Group photograph taken outside the Northampton Guildhall on the 18th September 2010. The Mayor of Northampton Councillor Marianne Taylor and her Consort are in the centre.

Members of the Leicester Gild of Freemen after the Guild Service in Chester on Sunday 10th October 2010.
Patron: Colonel Robert Martin OBE
President: The Lord Mayor of Leicester

OFFICERS 2010 - 2011
Master: B.W. Mudford
Deputy Master: M.E. Ayres
Clerk: J.E. Tolton
Chamberlain: R. Allen

WARDENS
A. Chettle, E.L. Critchlow, J.D. Lewitt,
M.B. Hill, P.K. Ross,
GILDHALL NEWS
November 2010

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Editor’s Comments

Every day the Government tells us that public expenditure has to be reduced, and we must tighten our belts. Taxes are to be increased at the same time as saving rates are being reduced. Anyway, that has made you all very miserable and wondering what I am doing rambling on about national issues. Well we can’t really do much about it, but if you live in the Leicester area then you can come to the Carol Service at the Cathedral, book to come on the skittles night or the cheese and wine supper. If you are a new Freemen why not stock up on Gild Christmas cards to send to all your friends, see the booking form in the centre.

As this is the last issue of the Gildhall News for 2010, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Don’t forget to send those letters, poems, jokes and articles together with any photographs for publishing in future issues of the Gildhall News. They should preferably be sent as attachments to an e-mail.

Brian Mudford

Report by Brian Mudford, Master of the Gild

Eric Critchlow, one of the Gild Wardens, has recently had a replacement knee operation. On your behalf I would like to wish him a speedy recovery, and look forward to seeing him at one of our events in the near future.

On the 16th October eighteen lady freemen were made free at a ceremony at the Leicester Town Hall. Since last December, that makes sixty-nine new freemen have taken their oaths. Although several have joined the Gild of Freemen, I am disappointed that not more have made the effort. There are two further Making Free ceremonies arranged for the 4th December and 19th February 2011.

The Gild Court has arranged a full programme of events for 2011. I would like to thank the Gild Chamberlain, Roger Allen, for all the good work he has done over the last few years in preparing the events programme. Unfortunately Roger has said he wishes to stand down from arranging the events and we are urgently looking for a replacement. See page 11 for further details.

The Court has been asked whether the Gild can have a Web-site which gives the latest details of events and meetings. I understand that someone has offered to design and set up it up. What we are looking for is someone with computer skills that can update and maintain the Web-site with the details provided by the Court. Anyone who would like to offer their services please contact me in the first instance on 01530 245414.

Since the last Court meeting in July the Gild have taken part in the following events:
A group of over forty had an excellent day out on **Sunday 1st August** at the **Bristol Harbour Festival**. The weather was just perfect and, on arrival, a guide came on board for a two-hour drive round Bristol’s main sites, including the famous Clifton suspension bridge.

The harbour area was packed with visitors, and a variety of ships and boats of all shapes and sizes were available for boarding. As well as an enormous market selling food from over 75 countries, there were performances from incredible street entertainers. And about half a dozen stages throughout the centre of the city catered for all musical tastes from ballet to jazz to hard metal!

It was one of our most successful trips in recent times, to a place we’d never been before, and it served to whet our appetites for the trips programmed for 2011.

**Friday 10th September – Games evening with Coventry Guild.** Eleven skittlers made their way through the winding country roads to the Barnacle Village Hall to represent the Gild at this annual event. Out of eight teams, we came third. After the various skittling challenges we sat down to enjoy a Fish & Chip or Chicken & Chip supper, very palatable.

**Tuesday 14th September – visit to the Jain Centre on Oxford Street in Leicester.** Fourteen people attended this interesting and informative tour of the Jain Centre conducted by Dr. Mehta. The Centre, the first consecrated temple in the western world, was opened in 1980. The temple is a magnificent piece of Jain architecture, containing elaborate marble carving, ornate staircases and a spectacular domed roof.

**Saturday 18th September – visit to Northampton.** Only twelve people ventured on our trip to visit the Northampton Gild of Freemen for the first time. They had arranged for us to tour the Guildhall, which is the current Northampton Town Hall built in the 1830’s. We were met and welcomed at 11am by some of the Freemen who took us into the Guildhall to meet the Northampton Mayor, Councillor Marianne Taylor and her Consort. After a welcome cup of coffee she kindly gave us an informative talk about the Mayor’s chamber rooms and a detailed summary of the articles that had been presented to the various Mayors over the years.

We were then taken on a tour of the Guildhall by an official guide who showed us the Courtroom and the various highly decorated meeting rooms and halls throughout the building. We finished up in the basement and had a look around the prison cells and exercise room.

We all went to lunch in a cafe located in the precinct of an adjacent church, before walking to the Rennie Macintosh House, the only one built outside Scotland. Although interesting, not to my taste. I would hate to wake up to some of the bedroom wallpaper designs. It was a very enjoyable day, and we need to keep in mind to arrange a reciprocal visit in the not to distant future.

On the weekend of **8th – 10th October** twelve persons travelled to the City of Chester to attend their annual Guild Banquet in the Guildhall. We were made very welcome, and it was a very enjoyable weekend. On the Sunday morning at 10.30am we
processed, together with Freemen from Chester, Coventry, London, York, and FEW to the Guild Church of St. Peter for the Freemen and Guilds Sunday Service, attended by the Lord Mayor of the City of Chester. There is a photograph inside the front cover of the Leicester Freemen after their return to the Guildhall.

For your diaries, next year the York Freemen’s Banquet is on 9th April, Coventry Freemen’s Banquet is on the 7th May, and the Chester Banquet is on the 8th October. The FEW AGM and Banquet weekend is 16th to 18th September in Pembroke. Please make special note that the Leicester Gild of Freemen’s Banquet weekend is 24th to 26th June. All Gild members and their guests are welcome to attend these banquets.

Brian Mudford

Report by Chairman of the Board - Wayne Manship

The year is flying by and it’s a very busy time, Christmas will be here before we know it. On 15th August we held the Chairman’s Trophy patio garden competition and barbecue at Freemen’s Holt. There are some very keen gardeners and residents of all ages participate in this annual celebration with prizes available for the best front garden, back garden, hanging basket, patio tub, allotment and the Chairman’s Trophy goes to the best overall display. Everyone enjoys the barbecue afterwards. Tony Chettle won the event for a third year (although jointly in 2009), see photographs inside the back cover. Congratulations go to all our green fingered residents as the flower displays have been a real picture again this year.

We used this event to present money raised at the Garden Party in June and other fundraising activities to three of the nursing staff from the Breast Care unit of Glenfield hospital. Sue Orgill accepted a cheque for £1,980 and gave thanks on behalf of the unit. Our thanks go to everyone who came along and helped with raising these funds.

We have a schedule of entertainment planned through the winter with exercise classes every other Wednesday afternoon alternated with Freemen’s Flicks which shows popular films. They are well attended but there is always room for others if you are interested. There is also a card class held monthly and weekly sewing/craft class.

We’re also planning short mat bowls weekends for residents and their friends so if you have an interest please contact Lynda Bramley in the office for more details on this or any other activities detailed.

I attended the Making Free ceremony at the Town Hall in October and there will be another ceremony on 4th December. I would like to welcome the new Freemen and
we hope that you will feel as proud to be taking up this honour as the Freemen in the past. Congratulations to you all.

Don’t forget that there is now the option to receive your Gildhall News via email. Again please contact Lynda on leicester.freemen@talktalkbusiness.net to provide your email address.

And finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

**Wayne Manship**

**Report on the FEW (Freemen of England and Wales) by Michael Ayres**

**Thursday 9th September.** Tony Chettle, Jim Manship, Jean and I travelled by car to Berwick-Upon-Tweed to represent the Freemen of Leicester at the 44th AGM of the Freemen of England and Wales.

**Friday 10th September** The weekends programme commenced at 4 30pm on Friday afternoon, with registration in the Guild Hall, receiving a warm welcome with tea and biscuits being served by the Freemen of Berwick.

At 5pm the FEW Executive committee held their meeting in the Council Chamber, at 6-30pm the bar opened in the Guild before a hot and cold buffet meal was served at 7 30pm.

After the meal at 8 30pm the Chairman of Berwick Guild Captain Jim Evans gave a very informative talk on the history of Berwick and the Freemen. I have just listed a few points of interest from the talk, (if any one requires a full copy of the talk please contact me.)

As a result of the many wars between England and Scotland there is very little documentary evidence of the commencement of Guilds in Scotland. The earliest documentary evidence of Berwick’s Guild was in 1115 when Prince David (later David 1) referred to his Royal Burgh of Berwick and its Guild.

Berwick have evidence of 21 Royal Charters granted to the Guild. However most of these are now lost. The earliest existing charter is 1356 although this refers to several previous charters.

Originally the only means of entry to the Guild was by apprenticeship. Very often this was within families. From 1615 the Guild decided to allow sons to take up the Freedom. These rules were progressively altered by the Guild until any son in the male line could take up the freedom. This was extended to daughters in 2010. Entry by apprenticeship is still valid.

The Guild has extensive property in Berwick, which include the Town Hall and estate of some 2,500 acres let as farms. This is administered as a Trust with five Guild and five Councillors as Trustees. Surpluses are split between these two bodies. In addition the Guild has a housing Trust with 16 flats.
The Borough Council elected in 1835 had a duty to administer the Freemen’s estate. The estate was allowed to fall into a very poor state and all surplus money was spent by the Council. Eventually a new Act was passed in 1926 which placed the administration of the Freemen’s estate under Trustees appointed by the Freemen and the Council. The costs of this arbitration fell on to the Estate it was not until the 1960s that the debt was cleared. 

There were several attempts by the Borough Council to obtain the Estate which were resisted. It is worth noting that if the ownership of the Estate had been lost what had not been spent would have passed to Northumberland County Council in 2009. The evening concluded with background music with the bar closing at 11 30 pm.

**Saturday 11th September.** The morning started at 10 am with group photographs on the Town Hall steps. This was followed at 10 15 am with the open forum, the two main discussions were the number of daughters taking up the Freedom and the affects this would have on the Guilds finances in the future. The other being the alteration to the Land Registration act and the affects this would have on the Freemen’s estates.

After a coffee break at 10 45am, the AGM began at 11 am. With the formal welcome by the Mayor of Berwick, the meeting followed the normal proceedings and concluded with the election of Alan Fallow a Freeman of Shrewsbury as President of the FEW for the next two years. The meeting closed at 12 45pm. (The full report of the AGM will be published in the FEW Journal 164)

This was followed with a buffet lunch at 1 00 pm.

In the afternoon we had a choice of a walk round the Berwick Walls with a blue badge guide or a visit to the Freemen's housing. Returning to the Guild Hall at 4 30 pm for tea and biscuits.

Saturday evening we returned to the Guild Hall at 7 00pm for a wine reception before the Banquet at 7 30pm. With the banquet and speeches finishing at 10 30 pm, there was dancing to a five piece band until midnight.

**Sunday 12th September.** We assembled in the Guild Hall at 11 00 am for robing before the procession to Holy Trinity Church. After the service the procession returned to the Guild Hall lead by the Coldstream Pipe Band.

With the buffet lunch served at 12 30pm, followed by the farewell speeches the weekend concluded at 2 00pm. There was an optional tour of the Town Hall at 2 30pm by the staff of the Town Hall if required. After the tour we returned to our hotel ready for our journey home on Monday.

Next year the FEW AGM is being held in Pembroke on the weekend of 16th - 18th September.

_Michael Ayres_
Programme of Future Outings and Events

Fish and chips supper – Quiz Night
Saturday 13th November 2010 – Freemen’s Holt 7.30pm
This is an evening of light-hearted quizzes to gently stretch your mind, and your memory, presented, as usual, by quizmaster Roger. Teams of 4 or 5 will be selected and prizes will be awarded to the winning team for each quiz. There will also be an overall prize for the most successful team on the night, and a booby prize! The evening has proved highly popular and, regrettably, no further tickets are available.

Lord Mayor’s Carol Service, Wednesday
15th December 2010 – Leicester Cathedral, 6.00pm
All Freemen, Associate members, families and friends are invited to attend this year’s Carol Service at Leicester Cathedral. If you’d like to attend, it will be much appreciated if you would contact Brian Mudford on 01530-245414 so that arrangements can be made for a block booking of seats. Please aim to be seated by 5.30 pm.

“Aladdin and his wonderful lamp” - Pantomime
Friday 17th December 2010 – Little Theatre, 7.00pm
Just 4 tickets remain out of our quota of 45 for this most magical of pantos – a festive treat of Eastern promise!
If you wish to join the party, please complete the attached booking form right away.

Long-alley skittles - Wednesday 9th February 2011
Wheatsheaf Inn, Leicester Road, Thurcaston 7.00pm
Following the success of last year’s visit to the Wheatsheaf Inn, a repeat booking has been made for our first event of the New Year. Traditional skittles food will be served – bangers, faggots and mash, chips, etc, with drinks from the alley’s our own bar.
The evening will be very relaxed, as usual, so you are asked to book on the enclosed form without delay. The cost is £8.50 each.

“Smile please, you’re on canvas” – Cheese & Wine Supper
Saturday 19th March 2011 – Freemen’s Holt, 7.30pm
A light-hearted illustrated talk by a professional artist/cartoonist who will astonish with his amazing quick-fire cartoons and caricatures…. (it could be you if you are not too careful!). Go on, treat yourself to a laugh.
Peter Bunney, artist, sculptor, musician with the Danny Rogers Big Band for 24 years, raconteur, and famous Leicester Mercury cartoonist, has performed all over the world but will be delighted to join us in March. He’s very funny and you may get to keep some of his doodles. It should be a highly entertaining evening.

After the talk, supper will be served, accompanied with plentiful wine, beer or soft drinks. The customary Easter raffle will end the evening’s entertainment.

Tickets are priced at £8.00 each and you are urged to make your booking early.

**Programme for 2011 - Other outings and events**

At its October meeting, the Court of the Gild agreed a programme of outings and events for 2011. Several suggestions came from Gild members, for which we are very grateful. Any ideas you readers may have are always welcome.

The programme for the rest of the year includes:

- The Leicester Gild Banquet Weekend in June follows last year’s highly successful re-introduction, with a welcome dinner on Friday at Freemen's Holt, a sumptuous banquet at the delightful Devonshire Place, on London Road, on the Saturday night, and the Annual Freemen's Service at Leicester Cathedral on the Sunday morning.
- A coach visit to London with a guided tour of some of the capital's historic sites, followed by an afternoon at Kew Gardens.
- Another trip, this time to York, one of the UK’s main tourist attractions, which we haven’t visited since 1990. We are hoping to get confirmation shortly that the Freemen of York will be our hosts. If not, we’ll hire our own guide.

Local trips include a couple of cheese & wine/fish & chip evenings at the Holt, a skittles evening near Coventry, and our annual visit to the pantomime.

So all told, we feel this is a programme of events that will appeal to everyone and which we hope you will heartily support.

**Organizing Events**

Any of you who have been on one of our many events over the last number of years cannot help but have been impressed by the excellent organization of the day. To put together all the parts that make such an event pass by so smoothly requires special talent which sadly we are not all blessed with, but fortunately our fixer par excellence, Roger Allen, is such a person.
But all good things must come to an end.
After many years of providing us all with our social calendar, from fish and chip suppers at the Holt to days out at Buckingham Palace, Roger has made it quite clear that he will step down from this role at the end of 2011. All of us on the Gild Court are not getting any younger and none of us feel able to follow in Roger’s capable shoes. It would be catastrophic for the members of the Gild should the calendar of social events dry up through lack of a capable social organizer. You do not have to be a brain surgeon to guess what I am going to say next.

If there is anyone out there who thinks they have a special talent for organizing events and would like to use their skills for the benefit of the Gild membership we would be more than delighted to hear from you. In the first instance anyone interested might like to contact Roger Allen directly either by telephone or email to obtain an idea of what is involved or speak to any of the Court members for a chat. No matter how slight is the interest we would be delighted to hear from you.

Of course, regardless of that particular reason for contacting us we are always pleased to hear from members, especially those who have recently become freemen, and listen to your opinions. At any time that you feel like having your say about the Gild, or freemen generally, we are always pleased to hear from you.

The Officers of the Gild Court are:–
Brian Mudford, Master – brianmudford@tiscali.co.uk
Mick Ayres, Deputy Master – mickayres31@virginmedia.com
John Tolton, Clerk – johntolton@hotmail.com
Roger Allen, Chamberlain - rogerallen8@ntlworld.com

**Gild Products**

Gild products make very useful and welcome Christmas presents, particularly ties, lapel badges, pens and key-rings. The Gild Christmas cards showing scenes from Freemen’s Holt are also available.

An order form is attached and products will be sent by return mail to reach you in plenty of time before the 25th December.

We are hoping to extend our range of Gild products shortly by stocking attractive scarves for the ladies, and cufflinks for gentlemen, but these will not be available until the New Year.

Roger Allen
Contributions to the Gildhall News

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The “Common Man” continued by Maurice Hill

The Long Bar and the Hill family

For almost fifty years three generations of my family, all named William Hill, lived at and ran the off-licence on X Road on Freemen’s Common in Leicester. They were my Grandfather, Uncle Bill and Cousin Bill.

The name Long Bar originated from the fact that customers would walk down the garden path of the off-licence and into the bar to purchase their drinks, when served walk back up the path turn right at the gate and walk a further 15 yards to where X Road widened slightly here the drinkers would group to talk and drink, some 30 to 40 yards from where they had purchased their drinks.

Drinkers in the Long Bar

The William I had the most dealings with was my Grandfather who was a very strict Victorian and a firm believer in children being seen and not heard, speaking only when spoken to. He was always known as Grandpa by his grandchildren and Pa by his children.

He was born in 1859 and died in 1943; he was married to Harriett who died in 1922, before I was born so I did not know her. They had seven children, 2 boys and 5 girls. His daughter Auntie Alma and her husband Uncle Reg lived with him.

It’s very difficult to be sure just how tall William was because due to his club foot, the result of a skating accident in his youth, he always walked bent forward. He was clean shaven with a full head of white hair. He always wore a waistcoat with a gold watch and chain.

Most times when I visited him he would be seated at his very large dining room table that was always covered with a chenille cloth tapping on the table with his fingers and silently whistling. Above his chair on the wall, there hung a grandmother clock that had a loud tick and chime.
His family had a deep respect of him almost to the point of fear and he appeared to rule over them. Although I believe he never went to church he was quite a religious man insisting that my brother and I both attended Sunday school and wanting to know the reason for any missed attendances. I also had to be in the choir at All Souls Church.

When I had learnt the creed by heart I had to go to see Grandpa and recite it to him. For this he gave me a gold guinea.

Very occasionally we grandchildren would be invited to tea with Grandpa and this was quite an occasion, but always followed the same pattern. The meal was served on a willow pattern tea service and consisted of buttered toast and cake. We would all sit silently and when asked answering his questions about school and what we had been up to, if we spoke to each other during the meal he would reach over and rap on our plates with his knife. It would become quite dark in the room before he would ask Auntie Alma to put the light on.

If we did anything wrong and Grandpa found out we were in big trouble. We were sent for and he would give us a severe talking to and when we got home we would be punished. I remember one instance where I came out of school, Hazel Street just along the Aylestone Road, and I got a lift on the back of a horse drawn cart whose driver I knew. When we got to the gate of the common I jumped down from the cart whilst it was still moving. Uncle Reg saw me and the next thing I’d been sent for and boy did I catch it twice!

When Grandpa died I sang in the choir at his funeral and after went on my bike to Welford Road Cemetery arriving just as the family were leaving.

Sometime later Auntie Alma sent for my brother Rowland and I and gave each of us 10 half sovereigns as a gift from Grandpa.

When my Grandfather died, Uncle Bill, his son, who was a Deputy and Chairman of the Board
in 1941, lodged a successful bona fide claim for the plots on which the off-licence stood, and this meant that Auntie Alma, Uncle Bill’s sister would have to vacate the premises.

A protracted court case ensued which my Uncle eventually won and when summing up the Judge said that as the law then stood he had no alternative other than to find for my Uncle who was a Freeman and daughters did not have the same rights. He said that in his opinion the law should be changed.

After almost 70 years later it has been changed and we now have lady Freemen.

Uncle Bill at that time had a plumbing business with his son my Cousin Bill; he left the business and moved into the off-licence.

Shortly after all this took place my immediate family left the common and put a tenant into the house on D Road. I did not return to live on the common until June and I married in 1954 when we moved into the bungalow on B Road. However in the interim period my dad kept a garden, 6 D Road so I was still a regular visitor.

Eventually Uncle Bill decided to retire and he moved away from the common and handed over the off-licence to Cousin Bill who then ran it until 1963 just before the demise of the common in 1964.

I actually ran the off-licence for one day when Cousin Bill was away attending his sister’s wedding, and take it from me if you have never attempted to pour Guinness through a tun dish into a bottle you have not lived, the amount of froth as to be seen to be believed!!.

A back view of the off-licence demolition already started. It says W Hill at the base of the chimney and the same was also painted on the face of the other chimney which faced the main Road through the Common (no repaint was needed for the three generations)

Looking down the garden path towards the off-licence

Maurice Hill
After The Rockies

You may recall that in the last newsletter I wrote about our trip to the Rockies, a two day drive from Vancouver, with my brother, David, my son and our wives and met with David's son in Jasper. Four Freemen of Leicester loose in the wilds of British Columbia. We had a good time; the weather was dry and sunny (mostly), the scenery was magnificent, and the company was excellent. But our trip to the Rockies had to come to an end, and so Guy and Paula returned to Edmonton and we made our way back to Vancouver.

As we were approaching Vancouver the weather began to deteriorate and the traffic grew dense. Generally speaking, driving in Canada is an absolute pleasure with low traffic volume and beautiful scenery, but driving into Vancouver in rush hour when the rain is tumbling down does not fit into that category. The wipers swished across the screen removing what water they could; brake lights winked in front of us warning us of impending danger; and eyes strained through the poor visibility as six weary travelers made their way home. We arrived home, David's home that is, safely and grateful to be back although we all thoroughly enjoyed our experience in the Rockies.

I think I mentioned in my last article that my brother lives in Port Moody, which once was the western end of the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway and in the late 1800's had high hopes of becoming the major metropolis of British Columbia. Then someone built a branch line to a place called Vancouver, and the rest is history. His house is on the side of a hill overlooking Burrard Inlet and Burnaby Mountain and on the opposite side of the inlet is the aforementioned railway line. All night there is the lonesome sound of the train whistle as goods trains rumble to and from Vancouver and the docks there.
Unfortunately, since our last visit there eleven years ago the trees across the road have grown restricting the view a bit.

The morning following our homecoming didn't see much of an improvement to the weather and there was little ambition to play the tourist that day. Steven and Kate took the sky train into Downtown Vancouver and the remainder of our party visited a local shopping mall in Coquitlam, primarily to stock up on wine, but also to browse around. A shop that is big in Canada is ‘The Bay’, which once started life as the Hudson Bay Company, trading in furs and beaver pelts. The present day shop is a far cry from the store that once had frontiersmen trading pelts for rounds of musket balls and dried beef before setting off into the forests trapping beavers and other wildlife.

The days that passed have blurred into one conglomerate and it is difficult to remember one day from another. Everything paled after our Rockies adventure. We did visit the VanDusen Botanical Gardens, an abandoned golf course purchased by the Government of British Columbia and converted to a stunning collection of ornamental plants, particularly rhododendrons. There was a very unusual structure in the park which consisted of cables and hanging shirts. That’s modern art for you.

Steven and Kate had to return to England a week before us and the flight out of Vancouver was towards the end of the day. Consequently we spent some time at Steveston, a historic fishing village a short drive from the airport. The day was warm and sunny, the best we had enjoyed since our return to Vancouver, and we all enjoyed a stroll round the harbor soaking in the warmth of the sun and enjoying the view. We said our goodbyes at the airport and Steven and Kate returned to England and we stayed on for another week of my brother’s hospitality.
A couple of times during the following week Josie and I travelled into Vancouver on the Sky Train, a fast and smooth elevated railway line the first part of the track built for Expo 86 and added to for the millennium and the recent Winter Olympics. On our first trip we decided to look at Granville Island, an old industrial area which now houses a fascinating indoor market, a number of unusual and trendy shops, and a marina. On the map it did not look far from Robson Street station so we decided to walk, and walk, and walk. Walking over Granville Bridge we could see Granville Island below us but to walk way beyond the bridge and double back so by the time we arrived we were already pretty warn out. In the market were purchased some Red Leicester cheese for my brother, a product not readily available in Canada.

On our second visit to downtown Vancouver we played the tourist and visited Gas Town, and old part of the city named after Gassy Jack, so named because of his gassy monologues. Beside the statue of Gassy Jack there is a collection of souvenir shops and the steam clock and lots of tourists. Vancouver has so much to see and is a wonderful place to visit and boasts the biggest China Town outside San Francisco, and I am grateful to my brother for the chance to see such a wonderful place.

Our final outing before we returned to England was to Fort Langley, a palisaded settlement established in 1827 by the Hudson Bay Company on the banks of the Fraser River. It is a working museum with all the activities taking place as
Celibacy

Celibacy can be a choice in life, or a condition imposed by circumstances.

While attending a Marriage Weekend Ken and his wife, Janet, listened to the instructor declare, ‘it is essential that husbands and wives know the things that are important to each other.’

He then addressed the men, ‘Can you name and describe your wife’s favourite flower?’

Ken leaned over, touched Janet’s arm gently, and whispered, “Homepride, isn’t it?”

And thus began Ken’s life of celibacy.

Where do dead penguins go?

Did you ever wonder why there are no dead penguins on the ice in Antarctica- where do they go?

Wonder no more!!!

It is a known fact that the penguin is a very ritualistic bird which lives an extremely ordered and complex life.

The penguin is very committed to its family and will mate for life, as well as maintaining a form of compassionate contact with its offspring throughout its life. If a penguin is found dead on the ice surface, other members of the family and social circle have been known to dig holes in the ice, using their vestigial wings and beaks, until the hole is deep enough for the dead bird to be rolled into and buried.

The male penguins then gather in a circle around the fresh grave and sing:

“freeze a jolly good fellow.” Now you know!!!
Lexicography

1. A bicycle can’t stand alone. It is two tired.
2. A will is a dead giveaway.
3. A backward poet writes inverse.
4. A chicken crossing the road ... poultry in motion.
5. If a clock is hungry, does it go back four seconds?
6. The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine was fully recovered.
7. You are stuck with your debt if you can’t budge it.
8. He broke into song because he couldn’t find the key.
9. A calendar’s days are numbered.
10. A boiled egg is hard to beat.
11. He had a photographic memory which was never developed.
12. Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.
13. When you’ve seen one shopping centre you’ve seen a mall.
14. If you jump off a bridge in Paris, you are in Seine.
15. When she saw her first strands of grey hair, she thought she’d dye.
16. Santa’s helpers are subordinate clauses.
17. Acupuncture ... a jab well done.
18. Marathon runners with bad shoes suffer the agony of de feet.
19. The roundest knight at King Arthur’s round table was Sir Cumference.
20. She was only a whisky maker’s daughter, but he loved her still.
21. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class because it was a weapon of math disruption.
22. No matter how much you push the envelope, it will still be stationery.
23. A dog gave birth to puppies in a public place, and was cited for littering.
24. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
25. A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
26. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
27. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
28. A sign on the lawn outside the drug rehab centre ... ‘Keep off the Grass’
29. A boy swallowed some coins, and was taken to a hospital. His mother telephoned to ask how he was. The nurse said, ‘No change yet.’
30. The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
31. Don’t join dangerous cults, practice safe sects.
Why? Why? Why?

1. Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are almost dead?

2. Why do banks charge a fee on ‘insufficient funds’ when they already know there is not enough money?

3. Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars; but have to check when you say the paint is still wet?

4. Why doesn’t Tarzan have a beard?

5. Why does Superman stop bullets with his chest, but ducks when you throw a revolver at him?

6. Why do Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?

7. Whose idea was it to put an ‘S’ in the word ‘lisp’?

8. If people evolved from apes, why are there still apes?

9. Why is it that no matter what colour bubble bath you use the bubbles are always white?

10. Why do people keep running over a string a dozen times with their vacuum cleaner, then reach down, pick it up, examine it, then put it down to give the vacuum one more chance?

11. Why is it that no plastic bag will open from the end on your first try?

12. How do those dead flies get into those enclosed light fixtures?

13. When we are in the supermarket and someone rams our ankle with a shopping cart then apologizes for doing so, why do we say, ‘It’s all right?’ Well, it isn’t all right, so why don’t we say, ‘That really hurt, why don’t you watch where you’re going?’

14. Why is it that whenever you attempt to catch something that’s falling off the table you always manage to knock something else over?

15. In winter why do we try to keep the house as warm as it was in summer when we complained about the heat?

16. How come you never hear father-in-law jokes?

17. The statistics on sanity is that one out of every four persons is suffering from some sort of mental illness. Think of your three best friends — if they’re okay, then it’s you.
**Have you changed your address?**

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

Lynda Bramley  
Clerk to the Board  
Leicester Freemen’s Estate  
32 Freemen’s Holt  
Old Church Street  
Aylestone  
Leicester LE2 8NH

Telephone: 0116 – 283 4017  
E-mail: leicester.freemen@talktalkbusiness.net

Leicester Freemen web site: www.leicester-freemen.com

**Copy for the next issue should reach the editor by**  
**Friday 21st January 2011**

For your News and Views write to:

Brian Mudford  
11 Huntsman Close  
Markfield  
Leicestershire  
LE67 9XE

Telephone 01530 245414  
e-mail: brianmudford@tiscali.co.uk
Tony Chettle (right) receiving his award for winning the Chairman’s Trophy from Wayne Manship, Chairman of the Board of Deputies.

A view of Tony’s garden is shown below.
The eighteen ladies in the photograph are the new Freemen after their swearing in ceremony on 16th October 2010.

Seated from left to right are Roger Porter, Freemen's Deputy, Wayne Manship, Chairman of the Board of Deputies, Lord Mayor of Leicester Cllr. Colin Hall, Brian Mudford, Master of the Gild of Freemen, Tony Chettle, Warden of the Gild Court, and Canon Barry Naylor.

Standing at the left on the back row is Peter Nicholls, Director of Legal Services.
GILD OF FREEMEN OF THE CITY OF LEICESTER
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Full Name______________________________________________
(BLOCK LETTERS)
Address_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
Post Code ________________Tel No. _______________________
e-mail address__________________________________________

I am a duly sworn Freeman of the City of Leicester and apply to be enrolled as a Member of the Gild of Freemen, for which I enclose the sum of £8.50 (Enrolment fee of £1.00 plus the first annual subscription of £7.50).

Signature___________________________________________Date_____________

APPLICATION FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Full Name______________________________________________
(BLOCK LETTERS)
Address_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
Post Code __________________Tel No. ____________________
e-mail address__________________________________________

I certify that I am the SPOUSE / WIDOW / WIDOWER / SON / DAUGHTER / GRANDCHILD aged 18 years or over (please delete where necessary) of Mr. / Mrs./ Ms. _____________________________________(Freeman of Leicester)
Or

I am a full member of the Guild of Freemen of_________________(City or Town)
I apply to be enrolled as an Associate Member of the Gild, for which I enclose the sum of £5.50 (Enrolment Fee of £1.00 plus the first Annual Subscription of £4.50)

Signature_________________________________________________________________________________Date_________________
THE GILD OF FREEMEN OF THE CITY OF LEICESTER
GILD PRODUCTS ORDER FORM

1. Tie  
   - navy ..............at £10.00 each = £..............
   - maroon ..............at £10.00 each = £..............
   - green ..............at £10.00 each = £..............
   - two ties (state colours) ..............at £19.00 two = £..............
   - three ties ..............at £27.50 three = £..............

2. Key-ring ..............at £5.00 each = £..............

3. Lapel badge ..............at £2.50 each = £..............

4. Gild pens  
   - blue ..............at £2.50 each = £..............
   - burgundy ..............at £2.50 each = £..............
   - green ..............at £2.50 each = £..............
   - bronze ..............at £2.50 each = £..............

5. Arm badge  
   - framed ..............at £55.00 each = £..............
   - unframed ..............at £20.00 each = £..............

6. Wall plaque, wooden ..............at £24.00 each = £..............

7. Gown, made to measure, incl. del. ..............at £195.00 each = £..............
   (Chest .............ins, height............ft............ins)

8. Register of Freemen - 1931-85 ..............at £4.00 each = £..............
   - 1986-96 ..............at £3.00 each = £..............

9. Christmas Cards (Freemen’s Holt design) . . at £3.50 for 6 = £..............

   TOTAL = £..............

The above prices include postage and packing (within UK).
I enclose cheque/postal order for the above total, made payable to:
“LEICESTER GILD OF FREEMEN”

NAME...........................................................................................................

ADDRESS........................................................................................................
.......................................................................................................................
.......................................................................................................................

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

e-mail address.................................................................................................

Signed...............................................................................................................

Please post to:
Roger Allen, 8 Dauphine Close, Coalville, Leicestershire  LE67 4QQ