A view of Freemen’s Holt in Aylestone.

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THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL
OF THE
LEICESTER GILD OF FREEMEN

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Number 56  August 2011
Before the St. George’s Day service at St. Mary de Castro on 2nd May 2011

Mrs. Jean Ayres, Keith Mason-Moore, Tony Chettle and Hazel Haig at the Gild Banquet
Patron: Colonel Robert Martin OBE
President: The Lord Mayor of Leicester

OFFICERS 2011 - 2012
Master: B.W. Mudford
Deputy Master: M.B. Hill
Clerk: J.E. Tolton
Chamberlain: R. Allen

WARDENS
M.E. Ayres, A. Chettle, E.L. Critchlow, J.D. Lewitt,
A. Marriott (Co-opted), P.K. Ross.
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Editor’s Comments

I have received several letters since May. One, from Mrs. Sue Taylor asks why there are not more Freemen on the Gild trips, my thoughts exactly. Another one from Mrs. Lynn Roffee, who asks: “I wondered whether you would consider putting in Frequently asked Questions (FAQ’s) which relate to Freemen. In this way it may answer questions people would love to ask and have never felt comfortable in asking. Also it keeps the knowledge of the Freemen active and people who are new can learn more. It also means that the history is passed on.” I think this is a brilliant idea. To set the ball rolling John Tolton has prepared two articles, see page 14. If you have any questions about Freemen or the Gild you want answering please send them in. They should preferably be sent as attachments to an e-mail.

This also applies to those letters, poems, and jokes I would like you to send, together with any photographs for publishing in future issues of the Gildhall News.

Brian Mudford

Report by Brian Mudford, Master of the Gild

As I was finalising my report I was informed that Ted Manship had died in hospital. What a shock, Ted and his wife Pat were regular attendees at the various Gild events along with his brother Jim and sister-in-law Mavis. Our sincere condolences to Pat and the family at this very sad time. We are thinking of you.

Following the recent appointment of Councillor Robert Wann as The Right Worshipful Lord Mayor of Leicester, I sent a letter on behalf of the Gild to congratulate him on his appointment. I also took the opportunity to ask the Lord Mayor to be our President during his year in office. I am pleased to report that the Lord Mayor has confirmed that he will be delighted to accept and honour the Gild by being our President during his forthcoming year in office.

The St. George’s Day service this year was held on Monday 2nd May at 7.30pm at St. Mary de Castro church, this was due to Easter falling late. Considering it was a Bank holiday Monday it was good to see that thirty freemen and family attended the service, including Anne Henderson, the Warwick Bailiff, her husband and two sons. All members of the congregation were presented with
a red rose and joined a procession to the statue of St. George for prayers before returning to their seats.

**6th to 8th May** was the Coventry Banquet weekend. As Master of the Leicester Gild I was invited to their Annual Banquet and installation of the Coventry Master in St. Mary’s Guildhall on the Saturday evening, and to the Freemen’s service on the Sunday. I was honoured to be asked to give the Toast to the City of Coventry Freemen’s Guild coupled with the name of the Master, Rajinder Singh Bansal and present him with the Oath of a Master. Also attending from the Leicester Gild were Mick and Jean Ayres, John and Josie Tolton, Tony Chettle and Eric Critchlow. The hospitality and the warm welcome shown by the Freemen of Coventry were very much appreciated.

**Saturday 21st May.** A party of 34 Freemen, family and friends travelled by coach to York where they were kindly hosted by the Freemen of York at their historic Bedern Hall. After greetings and coffee on arrival and a hearty lunch, gifts were exchanged between the two guilds, and a York Freeman, also a blue-badge guide, took them on a very interesting tour round the most important sites including the famous York Minster, the City Walls which they walked along, and the intriguing Shambles. The tour was of great interest and ideal length, with their guide giving just the right amount of information.

Goodbyes were said back at Bedern Hall, where they thanked the Master of the York Gild, Maureen Eland, and her team of helpers for their very kind hospitality, and were able to express their wish that we reciprocate in the very near future.

Five Freemen with their wives and partners attended the Civic Service for the City of Leicester on **Sunday 29th May** at Leicester Cathedral in the presence of Councillor Robert Wann, Lord Mayor of Leicester. There were many Civic Dignitaries from Leicestershire present at the service, including Lady Gretton, Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire.

After the service the Lord Mayor invited the Civic Dignitaries and the Freemen with their partners to a buffet lunch in the tearoom at the Town Hall. The five Freemen representing the Gild, were myself, Tony Chettle, Keith Harding, David Johnson and Peter Staines.

**Friday 24th June** was the start of a very busy time for the Gild. In the morning at 11am, four Freemen, myself, Jim Manshisp, Eric Critchlow, and Tony Chettle, represented the Gild at the Damask Rose ceremony. The tradition, dating back hundreds of years, was revived this year by the Lord Mayor, Councillor Robert Wann. The custom involved him receiving the symbolic peppercorn rent of a
Damask Rose and four old pennies from the landlord of O’Neils (formally the Crown and Thistle Inn) in Loseby Lane. In keeping with tradition, this was held on June 24th to coincide with the Feast of St John the Baptist.

Later that day, in the evening, the Banquet weekend began with a get-together in the Community Centre at the starting at 7.30pm. Visiting Freemen from Chester, Coventry, Northampton and Warwick attended. This was very well organised by John Tolton and Mick Ayres, the Fish & Chips or Chicken & Chips, and the various drinks were very well received by everybody attending. The quiz got a few people scratching their heads, the evening was attended by 46 persons.

Saturday 25th June continued the busy time. At 11am three Freemen, myself, Mick Ayres and Tony Chettle represented the Gild at the Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving on Armed Forces Day at Leicester Cathedral.

The Gild Banquet was held at Devonshire Place on London Road in the evening of 25th June starting at 7.30pm. 75 persons attended, including Freemen from Coventry, Chester, London, Northampton, Shrewsbury, Warwick and York. The Masters of the Coventry and York Guilds and the President the Chester Guild were invited Guests together with the Lord Mayor, Councillor Robert Wann. Everything went smoothly we had great food and efficient service in lovely surroundings.

The royal toast to “Her Majesty the Queen” was proposed by John Tolton. The toast to “The City of Leicester” was proposed by the Patron of the Gild, Colonel Robert Martin OBE. This was replied to by the Lord Mayor, Councillor Robert Wann who then proposed a toast to “The Gild of Freemen of Leicester”. This was replied to by myself, and followed by thanking John Tolton, Mick Ayres and especially Roger Allen for arranging the splendid evening. After thanking everyone for attending I then proposed a toast to “Our Guests”. This was replied to by Alan Fallow, a Shrewsbury Freeman and President of the Freemen of England and Wales. It was announced that next year’s Banquet will be held two weeks earlier on the 9th June 2012, to avoid the Armed Forces Day ceremonies and the York Guild AGM.

The Annual Freemen’s Service was held on Sunday 26th June at Leicester Cathedral. The Lord Mayor, the President of the Gild, Colonel Robert Martin the Patron of the Gild together with the visiting Freemen and Leicester Freemen met in St. Martin’s House from 9.50 am for robing. Tony Chettle efficiently arranged the procession in order before a gentle stroll was taken
around the square before entering the Cathedral by the South door for the Eucharist service. Lady Gretton, the Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire, and the High Sheriff together with his wife, Mrs. Sandu also attended the service, but went directly to the Cathedral. Colonel Martin and myself read the two lessons for the day, and the sermon was given by the Revd. Canon Barry Naylor. A group photograph was taken on the steps outside the Cathedral after the service followed by refreshments served in St. Martin’s House. (See photo on back cover)

I have received letters from the Lord Mayor and the High Sheriff, thanking the Gild for inviting them to the Freemen’s service, which they very much enjoyed.

Included in my speech at the banquet I mentioned that 99 new Freemen have taken their oath in six ceremonies at the Town Hall, 93 females and 6 males in the last two years. Unfortunately only a few of these new Freemen attended the annual banquet or the Annual Freemen’s Service at the Cathedral. This begs the question: Why are the new Freemen not becoming involved in the Gild events? Maybe some of you would like to write to the Gildhall News with your reasons.

Personally I would like to see more of the new Freemen joining the Gild, particularly the younger ones. Unfortunately none of us are getting any younger. We have to look to the future to increase the membership of the Gild and introduce new and younger faces to the Court.

On the afternoon of the 25th July I was very pleased to attend, along with the Lord Mayor a “Making Free” ceremony for Edward Martin, the son of Colonel and Janie Martin. The ceremony, which was held at the home of Colonel Martin, was also attended by Kamal Adatia, the Town Hall Legal representative, and Canon Barry Naylor. (See photo inside back cover)

The next “Making Free” ceremony at the Town Hall has been provisionally arranged for 29th October 2011.

Please note that the FEW AGM is to be held this year at Pembroke over the weekend of the 16th - 18th September 2011. Anyone requiring details should contact Mick Ayres on 0116 224 2353 for booking form and further details.

The Chester Freemen’s Banquet weekend will take place from 7th to 9th October, please contact John Tolton on 0116 221 8313 if you are interested in attending.

Brian Mudford
It has been a busy year again with plenty of demands on our time. The street party to celebrate the Royal Wedding was enjoyed by 56 people at the Holt. Good food, games and great company helped to make the day special and £195 was raised on the day for Help for Heroes. All this was organised by the residents who live within a thriving community.

We have had a few special birthdays at Freemen’s Holt again this year with 70th, 80th and 90th birthdays already celebrated. During June we had a birthday lunch provided by Joyce to celebrate her 90th birthday. The residents rallied around and did most of the work to cook roast beef and ham with salad, sandwiches, pork pies and other nibbles and more desserts than you can imagine which everyone enjoyed. This was followed a week later by another lunch provided by Evelyn to celebrate her 100th birthday. For Evelyn the week was special as her family came from South Africa to help her to celebrate the event. There was a party with friends from the bowls club and Evelyn was presented with champagne at bingo when she turned up. It just goes to show that you can enjoy life at any age. It’s all about friends and family and keeping active. Congratulations to everyone with their own special birthday this year.

Freemen’s Holt is looking beautiful again this year now the patio gardens are in full bloom. We are all looking forward to the Chairman’s Trophy when we nominate patio gardens, tubs, hanging baskets, allotments and special floral displays for recognition. We all get together for our annual barbecue to sample some good food in the company of friends. More importantly it is our opportunity as residents and deputies to review the environment that we live or work in but something that we all enjoy and are all immensely proud of.

Many of you are now using computers and there is the option to receive your Gildhall News via email if you so wish. Again please contact Lynda on leicester.freemen@talktalkbusiness.net to provide your email address. It certainly makes sense for those of you in foreign lands as you would receive your copy immediately. Sometimes the post can be delayed and it also helps to keeps costs down.

And finally.........if you’re off on your summer holidays we hope that you have a good time and great weather.

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

The Freemen of England and Wales send their congratulations to the Master of the Leicester Gild, Mr. Brian Mudford on the occasion of his marriage to Mrs. Gill Pitts, on Sunday 3rd July at the Fieldhead Hotel, Markfield.

The FEW court meeting held on Saturday 11th June in the Village Institute, Church Eaton, and hosted by the Freemen of Stafford.

Due to holiday commitments there was no representative from the Leicester Gild present at the meeting.

Reading the report of the meeting in the FEW Journal no 167, main points of discussion were the suggested review and the updating of the FEW Constitution. This generated much discussion on all proposed changes, it was agreed that further discussion is essential before any final conclusions are reached for ratification at a future AGM.

If any member of the Gild requires a copy of FEW Journal to read the full reports please contact me on 01162242353.

The next meeting of the FEW will be the AGM, hosted by the Freemen of Pembroke, on Friday 16th – Sunday 18th September 2011. All the functions and accommodation will be at The Cleddau Bridge Hotel Pembroke. The cost of the weekend package including the Banquet on Saturday night, for two persons sharing a double room £275, or a single room for one person £208 50. If you would like to attend the Pembroke AGM please contact me for a booking form.

If you are a member or associate member of the Leicester Gild and would like to become a member of the Freemen of England and Wales please contact the Membership Secretary.

Eileen Forth. 88 Whitethorn Close, Huntington, York YO3 9EU. Phone, 01904638361.
Programme of Future Outings and Events

Games evening with Coventry Guild
_Barnacle village hall, Coventry_
Friday 2nd September 2011 – meet at Freemen’s Holt at 6.45pm

As last year, our friends from the Coventry Guild have invited us again to their very successful Games evening at Barnacle village hall. Although billed as a “skittles” evening, in fact five different forms of skittles and other games are played, with about 80 participants split into teams of 8 each. It is great fun, and very relaxed, not taken seriously at all.

The cost is £8.00 per person, which includes a fish and chips supper. We will be meeting at Freemen’s Holt and travel in individual cars on a petrol-share basis (pint of beer, for example) in order to cut costs. Final travel arrangements will be sorted out nearer the date. Numbers must be advised by 15th August, please, so you should book promptly.

Steve Brooks “My life as a Travel Agent” - fish and chips supper
_Saturday 3rd December 2011 – Freemen’s Holt 7.30pm_

For the Gild’s final event of the year at the Holt, we’ve secured the services of Steve Brooks, a well-known local travel agent based in Glenfield who will tell us about his fun-filled life and experiences gained in over 30 years in the travel industry. Steve is in much demand on the after-dinner speaking circuit and renowned for his humour and wit, and we’re lucky to get him as our speaker. It’s sure to be a great evening topped off with delicious fish and chips. What better way is there to spend a Saturday evening as the nights get colder?

The cost will be £8.50 per person, which includes wine, beer and soft drinks, plus mince pies, and a Christmas raffle will be held afterwards. Gild products, such as Christmas cards, lapel badges, ties, etc (all good Christmas presents) will be on sale.

“Dick Whittington” - Pantomime
_Friday 16th December 2011 – Little Theatre, 7.00pm_
Following last year’s sell-out success with *Aladdin and his wonderful lamp* which was enjoyed by almost 50 freemen, family and friends, a similar block booking has been made for this year’s pantomime at the Little Theatre.

Come with us into pantoland with Dick and his clever cat. Go with them to London. Are the streets paved with gold? Will our hero make his fortune and win the hand of the fair daughter of Alderman FitzWarren?

Boo and hiss as the Evil King Rat tricks our hero and has him banished from the city. Sail with them to exotic islands where our hero and his cat triumph over evil and return to England where Dick becomes Lord Mayor.

Along the way, enjoy the antics of Sarah the cook and her idle son and the comical sailors. With wonderful scenery and beautiful costumes, songs and dance and plenty of audience participation, this is a family pantomime for all to enjoy.

Please book early for this seasonal treat the whole family can enjoy – freemen, family and friends. Tickets cost £12.00 for adults, £11 for seniors (60+) and £10.00 for children (up to 16), or £14.00 for non-Gild members. Tickets will be allocated strictly on a first-come, first-served, basis.

**New Members**

We are pleased to welcome Kay Gaunt, Pauline Burdett, Doreen Norman and Philip Hurst who have recently joined the Gild as full members, and Elizabeth Bosworth who has joined as an associate member.

We send warm greetings to you all, especially the new lady Freemen. We look forward to seeing you at some of our outings and events.

**Gild Products**

Gild products make very useful birthday gifts and welcome Christmas presents, particularly ties, lapel badges, gentlemen’s cufflinks, pens and key-rings.

An order form is attached and products will be sent by return mail.

Roger Allen
A Message from the Patron of the Gild of the Freemen of Leicester, Colonel Robert Martin OBE DL to The Members of the Gild of the Freemen of Leicester:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Gild of Freemen of Leicester for their fantastic support during the last year when I had the great honour and privilege of holding the office of High Sheriff of Leicestershire.

Some may be unaware that it is customary for the High Sheriff to hold a Legal Service at the beginning of each legal term on the first occasion during that term that a High Court Judge visits the City and County. This dates back some 1000 years when the ‘Shire Reeve’ was required by the King to meet the Assizes Judge at the County boundary, escort and entertain him during his stay, and guarantee his safety. That is why to this day the High Sheriff, when in uniform, carries a sword.

During my year of office three such services were held at St Mary de Castro, followed by the reading of HM The Queen’s Letters Patent in the historic Leicester Castle. Before and after each service a procession took place from Castle House, the Judge’s Lodgings, to the church, and from the church to the Castle. As well as the High Sheriff, the procession included the High Court Judge, the Lord Lieutenant, the Lord Mayor and his Mace Bearer, the High Bailiff, the county and crown court judges, visiting High Sheriffs from neighbouring counties, the Under Sheriff, the High Sheriffs Chaplain and the Chief Constable. Also, on each occasion, at least four Freemen, in their traditional gowns, took part in the services and processions, making them an even more special occasion.

I am most grateful to all those freemen who participated, and to the Master of the Gild who personally led them, for their support during the year, and helping to make it such a very special one for my wife Janie and me.

Yours Most Sincerely

Robert Martin
Who is in charge?

Over the last few years there have been a number of new freemen sworn in, the vast majority of whom have been ladies. Quite naturally there has been some confusion amongst those new freemen with regard to the roles of the Gild of Freemen and that of the Board of Deputies. They are two distinct bodies, both of which have a role to play in the affairs of the Freemen of Leicester.

The Board of Deputies and the Freemen’s Estate

The Board of Deputies are the trustees of the Freemen’s Estate and meet monthly to discuss such matters as the welfare of the residents of the Freemen’s Holt and of elderly freemen residing elsewhere, the state of the properties owned by the Charity, and the finances (investments and expenditure) of the Charity.

The Freemen’s Estate originated in an Enclosure Act of 1804 which conferred on resident Freemen of the Borough (and the Widows of such Freemen) a common or pasture over some 490 acres of fields in St Mary’s Parish and 116 acres of Burgesses’ Meadows as freehold land in the name of the Freemen of Leicester. Within the same act provision was made for the election and appointment of Deputies to manage the estate. After some years it became apparent that the average freeman could not afford the expense of horses, cattle and sheep to graze on the pasture land and an act was passed in 1845 dividing some of that land into allotments each of an area no more than 500 square yards. Indeed some of that allotment land existed as recently as 1967.

Today the Board, when there is a full complement, consists of 21 deputies who may reside in any part of the County of Leicestershire or within the boundaries of Leicester, but at the time of the 1845 Act deputies must reside within the Borough of Leicester and within the parish from which they were elected. Two deputies were elected from each parish in Leicester except St Leonard’s, from which one deputy was elected, and St Margaret’s where three deputies were elected onto the Board. The present system was introduced by an Act of Parliament in 1898.

Deputies are elected for a period of three years, one third being elected each year, and deputies may stand for as many consecutive three year periods as
they wish. The present complement of Deputies is 15 and there has not been a full complement of deputies in living memory.

Over the years all the land once forming the enclosed land that was freehold property in the name of the Freemen of Leicester has been disposed of, the first tranche to the Midland Counties Railway Company in 1836 and the last disposal was the remaining part of the Freemen's Common and the Welford Road cottages to the University of Leicester.

From the monies raised from the sale of the Common to the City Council and to the University the Deputies were able to purchase land in Aylestone which is now known as Freemen's Holt.

**The Gild of Freemen and the Gild Court**

Prior to the formation of the Gild in 1975 there was no formal way in which freemen could meet socially. The Board's activities are restricted by legislation which precludes using the funds of the Charity for social purposes. A group of freemen met to consider ways in which freemen regardless of their place of abode could meet and gather socially and in December 1975 the first meeting of freemen took place at Freemen's Holt and the Gild was formed. Right from the very beginning the Gild has been self financing, firstly by donation and subsequently by subscriptions.

The Gild is managed by the Court that consists of nine elected freemen, the Master, the Deputy Master, the Clerk, the Chamberlain, and five wardens. As with the Board a third of the Court is elected every third year and they serve a three year term of office, after which members may seek re-election for a further term of three years.

Apart from providing a means for freemen to meet socially it has also built a very good relationship with the Civic Authority, particularly with the Lord Mayor's office and freemen are frequently to be seen accompanying the Lord Mayor at official functions.

The biggest change to occur in the recent history of freemen is the introduction of lady freemen and it would be really nice to see more of the new freemen taking part in the activities and business of the Gild. They would be welcome.

In the very early stages of the Gild's formation it was decided that ceremonial robes would not go amiss and the first robe to be acquired was assembled for the Master of the Gild by a manufacturer of academic robes situated in Oxford. The design was agreed with the colour red for the main body of the
gown with black trimming and the Gild crest consisting of the cinq foil with hanging ermine tails. There is no background history defining the gown design but the cinq foil is much in evidence and can be seen in the Guild Hall. The spelling of the word Gild as opposed to guild, is Old English and is adopted by a number of other freemen’s gilds.

**So who is in charge?**

The two bodies, the Board of Deputies and the Gild Court, are separate and distinct and they both have a place in freemen’s affairs. The Board is in charge of the charity and all it stands for and the Gild Court is in charge of social events and with the relationship between the freemen and the Civic Authorities.

**The Matthew Simons Charity**

It has been asked by a new freeman. “What is the background to the Matthew Simons Charity.”

This charity predates any connection with the Freemen of Leicester and provided funds for such needs as starting up a business, for creating apprenticeships, and for relief of those in hardship for any applicant within the Borough of Leicester. In 1913 £200 was set aside for the sole use of the Freemen of Leicester and the interest on the investment of £200 provided a weekly pension granted for a term of three years to aged freemen or their widows. At that time interest on such a sum of money was adequate to finance the scheme but as time progressed the pension provided diminished in value.

The pension was eventually restricted to a weekly pension to the oldest applicant and this was further watered down to an annual payment.

Eventually the administration costs of the charity far outweighed the benefit and the Charity Commissioners removed the payment. The £200 was assimilated into the funds of the Freemen’s Estate.

The Matthew Simons Charity provision for services to the general public has also ceased to exist.

*John Tolton*
Well Dressing

Some years ago June and I first heard of the custom of Well Dressing in the village of Tissington in Derbyshire. We paid a visit to see the wells and found it fascinating. We have been again this year and would like to share our experience with you and explain what it is all about.

The origins of Well Dressing are lost in antiquity. They may even have their roots in pagan customs later given a Christian meaning. One theory is that the custom began after the Black Death of 1348-9. Although the population in the surrounding area was ravaged by plague, in Tissington all escaped and the immunity was ascribed to the purity of the water supply from the village wells. It became the custom to decorate the wells each year on Ascension Day in thanksgiving for the gift of life through the water.

One of this year’s decorated wells
The art of well dressing is basically as follows. Clay is dug locally, mixed with salt and then trod (like grapes) to the right consistency. The design is prepared weeks before the event. For a few days before the process of dressing begins the boards on which the pictures are mounted are soaked in the village pond. After this they are plastered in the prepared clay.

Flowers are picked locally. The design is traced onto the prepared boards and marked out with cones or coffee beans. Then comes the delicate and laborious task of infilling with flower petals and other natural materials. No artificial or synthetic materials are ever used at Tissington. Each petal has to be in place separately and they overlap like roof tiles so that should it rain the water will flow off the picture. This process takes many hours and occupies all of the three days preceding Ascension Day.

The dressed boards are erected on the eve of Ascension Day, and this is the first time that those who have worked on the picture will see the effect because when the boards are horizontal the picture appears distorted.

On Ascension Day the Clergy and villagers process around the village and each well in turn is blessed. The dressings remain in place for one week during which many people will visit the village to see and marvel at the dressings.

Well Dressing in 2012 will be from 17-23 May inclusive and we would both recommend that you visit if you can.

A close up of one of the designs

June and Maurice Hill
A letter from Mrs Sue Taylor to Guildhall News

I always enjoy the trips arranged each year, but why not more freemen and their families?

It is always difficult to arrange a trip to suit all freemen, but we all want a trip to meet up together.

More participation leads to a good outing. Come on, lets have your ideas!

One idea is “Beamish”. New freemen may want something else.

If we all helped, trips could be over-subscribed!!

Sue Taylor (Mrs.)

Editor’s Note: If you have any ideas for an outing please let us know.

Anagrams

PRESBYTERIAN: When you rearrange the letters: BEST IN PRAYER

ASTRONOMER: When you rearrange the letters: MOON STAR

THE EYES: When you rearrange the letters: THEY SEE

THE MORSE CODE: When you rearrange the letters: HERE COME DOTS

DORMITORY: When you rearrange the letters: DIRTY ROOM

SLOT MACHINES: When you rearrange the letters: CASH LOST IN ME

ELECTION RESULTS: When you rearrange the letters: LIES - LET’S RECOUNT

SNOOZE ALARMS: When you rearrange the letters: ALAS! NO MORE Z ‘S

A DECIMAL POINT: When you rearrange the letters: I’M A DOT IN PLACE

THE EARTHQUAKES: When you rearrange the letters: THAT QUEER SHAKE

ELEVEN PLUS TWO: When you rearrange the letters: TWELVE PLUS ONE

AND FOR THE GRAND FINALE:

MOTHER-IN-LAW: When you rearrange the letters: WOMAN HITLER
A Paraprosdokian

A Paraprosdokian is a figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected in a way that causes the reader or listener to reframe or reinterpret the first part. It is frequently used for humorous or dramatic effect, sometimes producing an anticlimax. For this reason, it is extremely popular among comedians and satirists.

Ø I asked God for a bike, but I know God doesn’t work that way, so I stole a bike and asked for forgiveness.

Ø Going to church doesn’t make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

Ø The last thing I want to do is hurt you, but it’s still on my list.

Ø If I agreed with you, we’d both be wrong.

Ø We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.

Ø War does not determine who is right - only who is left.

Ø Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; Wisdom is not putting it in the fruit salad.

Ø Evening news is where they begin with ‘Good evening’, and then proceed to tell you why it is not.

Ø To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.

Ø A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk, I have a work station.

Ø Dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish.

Ø I thought I wanted a career, turns out I just wanted pay cheques.

Ø A bank is a place that will lend you money, if you can prove that you don’t need it.
Ø Whenever I fill out an application, in the part that says “In an emergency, notify:” I put “DOCTOR”.
Ø I didn’t say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
Ø Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?
Ø Why do Americans choose from just two people to run for president and 50 for Miss America?
Ø A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
Ø You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive more than once.
Ø The voices in my head may not be real, but they have some good ideas!
Ø Always borrow money from a pessimist. He won’t expect it back.
Ø An Irishman can tell you to go to hell in such a way that you will look forward to the trip.
Ø Money can’t buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with.
Ø I discovered I scream the same way whether I’m about to be devoured by a great white shark or if a piece of seaweed touches my foot.
Ø I used to be indecisive. Now I’m not sure.
Ø I always take life with a grain of salt, plus a slice of lemon, and a shot of tequila.
Ø You’re never too old to learn something stupid.
Ø To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit “the target”.
Ø Nostalgia isn’t what it used to be.
Ø A bus is a vehicle that runs twice as fast when you are after it as when you are in it.
Ø Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
Have you changed your address?

In the event that 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 14th October 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
Leading the procession to the Cathedral for the Annual Freemen’s Service

Taken after the “Making Free” ceremony for Edward Martin on the 25th July 2011
Group photograph of Leicester Freemen and visiting Freemasons from other towns and cities taken outside the Leicester Cathedral after the annual Freemen's Service on Sunday the 26th June 2011.