centre and had the most spectacular view of the Cathedral, at least out of our window. Worth the effort around the road-works for that alone.

A varied and interesting cultural

programme complemented the official business, ranging from a tour of Lincoln's tiny, very quaint and genuinely historic Guild Hall to a visit to a modern museum, the most interesting feature of which, to my mind, was a huge aerial photograph of the whole county. Knowing of the importance of Lincolnshire in supporting the efforts of Bomber Command and the US Eighth Air Force in the Second World War, I was interested to count no less

than 52 airfields, or the remains of such, on that photograph.

Entertainment included talks on the famous riots in 1911 (some of the Lincoln Freeman seemed to know an uncomfortable amount of detail about these!!!) and the origins of the strange nickname afforded to residents of the City (there seems to be an ongoing debate similar to that surrounding the term "Geordie"), to a local folk singer, complete with piano accordion, who told stories and sang songs about local places and characters, the finale of which, naturally enough, was the "Lincolnshire Poacher".

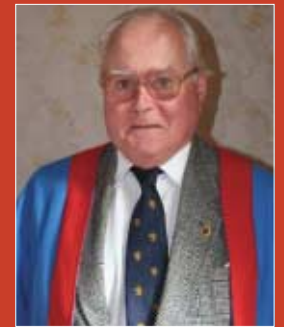
Throughout the weekend, our hosts proudly showed off their local fare and we had the opportunity to sample locally-raised hams, beef and duck, locally-produced cheeses and locally-grown vegetables. The formal banquet on the Saturday night, held in the assembly rooms, was indeed particularly enjoyable.

The annual church parade was as usual highly colourful, with robes of every hue to be seen as the procession made its way from the Castle square to the Cathedral. In defiance of the weather forecast and obviously because of the presence of the Freeman, the sun shone that morning. Interestingly, once in the Cathedral, the Freeman were seated around and behind the choir, which gave us the rare opportunity to appreciate them in action from close quarters (And no, they don't do crosswords or play on "Gameboys" between hymns).

Yet again, being part of the affairs of Freeman on a national scale, meeting and enjoying the company of friends old and new and exploring the home of another group of Freeman proved of pleasure and value. Newcastle, Durham and Alnwick were all represented in Lincoln and we look forward already to Leicester in 2007.



The Newcastle upon Tyne representatives.  
Mr & Mrs Sam Lee, Joe Petty, Capt. & Mrs Stephen Healy.



Mr J.W.N. Petty

## FEW WARDEN OF THE NORTH

FORTY years ago the Freeman of Newcastle upon Tyne were founder Guild Members of a national Association - The Freeman of England. Today that Association encompasses Wales and is now known as The Freeman of England and Wales (FEW for short).

The FEW Warden of the North of England is Mr J.W.N. Petty - a Freeman of Newcastle upon Tyne and Senior Steward of the Hostmen's Company. Mr Petty is also the Chairman of the FEW Association's Trustees.

As FEW Warden Mr Joe Petty is the area representative of the President of the Freeman of England and Wales Association. Therefore if you have any questions relating to FEW activities or Individual Membership, these can be channelled locally through Mr J.N.W. Petty, 7 Wentworth Grange, The Grove, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 1NL.

Telephone 0191 2850591

# Diary

## Monday 11th December 2006

Newcastle Gild of Freemen Meeting, upstairs in the Newcastle Guildhall, starting at 7.30 p.m.

## Saturday 16th December 2006

Newcastle Gild of Freemen Christmas Buffet, upstairs in the Newcastle Guildhall, upstairs in the Newcastle Guildhall, starting at 12 Noon.

*Booking forms must be returned to the Gild Hon. Treasurer before the 11th December 2006.*

## Monday 15th January 2007

Christmas Guild, upstairs in the Newcastle Guildhall (on Quayside, bottom of Dean Street)

Close Court of Guilds (for Company Stewards only) starts at 10AM

Open Court of Guilds (for all Freemen of Newcastle upon Tyne) starts at 12 noon prompt

You must be seated by 12 Noon for the Open Guild in readiness to receive the Lord Mayor.

After the proceedings, buffet lunch is available in the Merchant Adventurers Room.

## Monday 12th March 2007

Newcastle Gild of Freemen Meeting, upstairs in the Newcastle Guildhall, starting at 7.30PM.

## Monday 16th April 2007

Easter Guild, upstairs in the Newcastle Guildhall (on Quayside, bottom of Dean Street)

Close Court of Guilds (for Company Stewards only) starts at 10AM

Open Court of Guilds (for all Freemen of Newcastle upon Tyne) starts at 12 noon prompt

You must be seated by 12 Noon for the Open Guild in readiness to receive the Lord Mayor.

After the proceedings, buffet lunch is available in the Merchant Adventurers Room

## Monday 14th May 2007

Newcastle Gild of Freemen Head Meeting (AGM) upstairs in the Guildhall, starting at 7.30PM

## Sunday 20th May 2007

Freemen of Newcastle upon Tyne Annual Church Parade, held in the Cathedral Church of St. Nicholas.

Robing in the Cathedral Library at 9.00.a.m. for commencement of parade into the Cathedral at 9.15 a.m. with the Lord Mayor.

*(Should you need to borrow a robe, please advise the Hon. Treasurer of the Gild of Freemen.)*

As the Freemen's Church parade, attended by the Lord Mayor, it is vital that there is a good turn out!



# Contact

## Freemen of Newcastle upon Tyne

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Fax. 0191 2324677

Email: [admin@freemenofnewcastle.org](mailto:admin@freemenofnewcastle.org)

Web site: [www.freemenofnewcastle.org](http://www.freemenofnewcastle.org)

## Gild of Freemen of the City of Newcastle upon Tyne

*Hon. Secretary of the Gild*

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