The Coat of Arms of the City of Newcastle upon Tyne
Today, the underlying strength, commitment and resolute determination of the City Freemen reflects that of our predecessors in the mid to late 18th Century, an age when so much had to be done to ensure Newcastle Town Moor, as an environmental jewel in the crown, remained safe and secure from the risk of encroachment by developers and all this would have brought about. In this context, we must never be complacent and continue to consistently demonstrate good stewardship as guardians of the open space. The advent of lady Freemen will, I am sure as the decades unfold, prove to be the most fundamental initiative taken in modern times by the City Freemen and shall in turn bring about a dynamic influence in all that we do.

We welcome contributions to the Magazine – do not hesitate to get in touch.

Sir Leonard Fenwick CBE
Chairman, Stewards Committee
Editorial

We welcome you to the twelfth publication of the Freemen Magazine with an interesting mixture of news, history and photographs of swearing-in ceremonies.

We endeavour to keep you up to date with the many and varied activities of the Stewards Committee and give you details of forthcoming attractions like the Hoppings and the Summer Spectacular.

We hope that you enjoy the content of this edition of the magazine and if you have any comments on the content or any suggestions of subjects you would like to have covered in the future, please let us know by letter to Moor Bank Lodge or by email to our website admin@freemenofnewcastle.org

Finally may we again ask you to please keep us informed of any changes in address so that we can amend our distribution list. Several magazines are returned each issue marked “gone away” or “not at this address”. Thank you.

Company Involvement

Last issue we gave the dates of each company’s Head Meeting and the name of each Senior Steward because many think that after being sworn-in by the Lord Mayor they are automatically company members. It is a separate ceremony.

Some companies do the swearing-in immediately after the applicant has been sworn free by the Lord Mayor in the Guildhall while others only enrol new members at their Head Meeting. Applicants need to contact their Senior Steward for details of when and where the Company’s Head Meeting is held.

All companies should hold a Head Meeting each year to elect their stewards for the following year and advise attending members of the state of the company’s funds. Every company receives a grant from the Stewards Committee to cover the expenses incurred arranging these meetings.

In the past a son could only be admitted to his company if his father was a member, however in recent years this rule has been dropped by all but the House Carpenters Company. If unable to join your Company and you wish to take part in the freelage, you could apply to join one of the “open” companies like the Colliers or Goldsmiths. The Senior Stewards of both these companies are in fact hereditary House Carpenters unable to gain entry to that company. There may be other companies with low membership who would be willing to accept disenfranchised Freemen into their ranks.

Full contact details of all Senior Stewards are available on our website or from our office at Moor Bank Lodge.

Ian Miller
In 1991 traveller support teacher Maureen Bowman asked Albert Austin if she could come to mark showchildren’s work while they were living on the Town Moor. Albert was employed by the City Engineers Department to lay out the fair and he at once agreed that they could have the morning use of the cabins used by the Police, St. John’s Ambulance, Lost Children etc. later in the day when the fair was in operation. His wife, Maureen scrounged chairs etc. from her local church and the school was up and running.

From 34 children in 1991 there are now about 80 attending and throughout the years Maureen and other volunteers have been there helping the various teachers. Diane Barlow replaced Maureen Bowman as teacher from 1999 to 2005 when she handed over to Sarah Edgar.

Many of the children look forward to meeting up with their “travelling” cousins etc. at this school. They have work packs from their winter base and while the older teenagers study on their own, those up to thirteen years old attend the school with the under sevens in one class and the over sevens in the other.

In 2011 Sir Len Fenwick, Chairman of the Stewards Committee of Freemen of Newcastle presented certificates of achievement to the showchildren at the end of the Hoppings.

Paul Lanagan has written an interesting book entitled “The Hoppings – Newcastle’s Town Moor Fair” which may possibly be obtained from the library or purchased from a book shop. ISBN: 978-0-9555059-0-4
Superintendent’s Report

With the winter weather being somewhat kinder than in previous years our winter works programme were underway without delay.

The installation of the Elizabethan fencing around Hunters Moor was completed by early February, enabling Scott Fencing and our staff to move directly across Barrack Road onto Nuns Moor South to start the installation of the new residential fence line. As the existing fencing was dangerous and in such a dilapidated state, in agreement with the City Council and after a lot of consultation with home owners it was unanimously agreed by all concerned that this fence line should be replaced with Palisade fencing 1.8 metres in height in a powder coated green finish on both Nuns Moor South and Nuns Moor Central, some 800 metres in total including gateways for those that had existing gateway licences. This whole project turned out to be a great PR exercise for both the Stewards Committee of the Freemen and the City Council.
During the above works our staff were also heavily involved in assisting Mr David Walton our drainage contractor with the installation of the new roadside drains on the Hopping’s site, there were several hundred tonnes of sub soil removed and led away up to the old Race Course site where it is currently being used to reinstate the badly eroded bank sides. Mr Walton has since completed all the drainage works on the Hoppings site and has now moved on to the main Town Moor to carry out repairs to a few collapsed drains that are creating ponding which in turn can create problems for our cattle if left unattended.

After such a busy period of winter works items our staff then moved on to checking and repairing fence lines, public gateways in readiness for the return of our grazing herds, Chris Atkinson of the Ropemakers Company once again assisted and advised our staff with the water trough repairs. With all necessary repairs carried out our gates were opened to welcome the cattle on to the moors for the 2012 grazing season. The uptake was initially slow due to the high price of beef cattle, but as we enter June we are almost at our full number of 535 for this season.

At present the staff are currently busy with strimming boundary fence lines and spraying thistle, nettle and dock, whilst I am busy working with City Council staff marking out the Hoppings site for our annual visit of Europe’s largest travelling fun fair – fingers crossed the weather is kind.

Until the next issue......

Kevin Batey
Town Moor Superintendent.
The Remembrance Day parade led by Councillor Geoff O’Brien Lord Mayor is becoming more popular each year, with all services, military and civilian represented alongside politicians and the Freemen of the City each laying a wreath in memory of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

In the procession to St George’s Monument in Old Eldon Square Sir Leonard Fenwick CBE led members of the Stewards Committee to lay a wreath on behalf of the Freemen of Newcastle.

As can be seen in the photograph the City of Newcastle Pipe Band led by Drum Major Terry Jones and 101 Regiment Royal Artillery Pipe Bank led Senior Drum Major Ian Alexander a Freeman and Senior Steward of the Tanners Company.

It was pleasing to see such a good turn out of Freemen not only as spectators, also in the Regiments marching passed the saluting Dais where the Lord Mayor took the salute.
Due to commitments the Lord Mayor was unable to attend Christmas Guild which was presided over by the Sheriff, Councillor Jackie Slesenger. Following the formal proceedings Chairman Sir Leonard Fenwick expressed the sadness of Guild to learn that the positions of the Sword and Mace Bearer were being made redundant, and hoped one day they would be re-instated. In appreciation Trevor Cartner and Malcolm Osborne were presented with wine and a Freemen tie as a token of our appreciation and friendship.

The Sheriff took her seat to perform the swearing in ceremony accompanied for the last time by the Sword and Mace Bearer.
Being Lord Mayor

The office of Lord Mayor is ancient and can trace its origins to the Freemen. The Freemen have played a pivotal role in the evolution of what is now the City of Newcastle upon Tyne. The office of Mayor (which became Lord Mayor in 1905) was originally held by a Freeman of the City and this remained the case until 1835 when the Municipal Corporations Act replaced what was known as the Common Council with an elected City Council. It is from the elected members that the Lord Mayor is chosen.

Given the history of the office it was with some trepidation that I agreed to become Sheriff and then Lord Mayor. Though the office is largely symbolic, the Lord Mayor is the first citizen of the City and is expected to represent the City at a number of civic events. I chose 5 Lady Mayoresses, 4 daughters and 1 cousin. My year as Sheriff was fairly quiet; it is usually regarded as an opportunity to get to know the ropes. However the office of Lord Mayor is anything but quiet. There are a number of events that are fixed in the Lord Mayors calendar such as Remembrance Day where non-attendance is not an option. The first event the Lord Mayor attends is lunch at the Royal Grammar School. Traditionally the Lord Mayor grants an extra day of holiday for the pupils. Because of my habit of speaking without notes I forgot to award the extra holiday, but was ably rescued by the Head Boy, much to the relief of the pupils.

The 17th of June was a busy day. Between receiving a delegation from China in the morning and awarding Aung San Suu KI, the leader of the opposition in Myanmar, the Freedom of the City in the evening, I attended the opening the Hoppings with a very special guest. The Freemen had introduced a competition for school children and the winner, Lucy, was to help with the opening of the Hoppings. I had lunch with Lucy and her parents in the Lord Mayor’s parlour before going to the opening ceremony. She was an absolute delight and made it a memorable day for all. I went on one of the extreme rides with David Wilson (no other Freemen volunteered!) and it was such great fun that I think that every Lord Mayor and all members of the Stewards Committee should do the same.

But there is a very serious side to being Lord Mayor. The Remembrance Day service is an opportunity for us all to remember those who have fallen in defence of the country. I was very struck by the support shown by the people of Newcastle to those who took part on the parade following the service. There are also some very sad occasions. I attended the memorial service at the Cathedral for PC David Rathband, a victim of senseless violence who took his own life. It is at times such as these that I do believe that the Lord Mayor has a role to play and that people expect the City to be part of such occasions.

One important and very enjoyable duty has been the inauguration of Freemen. The decision by the Freemen to admit women has meant that I and my predecessor, Brenda Hindmarsh, have attended the Guildhall quite a few times. I have admitted almost 100 women to the Freemen. At each ceremony I have tried to remind new Freemen of the historic role that their ancestors have played in the evolution of the City. I have also reminded of the role the Freemen still play and will continue to play in civic life.
In my time as Lord Mayor I have been reminded on many occasions that people do still value civic life. Each of us who holds public office has a duty to ensure that we conduct that office in a way that reflects the traditions of this great city. Being Lord Mayor has been both a great honour and a great pleasure. I am sure that my successor will continue the tradition of service to the City and its people, as well as continuing to work with the Freemen.

Geoff O’Brien
Sir Leonard Fenwick welcomed Lord Mayor Geoff O’Brien to his last Guild in his term of office, and thanked him for his support during the last year.

Following formalities Sir Leonard presented the Lord Mayor with a case of wine, Head of Corporate Law known as the ‘Town Clerk’ by the Freemen Stewart Ovens who was leaving his post was also presented with a case of wine as a thank you for his assistance on many years.

The Lord Mayor then swore in new Freemen.

Lady Freemen gets plastered at Guild

No it’s not what you think!

As Freemen were assembling in readiness for Christmas Open Guild, an unfortunate accident occurred when Pamela Crew of the Joiners Company tripped as she took her seat in the Court of Guild and fractured her arm.

She was given first aid by Fiona Hogg Steward of the Curriers Company prior to been taken to the RVI for treatment to the injury where a plaster was applied to her arm.

Pamela daughter of the late Robert Sydney Granville Row was attending her first Guild which she sadly missed. Fortunately Pamela made a full recovery.
Exhibition Park Clock Tower

The clock and the park had become neglected over the last couple of decades prompting the formation of the Exhibition and Brandling Parks Community Trust who were awarded £2.4m towards its revitalisation. The money from the Heritage Lottery Fund is a major development in a community drive which began 12 years ago to upgrade Exhibition Park in Newcastle.

Our representative on the trust is Bill Frizzle who hails through the House Carpenters Company and is also Senior Steward of the Goldsmiths Company.

Bill brought a proposal to the table to renovate the clock at a cost of £5000 to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II and to enhance the rejuvenation of the park, the Stewards Committee gave Bill their full support to fund the renovation.

The old workings were replaced with a modern electronic clock mechanism and lighting which is illuminated at night. The clock stands proud with the north face of the clock overlooking the Town Moor.

The clock tower was erected in 1953 as a gift of the Freemen to the City of Newcastle. Built of special brick supplied by the National Coal Board and cost £757 6s 5d. Has two clock faces, one to the north and one to the south. A Westmorland slate commemorative tablet reads ‘THE CLOCK TOWER WAS ERECTED IN 1953 BY THE FREEMEN OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE TO COMMEMORATE THE CORONATION OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II. THE CHAIRMAN WAS LORNE C. ROBSON’. The clock was handed over to the Lord Mayor Ald. W. McKeag on Tuesday 24th November 1953 in a ceremony in the Guildhall. R.W. Bell Ltd built the tower. The clock was supplied by David Summerfield Jewellers. The architect was the late Charles H. Errington of Weavers Company. The roof is made of Canadian red cedar wood and the rear access door is Burnese teak.
Specially arranged
Swearing in Ceremonies
Guildhall 22nd March 2012
Councillor Geoff O’Brien presided over two specially arranged swearing in ceremonies held at the Guildhall, which were followed by his own passionate speech on the importance of being a Freemen and what it means to the City, the emphasis being on becoming involved in the Freelage.
Guildhall 27th March 2012
Hoppings

The planning of the Hoppings fair is now well underway for this very important event in the Newcastle upon Tyne calendar, our second year of running what is described as the Worlds largest travelling fun fair is by no means a small task, members of the Stewards Committee in co-operation with the City Council and a few dedicated Freemen who are able to offer assistance with specific tasks to make sure the event is successful.

It is hoped the ongoing improvements made last year to the Fair can continue by bringing change, not only by encouraging new equipment and attractions to attend but by diversifying into other areas to attract families.

Sadly, despite all the work done beforehand to ensure success, the weather did its best to scuttle the event. Heavy rain the previous week hampered access of heavy equipment such that the surface of the moor was churned up and muddy. Consequently the opening had to be delayed until Sunday, after which rain continued daily up to Thursday’s devastating deluge.

Freemen’s Bungalows

As many will know, these almshouses are on Claremont Road, Spital Tongues and Freemen have rights to 16 bungalows at St. Mary Magdalene and 38 at Holy Jesus.

Qualifications are that applicants must be over fifty years old, a Freeman or widow on a low income and with low capital.

The bungalows consist of one bedroom, living room, kitchen and bathroom/toilet. They have gas central heating and are double glazed. There is a laundrette and a dining hall on site where lunches may be purchased every day. Three private hairdressers and a chiropodist visit residents on request.

The full rent is £71 per week but many receive rent rebates. The Trust pay half of each resident’s gas bill and the water rate and maintenance are included in the rent. At present less than half of our allocation of bungalows is occupied by Freemen/widows.

Anyone interested should contact Miss S. Hepple, General Manager, St. Mary Magdalene Trust, Claremont Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. NE2 4NN for an application form or to arrange a viewing of a bungalow.
The annual Freemen of Newcastle church service took place on Sunday the 13th of May 2012 in Newcastle Cathedral; the Lord Mayor, Councillor Geoff O’Brien represented the City and the Freemen were led by the Vice Chairman David Wilson, who was escorted by over twenty fully robed Freemen.

A bus had been provided to take Freemen and their families from Moor Bank Lodge to the Cathedral. This idea seems to be growing in popularity as more used the bus this year than last and it does take the worries out of parking.

The short walk from the Cathedral Library, where both the Lord Mayor and the Freemen dressed in their respective gowns, to the entrance of the Cathedral proper is the only time during the year when the Freemen and the Lord Mayor are seen together, fully robed and visible to the population of Newcastle. This year there were several early morning tourists about taking photos of the procession.

Inside the Cathedral seats were at a premium with the Freemen being allocated the first five rows.

Keith Hall who is a member of the Stewards Committee gave the first reading of the Service, as he has done in previous years.

The service lasted for about an hour and afterwards we were served light refreshments and talked to the congregation who were very interested in the Freemen and the effects we have on the life of the city in today’s world.

The annual church service is a long standing commitment from both the Lord Mayor’s Office and the Freemen. It is the only time in the calendar when we, as a body, engage with the civil authority in the form of the Lord Mayor. The religious ceremony which surrounds this commitment was formulated many years before people became sceptical about the work of the church, and of course we must be aware of the diversity of today’s religious population.

Therefore the question is are we, as the 2012 guardians of this long standing arrangement, content to see the visible unity of the Freemen and the civil authority disappear and be lost to future generations.

There are approximately 1500 Freemen of Newcastle. A great many live outside the city, even more live some distance away but there are a significant number who live within the city who do not take part in their Company business or support the Freemen activities.

There were a little over twenty Freemen who attended the service on the 13th May. It had been well advertised in the Freemen’s magazine and mentioned at the Easter Guild, yet out of the 1500 hundred Freemen it is disappointing that such a small number turned up.

Do we as Freemen wish this activity to continue or do we let it go?

Your views would be most welcome,

Please contact me at: bainbridge9@talktalk.net
We are pleased to announce the 2012 summer social will take place on **Saturday 4th August**

**The Programme**

**1.30**  Gate Opens  
Musical entertainment provided by Heatwave  
Hog and Lamb Roast  
Falconry Display  
Animals  
Chainsaw Wood Sculptor  
– Tommy Craggs International acclaimed artist  
Contingent of the 101 Regiment Royal Artillery Pipe and Drum Band  
Botanic Garden tours  

**4.00**  Farewell  

Tickets will be allocated on a first come first served basis.  

It is expected the demand for attendance will be high so to assist with planning and logistics please complete and return the form below.

**Social Booking Request Form**

Freemen of Newcastle upon Tyne, 2012 Summer Social Event.

**Ticket Request Form.**

| Name: |  
| Company: |  
| Adult: |  
| Children under 11 |  

Applications will only be accepted by post to, **Alan Bainbridge, Freemen of Newcastle upon Tyne, Moor Bank Lodge, Claremont Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4NL.** Or by email **alan@freemenofnewcastle.org**
Sword and Mace Bearers: the end of an era

We have all felt a swell of pride to see the Lord Mayor of Newcastle flanked by the Sword and Mace bearers in the knowledge same had been seen for centuries.

2012 will not only be remembered for the financial crisis and austerity measures but that it has reached at the very heart of tradition.

With City Council cut backs seeing the positions of sword and mace bearers made redundant, the two well known figures of Malcolm Osborne and Trevor Cartner who have held these positions for many years being retired and replaced with brackets to hold the sword and mace, a sad day indeed.

**MACE-BEARER**

The mace was anciently a heavy weapon, used by cavalry or ecclesiastics, who were not permitted to carry swords. It is now a highly ornamented emblem of the authority of the chief officer of a corporate body, before whom it is carried on state occasions.

There were eight sergeants at mace, including the water-bailiff and sheriffs’ sergeant. Seven of these sergeants constitute the police establishment of the town. They were occasionally assisted by the constables of the twenty-four wards of the town.

**SWORD-BEARERS**

King Richard III. by his letters patent, dated January 25, 1391, granted to William Bishopdale, then Mayor of Newcastle upon Tyne, and to all his successors in office, to have a sword borne before them, in honour of the town.
Recent activities have included the internal redecoration of Moor Bank Lodge and we are currently reviewing the Boardroom furniture as the use of the room has increased dramatically due to the amount of meetings taking place, primarily with regard to the Hoppings. We see the boardroom as an opportunity of giving first impression of the stature of the Freemen.

Externally security PIR lighting has been installed to enhance other security measures currently in place to protect the property and agricultural plant.

The Elizabethan fence line on Hunters Moor is now complete and we are in the process of reviewing other areas which would benefit from this type of fence, the priority being given to areas of Moor where the cattle are pastured.

We continue to look at how we can put our stamp on areas which are associated with the Freemen of Newcastle, such as the Elizabethan Fence lines, the renovation of the Exhibition Clock, also on structures such as the Guildhall Court where we have placed a framed copy of the Armorial Bearings of the Freemen of Newcastle Companies.

In the last issue we reported on an incident which prompted the decision to replace the fence line at the rear of the properties on Nuns Moor with a palisade fence, in partnership with the City Council after a consultation period with local residents we commenced work in March this year.

The work included the removal of the old fence and trees which were in a dangerous state, at each stage of the work we consulted individually with residents of the affected properties which was appreciated and enabled specific concerns to be eliminated.

The residents have expressed their delight at the finished product saying the vista of the area has been greatly improved also the security the fence provides is much appreciated.

A total of 1236 metres of fence has been installed at a cost of £236,000.
Ancient Officers
Newcastle upon Tyne

WATER-BAILIFFS
This is an office of great credit and trust. He is to prevent all defaults against the haven and river of Tyne; to seize to the use of the mayor and burgesses of Newcastle, all such merchandises as are conveyed on shore in suspected places; and to look after, preserve, and maintain the royalties, privileges, and liberties of the port of Tyne, and is allowed a deputy to assist him in the execution of his very extensive duty. His title was anciently “The Serjeant of the Water.” He is sworn at his admission to his office. It was the duty of this officer to bear the mace before the mayor and corporation in their solemn processions; but another person was lately appointed to be mace-bearer.

QUAY-MASTERS
This officer is appointed by the corporation of Newcastle, to attend on the Quay or wharf there. He is to prevent any damage being done to the Quay; to appoint the berths or stations of ships; to assess or rate by the ton such ballast as shall be cast by warrant directed to him into any keel or boat upon the new Quay, out of ships stationed there; to indorse on the said warrant the number of tons and due casting of them without damage to the river, after which the said warrant to be returned into the ballast-office. Brand says, “While that part of the town-wall that ran along this Key was standing, he had the charge of its numerous water-gates. Several fees are paid to this officer for what is called the groundage of ships, besides a stated salary from the corporation.”

WHIPPER AND HOUGHER
This is one of the inferior officers appointed by the corporation of Newcastle. He seems to have been called “hougher,” from his duty in former times, to cut the sinews of the houghs of swine that were found infesting the streets. He is also the executioner of felons. Alexander Robinson was appointed to this office by the common council, September 25, 1705, to be “common executioner in hanging of felons, putting persons in the pillory, clearing the streets of swine, and to doe and perform all other matters belonging to the place and duty of hougher.” Thomas Bearman, the last whipper and hougher,

CLERKS OF THE CHAMBER
This ancient office is held by a free burgess, who is chosen annually by the twenty-four electors. By the charter of the 42d Elizabeth, the “clerk of the chamber for the time being, or his deputy, shall and may have power and authority, in the presence of the chamberlains of the said town for the time being, or two of them, from time to time, as occasion shall require, to exhibit and administer such corporal oaths to whatsoever pilots, masters of ships, mariners, and every of them, arriving at the port of Newcastle, as he hath heretofore been used or accustomed to exhibit and administer.”

Continued on p24
CORONERS
The burgesses of Newcastle were, in 1253, by charter of Henry III. granted the liberty of choosing fit and proper persons to be coroners, and who were to be sworn in full court. By the charter, 42d Elizabeth, they are directed “to make a return of all juries, inquisitions, pannels, attachments, and inquests, by them taken,” before the mayor, recorder, and aldermen of the town; and to attend them at all gaol deliveries, and execute the precepts of the said mayor, recorder, and aldermen, in the same manner and form as any sheriff of the realm of England.

TOWN-CLERKS OF NEWCASTLE
In the charter, 42 Queen Elizabeth, it is said, “Whereas the town of Newcastle upon Tyne is a town of merchants, a mart or market of great fame, and filled with a multitude of merchants, dwelling therein, and of others, as well home-bred thither flowing, and there expecting their trade of merchanting, and thereupon it is necessary to order and establish a certain order within the said town, and the speedy recovery of debts to merchants, &c. due. The queen appoints William Jackson, gentleman, to be her first and then modern clerk, for taking recognizances of debts, within the said town, to enjoy the same during his life; and after his death, the mayor and burgesses, &c. are empowered to prefer to the said office another of the burgesses of the said town, to be the queen’s clerk (as before), and to continue so long as it should please the mayor, &c. And shall have a seal, in two pieces, for sealing the said recognizances; the mayor to have the custody of the greater piece, and the clerk to have the custody of the lesser piece of the said seal: so that if a merchant or any other shall be made a debtor, he may come before the mayor and clerk of recognizances, and before them acknowledge his debt and day of payment. And the said mayor and clerk may do and dispatch all other things, which by the statute aforesaid are requisite. The said mayor and clerk are to have such wages, fees, rewards, and emoluments, for the execution of the said office, as any other mayor and clerk of recognizances, of any other town or city in England, lawfully and of right hath or receiveth.”

THE RECORDERS OF NEWCASTLE
The charter of James I. directs that the twenty-four electors, upon the Monday next after the feast of St. Michael the Archangel, “shall elect and nominate one discreet man, skilled and learned in the laws of this our realm, to be recorder of the aforesaid town; although such person so elected, or to be elected to be recorder of the said town, be not a burgess of the said town, to remain in his office of recorder for one whole year then next following, if he the recorder, so elected and nominated, live so long, and well behave himself in the said office.” If it “happen that the recorder of the aforesaid town, for the time being, shall depart, die, or be removed from his office, or forsake the said office, that then the aforesaid electors for the time being, or the greater part of them, in the presence of the said mayor, can and may, within twenty days next after such decease, death, or removal, elect another fit person, learned and skilled in the laws, although he be not a burgess of the said town, in the place of that recorder that so died, departed, was removed, or forsook the office of recorder as aforesaid, for the residue of that year then to come, such recorder so newly chosen and elected first taking his oath for the executing his office duly and lawfully.” Collier, in his Essay on Charters, page 73, mentions a new charter, given after the above of James I. in 1604, by which the places of recorder, town-clerk, and chamber-clerk, are for life.
Mayor’s and Sheriffs Courts

Interesting information on the Courts system as recorded in the History of Newcastle. In the town and county of Newcastle upon Tyne, “there are, and from time beyond memory have been, two Courts of Record: the one held before the Mayor, whereof the Mayor is judge, and wherein free burgesses only, or their widows, are sued; the other held before the Sheriff, whereof the Sheriff is judge, and wherein all persons except free burgesses and their widows, are sued. Of both these courts the recorder is the assistant judge. They both hold plea of any sum either above or under 40 shillings in debt.

COURT OF ADMIRALTY

Admiral jurisdiction was granted by King John, and confirmed by succeeding Princes, to the mayor and burgesses of Newcastle. Lord Howard, of Effingham, was admiral of this port and the river Tyne from 1522 to 1605, when he resigned it to the mayor and burgesses, with power to hold a court of admiralty, “The oar that has been carried or placed before the mayor, as an ensign of authority in this court of admiralty, and which, by the date it bears, evidently appears to have been made in consequence of the above grant, This court is held before the mayor, at such times as he chooses to direct. His deputy, the water bailiff, gives notice of all injuries done to the river and the breed of salmon, that offenders may be punished according to law. In Grey’s time it was held “every Monday in the after-noon. This is a court of record for enrolling of deeds and evidences.”

A COURT OF PYE-POWDER

Is proclaimed at “the two faires of Lammas and Saint Luke. All the privileges and power that a court-leet can have, is granted to this court.” It is for examining and trying y all suits brought for petty differences and offences committed contrary to the proclamation issued at these fairs. This court at present is never formed.

THE QUARTER SESSIONS

This court is held in virtue of the great charters of Elizabeth and James, by which the mayor, recorder, and three or more aldermen, are invested with full power “to take and arrest whatever murderers, felons, and other malefactors within the town and county, there to be kept until by due process of law they be delivered.” Also, “to hold gaol deliveries for the town, and to erect a gallows within its liberties, to hang felons, murderers, and other malefactors, according to the laws and customs of England.”

COURT OF ASSISE

England was, at a very early period, portioned in to four divisions, and itinerant justices were appointed to go the circuits in each division. These justices were either prelates or considerable noblemen, and were vested with great power and authority, in order to curb the oppressive barons, and to protect the inferior gentry and common people in their property. They determined pleas of the crown and common pleas, assessed tallages and aids, seized eschaets of the crown, and admitted men to make conventions, fines, and oblates in their several iters. The wise and politic Henry II. was careful to give weight and consequence to these justices. In Newcastle they held their courts in the church of St. Nicholas or St. Andrew.
 Diary Dates

Saturday 4th August 2012
SUMMER SPECTACULAR
In grounds of Moor Bank Lodge, details on page 19

Monday 8th October 2012
MICHAELMAS GUILD
Held upstairs in Newcastle Guildhall (on Quayside, bottom of Dean Street)
Close Court of Guild (for Company Stewards only) begins at 10 am.
At this particular meeting the Stewards Committee is democratically elected via ballot for the ensuing year.
Open Court of Guild (for all Freemen of Newcastle upon Tyne) commences at 12 noon prompt.
You must be seated by 12 noon for the Open Guild in readiness to receive the Lord Mayor.
The meeting concludes with new Freemen being called, and if present being sworn in by the Lord Mayor.
Following the proceedings a buffet lunch is served in the Merchant Adventurers Court.

Monday 14th January 2013
CHRISTMAS GUILD
Held upstairs in Newcastle Guildhall (on Quayside, bottom of Dean Street)
Close Court of Guild (for Company Stewards only) begins at 10 am.
Open Court of Guild (for all Freemen of Newcastle upon Tyne) commences at 12 noon prompt.
You must be seated by 12 noon for the Open Guild in readiness to receive the Lord Mayor.
The meeting concludes with new Freemen being called, and if present sworn in by the Lord Mayor.
Following the proceedings a buffet lunch is served in the Merchant Adventurers Court.

Annual Guild Days

Christmas Guild - the first Monday after 13th January
Easter Guild - the first Monday after Easter Monday
Michaelmas Guild - the first Monday after Michaelmas Monday
Notice Board

Bereavements

Mark Stephenson
Albert Hardy
Barber Surgeons Company

Rachel Howey
Bricklayers Company

Irene Anderson
Plumbers Company

Mary Carty
Shipwrights Company

George Herbert Foggin
Taylors Company

James Turnbull
Upholsterers Company

John James Annan
Tanners Company

Gifts

If you are looking for a small gift for someone close may we suggest you give a Freemen of Newcastle upon Tyne pin badge or cuff links which are available to order from Moor Bank Lodge.


Please include payment with your order, cheques made payable to ‘Freemen of Newcastle’

Freemen of Newcastle upon Tyne
Superintendent and Office
Mr Kevin Batey,
Moor Bank Lodge, Claremont Road,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4NL
T: 0191 2615970
E: admin@freemenofnewcastle.org
www.freemenofnewcastle.org

‘Freemen of the City of Newcastle upon Tyne’