### The Mace-Bearer



2024



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### In This Edition

#### ".....EDITORIAL...."

Welcome to the first of TWO editions of our magazine, planned especially for this special year for the Guild as we mark 100 years since the first formal meeting of a group of Mace-Bearers back in 1925.

I have had the honor of recently becoming Guild Editor, and I feel really proud to be undertaking the editorial role during such an important year for our Guild, and I wish every success to my predecessor Neill Tully in his future projects!



Glenn Martin James Edtor@macebearer.com

I am asking everyone to contribute memories and stories for our second edition, which will be produced towards the end of the year, and I hope we can make this a really joyous celebration for our Guild.

2024 proved to be a year of great concern, with the breaking news surrounding not just the health of our King, Charles III, but also the Princess of Wales. I'm sure that you, like me, followed the development of this story with compassion, sympathy, and empathy. To have so recently lost our great Queen Elizabeth II, and then to have heard this on the news! But as the year unfolded, what admirable progress they have both made! True to that incredible Royal tradition of service and fortitude, both the King and the Princess quietly accepted the situation, adapted to their treatment, and well and truly got on with their duties, with grace and a strength of character which is admirable. The King and Queen toured Australia, and the Princess of Wales has returned to full public life again. May both of them continue to enjoy a full recovery, and a continuous return to good health.

God Save the King!

#### **Glenn Martin James Guild Editor**

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#### THE GUILD OF MACE-BEARERS

#### **OBJECTS**

To uphold and preserve the customs of the civic and corporate life of the country and Commonwealth and to advise thereon.

To collect and disseminate information that will assist members in the performance of their duties.

To uphold the position and dignity of the office of Mace-Bearer within the civic and corporate domain.

To promote the spirit of comradeship and co-operation amongst its members.

To encourage a degree of uniformity in civic and corporate ceremonial without infringing the peculiar and characteristics customs of individual towns and corporations.

To assemble its members periodically to discuss matters of professional interest.

#### **IDEAL**

The Guild shall be strictly non-sectarian and non-political and shall not seek the status of a trade union.

#### **MOTTO**

Semper Fidelis (Ever Faithful)

The head of the Guild is the Prime Warden and they are supported by their deputy, the Renter Prime Warden.

The Guild is managed on a day-to-day basis by the Chief Executive Officer, supported by the Guild Clerk and the Guild Bursar.

The Guild is governed by a Council consisting of the Prime Warden, the Renter Prime Warden, the Chief Executive Officer, the Guild Clerk, the Guild Bursar, the Guild Editor, the Guild Training Officer, the Guild Webmaster, the Guild Welfare Officer and a number of non-executive Council Members up to a maximum equivalent to not more than 5% of the total Guild membership.

Prime Warden	Paul Mayhew	primewarden@macebearer.com
Renter Prime Warden	Ashley Winter	renterwarden@macebearer.com
Chief Executive Officer	Peter Legg	webmaster@macebearer.com
Guild Clerk	Adam Tregoning J.P.	clerk@macebearer.com
Guild Bursar	Paul Mayhew	bursar@macebearer.com
Guild Editor	Glenn Martin James	editor@macebearer.com
Guild Welfare Office	David Knight J.P.	welfare@macebearer.com
Guild Web Master	Peter Legg	webmaster@macebearer.com



## The Prime Warden



I was honoured to be elected as Prime Warden at the Virtual AGM on 31 May 2024, however there was a tinge of disappointment in not having an in-person event and the formal investiture and ceremonial proceedings that go with it. It would have been nice to share the experience as Prime Wardens that have gone before me have done with their respective colleagues and peers and I also think it is invaluable for us to network together sharing experiences, to learn, debate and discuss issues, but appreciate that numbers were not where they need it to be for it to be a viable event.

I would like to extend my congratulations to Ashley Winter of Hereford City Council, on his election as Renter Prime Warden and have enjoyed working with him thus far and will continue to do so for the promotion and benefit of the Guild.

I mentioned this is my Christmas message but I wanted to reiterate that I was really pleased with your response and engagement to the survey on what the Guild event in 2025 might look like, it was sent to 193 members and we had 100 responses - to get a return rate of over 50% is unheard of so a big thank you from Guild Council and I for engaging with us. It

was by far the biggest response we have ever had to a survey and am pleased that following your responses we are putting on a Gala Celebration and Dinner event in July. Information about this event has already been sent out to you all by email and is also included with this magazine so I do encourage you all to sign up to early to take advantage of the 'early bird discount' to celebrate and be a part of this significant milestone in the Guild's history.

I congratulate Glenn James, Guild Editor, of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council on the success of his first magazine issue for the Guild and look forward to seeing the next issue which I am sure will have a selection of stories and photographs from our celebration event!

They say behind every good man is a good woman and to this end I want to thank my wife, Claire, for all her support to enable me to have the time to dedicate to the roles I have within both the Guild of Macebearers and NACO (National Association of Civic Officers). Behind every good Prime Warden is the newly formed Executive Committee and the wider Guild Council and I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all those for the work they have undertaken so far during my term in office and will continue to do so moving forward to improve and make the Guild the best version of itself it can be to support its members and the wider civic community. As part of these improvements the eighth edition of the *Manual of the Mace* was published in Autumn 2024 which reflected changes in the management of the Guild and the death of her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. As part of the Guild's new ways of working I am proud that we have strengthened our working relationship with NACO and to this end both myself and Peter Legg (Guild CEO) have been invited as guests by Tracy Frisby the Chair of NACO to attend and take part in NACO's Training Event on 26th March at Southwark where both organisations will continue to work together for the benefit of our respective civic heads and offices. In the meantime, please do feel free to contact me at any time if I can be of any assistance.

**PAUL MAYHEW** 



Photo – Dave Daw Photography

### RENTER PRIME WARDEN

### shley Winter renterwarden@macebearer.com

Ash is part of the liveried team for Hereford City Council, active for many years following his discharge from the military: A member of the Guild for 18 months, he became Renter Prime Warden supporting the committee, and thus part of the long, traditional history of the Guild. With 14 years' service in the armed forces, Ash deployed frequently to hostile locations. Part of the Welfare team, he enjoyed ceremonial duties: A military sense of smart apparel and a pride in achievement were key attributes Ash wanted to continue, so he approached his council and was duly accepted. Excelling in anything he is asked to do, being a Mace-bearer is no exception, be it escorting the Mayor of Hereford to civic events, supporting the Mayoral Office in promotions, or getting on stage for a Christmas lights switch on, Ash is a sterling support. A vital organiser of the 2025 Gala Celebration and Dinner he is proud to be a part of such a special occasion.



#### **GUILD CEO**

#### eter Legg webmaster@macebearer.com

One of the joys of being the Chief Executive of the Guild is that I am often the first point of contact with anyone wanting advice. Whether it's a new member seeking confirmation that they are doing things 'the right way' or a random enquiry from someone unsure where their Grandfather was a Mace-bearer in the 1800s, I never know what the next call is going to be.

Recently I had occasion to telephone our venerable Freeman, Richard Strudwick, a gentleman I have known since I joined the Guild over 25 years ago, and someone with whom I have enjoyed much healthy debate over the years. Sometimes we have agreed, sometimes we haven't, but we have always parted as good friends. At the end of our conversation he mentioned to me that he had given some thought to my job title, feeling that "Chief

Executive" bore too many modern corporate connotations and that he would research what similar positions in olde-worlde Guilds would have been called.

I politely explained that much thought had already been given to this before the post was created, but that the Guild Council felt that CEO would convey the desired image to the outside world of the job being the management of a modern and efficient organisation. Our job is to preserve the customs and traditions of our ancient role, but to be able to effectively do that in a modern world in some ways, at least, we need move with modern times.



#### **GUILD CLERK**

### dam Tregoning J.P. clerk@macebearer.com

Looking back at 2024, we had another year filled with significant ceremonial events across the UK most notably the 80th anniversary of D-Day. During 2025 we will also observe the 80th anniversaries of VE Day and VJ Day and I am sure you will all play an important role in these significant civic occasions as your expertise will be drawn upon for guidance and advice on protocol. Amidst these commemorations, the landscape of local governance continues to evolve with calls to simplify local government structures. As these changes unfold, the Guild will be ready to offer guidance and support alongside our colleagues in the National Association of Civic Officers (NACO).

As always, the Guild remains committed to upholding the traditions and customs of civic life, providing advice and training to our members. Please do reach out if there is anything we can do to assist you.



#### **GUILD BURSAR**

### aul Mayhew bursar@macebearer.com

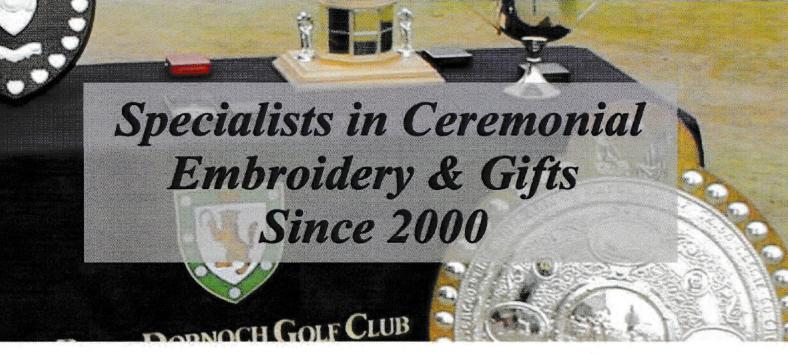
This is my first Guild magazine communication as Guild Bursar, having been voted in during our virtual AGM on 31 May 2024.

2024 has certainly been a very busy year for the Guild, the Guild Council has been working tirelessly behind the scenes to bring the organisation both up to date and future proof it.

From a Bursar's perspective, one of our priorities has been to establish systems for functions such as banking so that nothing is left solely in the hands one officer. This gives us better protection against anyone acting improperly or the potential difficulties caused by the sudden unavailability of an officer due to sickness or injury.

The Guild continues to have a strong financial footing enabling us to keep the subscription renewals at the reduced level of £10.00 for the current year and in addition we are able to help subsidise the Gala Celebration and Dinner event in July to keep costs at a level to helps as many of you to attend as possible. On that note I look forward to seeing members both old and new at the event to celebrate this notable milestone.





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### Why Join the Guild? - What's in it for me?

If you carry a mace and take part in (or organise) major civic or university processions and ceremonial events then this is the Guild for you.

Our members have a wealth of experience of these matters including who should be in a procession, what order they should be in and how they should be marshalled and announced. At less formal occasions the rules of protocol can be just as tricky. Should the Mayor wear his chain at a funeral? Can the Mayoress attend events in his stead? Does the Chancellor always enter last? Who should sit on the host's right at dinner? All these questions and many more are in the domain of the mace-bearer and the Guild of Macebearers is where you can get real answers from experienced colleagues. As a member you will receive a membership certificate and pin badge and a whole lot

THE MANUAL OF THE MACE

more. You get a copy of the Manual of the Mace - A pocket sized book which is a complete road map to success for any new mace-bearer.

It includes sections on correct forms of address, (do you know how to announce the Lord Lieutenant?) modes of dress (what should you advise the Mayor to wear for a royal garden party) and suggested formats for all kinds of civic visits (what should you advise your Chairman to do at a local football match?). Members also receive the annual Guild review magazine containing useful letters, stories and pictures, get regular training opportunities, access to the on-line message board and Facebook group and a wealth of information in the Members-only area of the Guild website.

#### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jennifer Otter - Newcastle Under Lyme **Borough Council** 

Glenn James - Newcastle Under Lyme **Borough Council** 

Peter Shore - Newcastle Under Lyme **Borough Council** 

David Robinson - Ashford Borough Council Raymond Haddock - Hertford Town Council David Phillips - Brecon Town Council Graham Woodland - Wells City Council Mark Crosskey - Daventry Town Council

David Hawkins - Oxford City Council

Ian Aspinal - Exeter City Council

Jerry Glazier - Exeter City Council Leo Robbins - Exeter City Council

Mark Dawson - Calderdale Metropolitan **Borough Council** 

Robin Sturtivant - Exeter City Council Michaela Squelch - Haverfordwest

**Town Council** 

Mark Thompson - Faversham Town Council Jane Daggers - Hereford City Council

Innes Mason - Newbury Town Council

Mark Graves - Canterbury City Council Davey Ellis - Okehampton Town Council

David Piper - Okehampton Town Council Ian Morris - Swale Borough Council

Kenneth Jobling - Gateshead Metropolitan **Borough Council** 

Rosina Hearn - Conwy Town Council Constantinos Zacheridis - City of Bath

**Charter Trustees** 

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### FIREWALKING

Never let it be said that members of the Guild are anything less than adventurous, as you will see in this amazing report from Adrian Holmes, Town Crier of Lichfield...

On the 26th October I was one of many who completed a Fire Walk in aid of St Giles Hospice based at Whittington, which is near Lichfield.

Bizarrely, this is something I have always wanted to try and what better cause to be able to do this for?

Before the actual walk a briefing was carried out where we signed a disclaimer (I wonder why?). Having been asked what temperature water boils at, 100 degrees which we knew, we were then told that the temperature of the course we would walk would be nearer 600 degrees - yes 600 degrees!

Silence ensued and once this had sunk in we were advised of the technique to follow in order to successfully complete our trial. It went along the lines of; when you walk ensure it is not too slow, not too fast, but just right!!!

As we assembled on the car park everyone was in orange t-shirts apart from me in my Lichfield regalia.

I was asked to announce to those gathered the temperature of the fire - "574 degrees" I declared.

Everyone completed the task including myself. The worst part, for me at least, was walking bare foot on the car park. What a great day - I am sure that if I had verrucas prior to the event (which incidentally I did not) they would have been burnt off!

I would like to sincerely thank everyone who sponsored my Fire Walk for St Giles Hospice and also those who sent messages of support, humorous or otherwise, it was most humbling. Once again thank you one and all.

Many thanks to Adrian for this fascinating story, and please let us know of any adventurous exploits in future!



### GALA CELEBRATION & DINNER 2025



2025 is a significant year for the Guild as we mark 100 years since the first formal meeting of a group of mace-bearers. Let's all come together and celebrate the events that led to the creation of our amazing organisation!

The event will start with a buffet lunch at midday, followed by the Installation of the Prime Warden with photographs of everyone in uniform/ceremonial dress. This will be followed by the presentation of the new Guild Mace by a very special invited VIP (Ssh! Can't say who yet!).

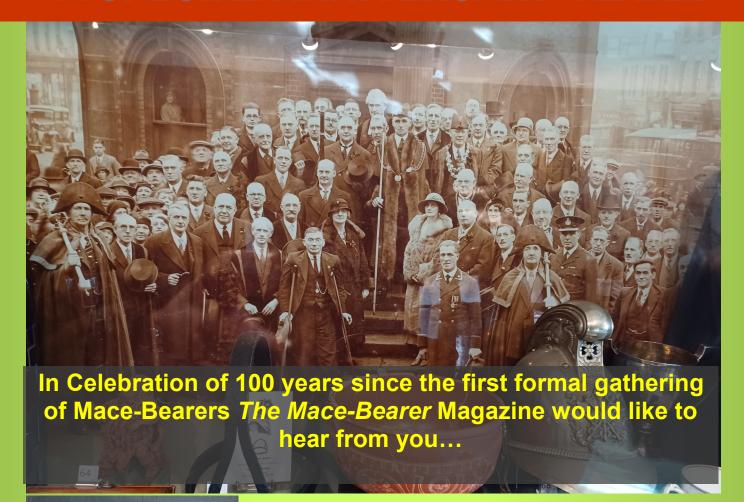
There will be a brief training session where silversmith Ged Collins talks about the creation of the new mace and demonstrates how to take it apart for cleaning and reassemble the pieces. This will be followed by a question and answer session for us to talk through some of those niggly "how do I…" questions for newer members.

In the evening there will be a Gala Dinner in the spectacular Museum Hall.

Tickets for this glittering event including lunch and dinner (with wine) are priced at £120 but book before 31st May to get the Early Bird Discounted price of just £100 per ticket!

Bookings are now open. For full details or to book please go to: www.macebearer.com/gala-celebration-and-dinner

### A SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY YEAR...





#### In an incredibly significant year, the Guild of Mace-Bearers has something to truly celebrate

We walk in history. Reflecting on our roles, we bear with us a continuity at the very centre of our society. We are walking in timeless footsteps, carrying not just our maces or rods of office, but a heritage and tradition which literally goes back hundreds of years.

This is no casual observation: Our lineal ancestors have carried their maces throughout the War of the Roses, the Wars with Napoleon, and the two great wars of civilisation in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, to name only a few periods. We ourselves have come through an unprecedented pandemic, the loss of a much loved Queen, and a coronation, sometimes carrying out our ceremonial duties to a camera when our councils and institutions had to meet by Zoom and Teams online... and we proudly continue, shouldering our maces as our forebears did, carrying the authority of the Monarch and filling that tradition with a proud life.



Back Row. Dover. W. H. Smith (Faversham). A. Smith (Tunbridge Wells). H. Golding (Gillingham). F. G. Brown (Lydd). Hythe.

A. Bromley (Queenborough).

Front Row. W. Johnson, Hon. Treasurer (Rochester). F. E. Hort (Maidstone). The Primate. J. Parkinson, Hon. Secretary (Gravesend).

D. Alers (Bromley).

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#### An image taken from "The Mace-Bearer" magazine January 1935

Particularly during this proud occasion we would like to share your stories. Members will have seen some amazing things, and have remarkable anecdotes and family tales to tell: We would love to hear from you, and if you have any photographs to accompany the story it would be wonderful to share them.

We have a rich and extraordinary heritage and I hope we shall all be able to share each others stories, and make the 2025 anniversary edition of *The Mace-Bearer* a remarkable issue. Please contact me on **Editor@macebearer.com**.

Glenn James Guild Editor

### ANNOUNCING

THE GUILD'S NEW MACE

Designs and photographs © of Ged Collins 2025

This is an important year for the Mace-Bearers Guild, and we will be marking the occasion in some considerable style, as we reveal in the following exclusive story....

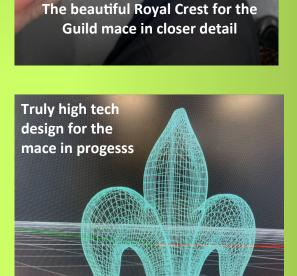
Readers of *The Mace-Bearer* will no doubt be familiar with the incredible skill and handiwork of Ged Collins of Kraftwork and Precious Metals, a talented goldsmith and jeweller.

He is truly a master of his craft, and to mark the occasion, Ged has been commissioned to create a unique new mace especially for the Guild, which will be presented during this year's Gala occasion held at the University of Liverpool. It's going to be QUITE an anniversary!



"....We've been working on the mace, and it's going to be a yard long. So far you've had 71 or 72 Prime Wardens, so we were planning room for 100 names; Now we're thinking maybe more??"

GED COLLINS





In an exclusive preview, Ged kindly gave us access to some photos of new the mace in progress, and it's looking extremely impressive.

In a notable distinctive feature of the design, provision has been made on the shaft of the mace for the engraving of the names of the past Prime Wardens of the Guild.



The mace will be a an elegant piece assembled around a wooden core, like all restoration style maces, with a shaft length of 455 millimetres available for the engraving of names, and measuring 78mm around the shaft. All the metal is, of course, solid sterling silver (which is 92.5% silver 7.5% mainly copper to add hardness) although hollow from the base knop to the cypher plate being a minimum of 1mm thick (much heartier where required)

of 1mm thick (much heartier where required)
Ged went on to say "We were thinking of concentric ring engraving of the names and dates, alternating perhaps with some other detail in between."

"The work is progressing beautifully, and the fleur de lys for the crown has today been drawn up on the computer to be 3D printed in wax x4 then lost wax cast next week."

"The top orb is completely handmade, and initially I handmade the cup, but scrapped it off so we could more precisely laser engrave it. Essentially it's coming on, with the crown hoops in a couple of weeks, and we're still debating a bell bottom or plain?"

We would like to thank Ged for taking the time to speak to us during such a busy period. *The Mace-Bearer* will be featuring a story in the next edition on the presentation of the mace and Ged's work on the project in detail.

### NOTHING LIKE A DAME

From Mayor's Sargeant to Pantomime Dame! David Wicks, Higham Ferrers Town Council

I have been Mayor's Sargeant at Higham Ferrers for nearly 44 years, and this autumn and winter has been one of the busiest yet. As well as the monthly Council Meetings, I have officiated at the Mayor's Civic Service, Remembrance Sunday events, the Christmas Lights switch on, the Bedesmans' Day Service and Christmas Dinner, and the Town Carol Service. If this wasn't enough, I have been rehearsing twice a week for an amateur pantomime in nearby Wellingborough where I am playing my 39<sup>th</sup> Pantomime Dame in 43 pantomimes. In the picture is Silly Willy, the Mayor of Wellingborough and me, Hetty Hairspray.

A week after the panto, I shall be giving a talk to the local Rainbow Guides in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall. Oh what a busy life I lead – Oh yes I do!

Thank you to Paul for contacting us with this excellent story, and we would like to hear more about your ongoing exploits—Oh yes we would...

Photographs © Copyright of David Wicks 2025 Paul's show was 'Rupunze At the Castle Theatre in Wellingborough the Wellingborough Pantomime Socie







The idea of the "Friends of the Guild" grew out of the number of wives/ partners/husbands/significant others who came along to conferences past to keep their mace-bearing partners company.

Enjoying the lunches and dinners they otherwise found themselves bored by the mace-talk and took to exploring the towns and countryside wherever the gathering happened to take place. And, according to rumour, many a happy hour has been whiled away in the tearooms of olde England!

Others became "Friends" in time—Town Clerks who never carried a mace themselves, and some of our commercial partners who advertise in this very magazine, but recently steps have been taken to take the FOGs back to their roots.

Changes to the criteria for becoming a "Full" member of the Guild has seen some of those working in the civic arena, but previously banned, now join the ranks of the mace-talkers and once more, the Friends have become just that.

So if you will be attending the Gala Event in July, and plan to bring along your 'other half' why not sign them up now as a FOG - it's easy to apply online and they too can proudly wear the badge and drink tea. They'll be warmly welcomed by this small but friendly bunch.

### Welfare



avid Knight J.P
welfare@macebearer.com

With 200 members spread widely across the country it is always difficult to stay in touch with everyone but that should not mean that we are alone!

Many of us regularly see our colleagues in neighbouring authorities and if you know of a member suffering illness or hardship we want to know!

Please drop me an email if you have any concerns about any member and I will discretely contact them to let them know that someone cares.

The Guild Welfare Fund exists to provide small gifts of comfort for those in distress and is funded by the raffles held at Guild events and dinners. Please remember to bring a raffle prize if you attend the Gala event in July and give generously when buying your tickets!

Wish my very best wishes to you all,

David

### HINDU HAI CELEBRATIONS



Photographs copyright © of Ian Aspinall 2025

A VERY SURPRISING ENGAGEMENT FOR DAPPER MACE-BEARER IAN ASPINALL, WHO FOUND EVENTS TAKING A COLOURFUL TURN.....

I'm Deputy Mace Sergeant to the Lord Mayor (Cllr Kevin Mitchell) in the City of Exeter. I'm rather junior in service I've only got 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> years in.

I think I was somewhat stitched up when I was asked to take the Lord Mayor and his consort to the Hindu Holi celebrations in Exeter on 24 March. It appears that everybody knew what the celebrations would entail apart from me. The Hindu community really went for it and they celebrate the event in a very "colourful" and enthusiastic way, by eating, dancing and dousing each other with coloured pastel paints. Realising what would happen I stood well back because I was wearing my number one pristine uniform. The Lord Mayor in his consort told me in the car that I may be contaminated with the

powdered paint and I adamantly told them I was not compromising my smart uniform for anybody. Well, I lost good style! I would put money on it (although the Lord Mayor and consort vehemently denied any involvement) they had conspired with some of the participants to get me at some stage or another. After about 15 minutes of the celebrations I was ambushed by a bunch of kids who give me an absolute dosing from behind. At that point I thought I might as well give up and submit to the event, I joined in enthusiastically and the pictures are testimony to the end result. Thousands of people saw me that evening on the local TV news, and I received numerous calls and comments via Facebook, much to the amusement of many of my friends. It took four runs through the dry cleaner to get my tunic cleaned, I had to soak my white shirt in laundry whitener for three days, my trousers had a couple of washes, and I had to scrub my

boots particularly around the laces and eyelets very hard. and the amount of pastel paint in my ears probably would have been enough to repaint HMS Queen Elizabeth! The shower basin was very colourful when I went to have a shower and wash my hair.

I was told before I joined the Mace Sergeant's team that some of the appointments could be somewhat colourful. I did not expect it to be that colourful! All in all though, and to be serious the Lord Mayor and his consort are brilliant at weighing in at every event no matter whatever the requirements of them are, and they usually drag me into the festivities with them. I wouldn't wish to swap it for the world! and I think the Hindu community very much appreciated their enthusiasm.

Many thanks to lan Aspinall for your colourful tale, and readers, please contact the Editor with your tales of your experiences at Editor@macebearer.com



### GUILD COUNCIL REPORT

From the desk of the Chief Executive Officer

# GUILLO OF MACE-HE-HERS

#### **Guild Council Report**

The last year has been a busy one for the Guild. As the Prime Warden mentioned in his Christmas message the Executive Team (The PW, the Clerk and myself) have done a lot of "housekeeping", tidying up the admin functions of the Guild and making sure we have a structure to support the long-term future of the Guild.

The wider Guild Council have also met regularly online and been instrumental in overseeing the actions we have taken.

Following the decline in recent years of members attending Conference, we engaged the membership in a remarkably successful survey to find out what kind of function you would be more likely to attend, and as a result we have now unveiled the plans for a Gala Celebration and Dinner marking 100 years since the first formal meeting of a group of Mace-Bearers in 1925. I hope you will give that event your full support.



We also printed and published the Eighth Edition of The Manual of the Mace. This was the first major update to the book for many years and saw it switch it to a pocket-friendly soft -cover booklet.



The very modest price of the publication, at less than £5 a copy, means that we will be able to look at updating it more frequently than once every 20 years so if you find something missing, inaccurate, or think of something it would be helpful for us to include the next time we revise it, please let us know.



#### So what is on the agenda for the coming year?

The Exec team are all attending the NACO (National Association of Civic Officers) training day in London in March as we consider ways that we might collaborate more closely with them in the future. While it is important to maintain the separate and distinct identity of the Guild, the issues that arose at the time of the death of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, which saw NACO and the Guild giving out conflicting advice about the protocols for the proclamation, highlighted the need to be more communicative with our civic office colleagues. NACO has made it clear that it respects our expertise in such matters and would welcome opportunities to make sure in the future that we are not seen to be at odds with each other.

Training is another issue to be looked at, not as a once-a year item to be included in the programme if we get together, but in terms of what we, as a Guild, can provide. We often get requests to give training to assist newly recruited Mace-Bearers and civic attendants and I am keen to do what we can to build up a list of experienced colleagues who can provide paid, professional training around the country. If this is something you would like to be involved in, please let me know.

I am also keen to improve our communications by social media. This is an area where we are currently lacking, with a vacancy on the Guild Council. Is social media something you enjoy and have some experience of? Across our membership I am sure someone must have the skills the Council is currently missing and we would love to hear from you.

There are several roles within the Guild Council currently vacant or only covered by existing officers "doubling up" so we are always on the look-out for extra help. Our non-exec roles are not onerous, the only commitment being to attend the occasional online meeting – these are usually held at 7.00pm in the evening midweek and last less than an hour. If you would like to get more involved and have a say on how your Guild is run please give me a ring for a no-commitment chat.

Finally, we intend to look at our merchandise. We have a very efficient online shop but it has had the same range of stock for as long as I can remember. This year we are hoping to bring in some new items, perhaps mugs, pens, cufflinks... Maybe a new (nicer) tie? What would you like to see in the shop? Please let me know.

Membership of the Guild has continued to grow year on year, lets drive the Guild forward confidently into a bright, modern future!

Peter E. Legg Chief Executive, Webmaster & Membership Officer

### Your Guild Shop

#### **Guild Merchandise**



Guild Collarette £19.99



Guild Lapel Badge £4.99



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Cloth Blazer Badge £6.95



Silver Mace Badge (Butterfly Pin or Brooch Pin) £8.50



Gold Mace Badge (Butterfly Pin or Brooch Pin)



Guild Plaque £20.00





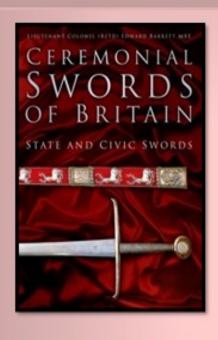


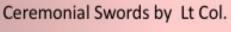


Guild Ties in Black/Blue/Maroon/Navy- £6.50

### Visit our online shop at www.macebearer.com

Look out for new items coming later this year!







Behind the Mace by Keith Holderness





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HAPPY AND GLORIOUS

#### The Unveiling of the Statue of Queen Elizabeth II in Newcastle-under-Lyme

By Guild Editor and Newcastle-under-Lyme Macebearer Glenn Martin James

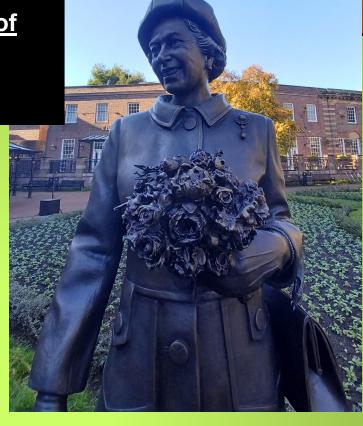
All of us in the Guild of Mace-Bearers are very much involved in the civic lives of our communities, and we are privileged to be at the centre of events as they unfold, particularly on historical occasions: but it's rare that we actually get the opportunity to record the occasion in detail first hand for posterity...

By chance, I was in a position to do exactly that recently. And this particular event has a personal historical significance for one of our members, Mayor's Sergeant Peter Shore, as you will soon see from this unique two part story.

Towards the end of 2024, a prestigious civic event took place in the history of our town and Borough, Newcastle-under-Lyme: the unveiling of a statue of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

This had a considerable significance for the community as it was the crowning event of the towns venerable 850<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, and the occasion saw Her Majesty's statue take up residence close to the statue of her ancestor Queen Victoria, the two memorials now ornamenting a much loved public recreational area.

The Queen is depicted exactly as she was dressed when she visited the town for it's Octocentenary in 1973, a lovely tribute both to



The Statue of Queen Elizabeth II by sculptor Andy Edwards



Queen Elizabeth's visit to the Borough in 1973

her personally and to the previous historical occasion. The town has always cherished a firm affection for the Queen and this remains a much loved royal visit.

By way of an unusual break with tradition, on the day the Mace-bearers were not on duty, although myself and my fellow Mace-bearer Jenny Otter were present and on call if required. Mayor's Sergeant Peter Shore was very much leading the occasion and accompanying the mayoral party, which included the recently ennobled Sir Ian Dudson, Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire. I had then only recently become Guild Editor and as an experienced journalist, I seized this unusual opportunity to report on the event for posterity, recording the speeches on the day and interviewing the Mayoral party.

It's highly unusual for one of us to be in the position be able to do this, and I hope the following record gives a vivid account of the occasion. Recording the event I hope will prove a good piece on the occasion and I hope will prove a good addition to the Guild's catalogue of notable civic occasions in our magazine and records, and it truly has a significance for Peter's family history with the mayoralty.

I have followed the course of events as they took place, and interviewed the dignitaries in the order that they would appear in one of our civic processions.

The Queen's statue was respectfully draped on my arrival, awaiting its ultimate reveal, and my initial observations on the day may help to set the scene....



"Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024, The Queen's Gardens, Newcastle-under-Lyme: A bright October morning, with golden light on the lime trees along the side of the Queen's Gardens, and a slight, first frost of autumn and a chill in the air. A thoroughly British beautiful autumn morning for a very special occasion: Today the late Queen Elizabeth II will be figuratively joining her great, great grandmother Queen Victoria, with the unveiling of her statue at the Queen's Gardens. Figuratively indeed, as the beautiful bronze statue will stand close to that of her ancestor, making this truly the Queens' Gardens. She has well and truly been taken to the heart of the town for the 850<sup>th</sup> celebrations."

I was in a perfect position to catch the Town Crier's announcement and the speeches....

#### Proclamation by the Town Crier Gordon Bayliss:

"Oh Yeah! Oh Yeah! His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire Ian Dudson, His Worshipfulness the Mayor of Newcastle-under-Lyme Barry Panter, and all good people of Newcastle! We are delighted to have you join us in The Queen's Gardens on this unique occasion in the history of Newcastle-under-Lyme.

As part of the Borough's 850<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we are gathered here for the unveiling of a landmark memorial to the late Queen, Elizabeth II. We are delighted that the representation of Her Majesty will stand here for all residents to see and to claim this space for all requests. God Save the King!

#### Leader of the Council, Councillor Simon Tagg

"My Lord-Lieutenant, His Worship the Mayor, and Mayoress, distinguished guests, children from St. Giles and St Georges Churches, and ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the Queen's Gardens on this lovely morning – we hoped that the weather was going to be good and it's really delivered for us today! At the start of January 2023 (which seems like a long time ago) we marked the start of a year of celebrations for the 850<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Loyal and Ancient Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme.

There are many highlights for the 850<sup>th</sup> celebrations, but it was always our intention that we would create a legacy that would honour the efforts of the community and everyone that was involved in the celebrations which made it such a momentous occasion last year. To date this includes as part of the legacy subway murals, our local Borough Heroes Awards, (and we'll be opening the 2025 version of the event soon), university scholarships, an annual local history

lecture, and a recreation of the lost charter from 1173 – and today we are here to unveil another legacy project, the statue of the late Queen Elizabeth II, remembering her visit to the Borough in 1973 at the time of the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It also honors the countless years of service of Her Majesty as our longest reigning monarch, her wisdom in times of trouble, her compassion in times of need, and her unwavering commitment to the crown and to the people were hallmarks of her reign.

I would like to thank her sculptor Andy Edwards for bringing his incredible talent to bare in creating this likeness of Her Majesty on her visit to the Borough in 1973, taken from photographs of the time. Andy's sculptures have appeared worldwide, and we are very proud that Newcastle-under-Lyme is added to his impressive portfolio. I would also like to give heartfelt thanks on behalf of the Borough to Lord Bamford and the team at Capital and Centric for their generous sponsorship which has made this tribute in our Queen's Gardens possible. This statue we hope will be a constant source of pride and inspiration to us all in the Borough. Just as Queen Victoria's statue graces this wonderful park, we now have the addition of this statue of our late Queen."



Mace-Bearer Jenny Otter, Mayor's Sergeant Peter Shore and Mace-Bearer Glenn James

Mayors Sergeant Peter Shore has a unique connection to the two statues, as we shall see in the following article, and he had this to say on the location of these prestigious memorials....

Peter: The original statue (of Queen Victoria) was originally over the road, and has been moved to a number of locations before coming back here, and the Civic Society and Gill Wayne spent a lot of money having it renovated, and it's a lovely coincidence that she has returned here to now be next to the statue of her great, great granddaughter Queen Elizabeth in the gardens. It's such a lovely statue, and she isn't on a plinth. People can hold her hand, in the same way that they can with the statue of Vera Britton in the museum grounds (on Brampton Park) and with the statue of Arnold Bennett, you can actually hold her hand...

**Editor:** I saw a group of little girls doing that with their dad when I came down this morning...

**Peter:** Of course, Derek Morby did the groundwork, a lovely man and he was very generous, and of course he donated a lot of money to the office of Town Crier when Sandra Adams was the Mayor, and I said to Derek "You are by appointment to the KING!" and he laughed, but he did the ground work, and as I said she's not on a plinth so people can get a close look at her.

#### The Worshipful the Mayor of Newcastle-under-Lyme,

#### Councillor Barry Panter

During this notable event, The Mayor of Newcastle, Councilor Barry Panter shared his thoughts on just what it means for his time in office:

Mayor Barry Panter: "It's the pinnacle of my year so far. Her Majesty was a unique person, she kept to the oath she took on the day she was crowned that she would dedicate herself to the community, and she did so all her life. I've never actually been personally introduced to her — I've been close to her, and been on professional duty with her on a number of occasions, and she was truly magnificent, a credit to everyone... and what she did, people remember for the rest of their lives because she took the trouble to speak to the ordinary person as well as to those higher up as well."

**Editor:** "And it's lovely that this follows on from the culmination of the festivities..."

Mayor Barry Panter: "Indeed, following on from the 850 is magnificent, and the statue itself is a true credit to the artist, who has worked very hard to achieve such a beautiful likeness of her. I mean, I wasn't in



this part of the world when Her Majesty came here in '73, but I gather it's a real incredible likeness to her: It's something you can see each time you see that statue, I've thoroughly enjoyed this morning, and the weather and the gardens as well, I mean they're magnificent... If you can perhaps imagine coming out of the Registry Office and having your photos taken, in the gardens with their magnificent spread, and the statue of the Queen, what more could you possibly want. it's just in the right place, it catches the sun, and catches the smile on Her Majesty's face, which she never went without."

#### The Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire, Sir Ian Dudson KCB

**Sir lan:** "It is a marvelous occasion, because the late Queen was a constancy in all our lives across the last seventy-plus years of her reign, and so to be able to have a permanent reminder in these gardens is just fantastic. What better place than in the Queen's gardens in the ancient Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme."

"I had the privilege of serving her as Lord-Lieutenant for just over 10 years, and I think back to 2022 when we celebrated her Diamond Jubilee, and little did we know in that summer what was to happen in a few short months thereafter – but that was in many respects a wonderful celebration at the end of her reign, and of course we were all saddened that she wasn't around to help us celebrate the 850<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Newcastle, but in some respects this legacy project

from the plans that were laid to celebrate that year is very poignant, very moving, and very appropriate. I feel that at the end of the year of celebration we can look back on that year, but also on the preceding seventy years of her reign, and indeed all the other monarchs that Newcastle has celebrated and been loyal to over those 850 years. I think the link between those celebrations and this statue is brilliant."

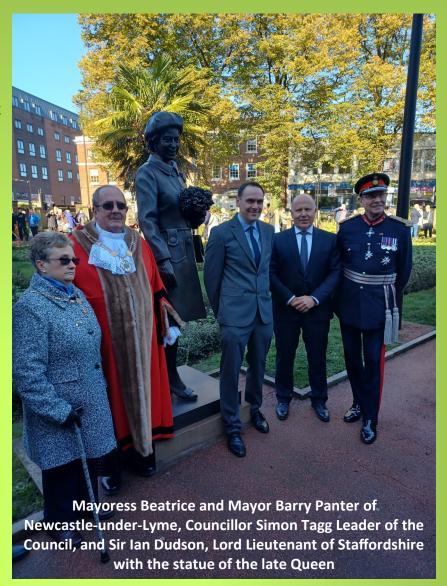
**Editor:** "It's particularly lovely that the Queen is depicted literally as she was when she visited."

**Sir lan:** "I think we owe a great deal to Andy Edwards for bringing his talents to bare... I have to admit I had not spotted the bee in the flowers – I don't know if you have?"

Editor: "I must admit I hadn't -"

Sir lan: "Well, lan was asked by someone 'Have you put your initials on it somewhere?' and he said 'No, I don't put my initials but there's usually a little quirk in there somewhere, and in this one, I have put a little bee in the flowers. You have to have a really close look too spot it, but it's a really lovely touch. But back to your question about how the statue depicts the Queen exactly how she was - I think that smile encapsulates exactly what she was, she had that ability to make everyone she came into contact with feel at ease, and that's how when I'm standing and looking at that statue she's making me feel exactly the same as I did whenever I met her, and it's a terrific talent to be able to translate that into a bronze sculpture."

**Editor:** "You were kept very busy with the celebrations last year, my Lord Lieutenant."





Andy Edwards' lovely scale model produced when designing the statue

**Sir lan:** "With the celebrations, that's one of the things which happens in my role, there's usually a theme to the year which requires a focus, and when I look back over my twelve years there's usually something. The 850<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations were wonderful, and I was delighted to be part of several of those events. That's one of the privileges of my role, covering the whole of the ceremonial festivities of Staffordshire, and we're looking forward to the celebrations for our neighboring city just up the road for their centenary as a city." (The City of Stoke-on-Trent is celebrating it's centenary year in 2025) "That's already started, and events are going into the calendar and the diary for that."

Since the Pandemic, we celebrated the Diamond Jubilee in a big way at

In an event extensively covered by the media the statue of the Queen was just as surrounded by the press as she ever was herself in life

the County Showground, and I foolishly said to someone that I was expecting the second half of that year to be rather quiet, and of course how wrong could you be! But it's a great privilege to undertake this role and support the thousands of people who get involved in both celebrating the history and maintaining it for the future. I spend a lot of time working with charities and it's very busy, but it's most rewarding!"

#### Andy Edwards, Sculptor of the Queens Statue

Andy Edwards: "It's lovely to share this day with you because it's a big day for Newcastle-under-Lyme. For a small town to reach out and succeed in something like this is something that I'm proud of and I hope it means something to all of you."

"The loss of Queen Elizabeth is still deeply felt across the country, and by countless people around the world."

"She was a constant throughout all our lives – some of you might well remember that she was in the ATS during the war, alongside many other people who didn't come back, and I also think that those pictures of the Queen at the funeral of her husband of 73 years, sat alone in St. George's Chapel.



The famous Bumble Bee signature amongst the Queen's flowers by Andy Edwards

That kind of hinted at her hidden strength because we could all relate to that situation, being separated from our loved ones, at another difficult time... and the Queen was there throughout, and her constancy was something we came to rely on, and it does feel odd that she's not around anymore."

"But if people are comforted to be reminded that the Queen knew of how much affection and respect she was held in, and this work has been commissioned and designed to express that."



Unveiling the Queen's statue drew huge crowds





The *Mace-Bearer* would like to thank everyone for their time in the compilation of the feature, and congratulate Andy Edwards on the success of his magnificent statue.

Photographs Copyright ©Glenn James and Charlotte James 2024

#### In Tribute to Mayor Barry Panter of Newcastle-under-Lyme

At the time of going to press, the Mayoral team of the loyal and ancient Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme are in mourning for the loss of our much loved Mayor, Councillor Barry Panter, who died in February following a traffic collision.

Barry was very much loved and he considered the unveiling of the Queen's statue to be the pinnacle of his time in office. He was enormously proud of this event, and we dedicate this article with very affectionate respect to his memory.

On behalf of the Mayoral Team and the Councillors and Officers of Newcastle, we would like to pay our honourable respect to his memory, and send our condolences to his wife Beatrice, his family, and loved ones. He was valued by all who knew him, and is deeply missed.

Glenn Martin James, Mace-Bearer, on behalf of the Mayoral Team and Councillors of Newcastle-under-Lyme



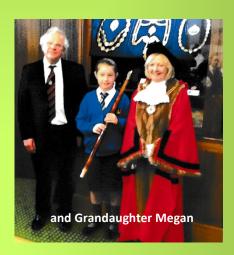


### Following Forefathers Footsteps...

In keeping with the upcoming celebrations for the rich history of our ceremonial roles, we explore a fascinating connection to our previous story: speaking to Mayor's Sergeant Peter Shore, who officiated at the unveiling of the Queen Elizabeth statue, and has an uncanny connection with a much earlier historical ceremony....







#### SIX Generations of Peter's family touched by the mayoralty, from 1888 to 2025

**Peter:** "Where the Queens statues are concerned, there is quite a link! What my mother used to tell me, and my grandma, was that my grandad's grandad was the Town Crier between 1888 and 1902 when Queen Victoria's statue was unveiled. It's funny, I never thought so much about this when I was younger, and when I was working on the markets I wasn't so interested in the mayoralty or the history back then. I used to run the charity markets and we used to invite the mayors – in fact this used to be the mayor's first big occasion to meet the public. I used to be up at five o'clock in the morning setting up the markets, and then I'd meet the Mayor, and I'd take them around and introduce them to everyone on these charity markets. Then as I say my grandma used to show me an old photograph and tell me about this, and say 'There's a little boy on this picture, and you can see him right at the front of the photograph of the mayor making in nineteen hundred and two, and he's actually on it you see! That's your grandad...."

**Editor:** "We can see a little boy right in the middle, next to a very splendid gent in military uniform, and then next to him in a top hat..."

**Peter:** "That's his grandad, with exactly the same truncheon in his hand that I carry... He died in 1902, so he would just have made it! His brother was a councillor of Stoke-on-Trent, who was to have been made Mayor of that city, but he visited a colliery where there had been a disaster, caught pneumonia and he died. At his funeral, there was a procession half a mile long, and he was buried in Newcastle cemetery. My great, great grandfathers name was William Coomer, and my grandad's name was William Coomber, too!"

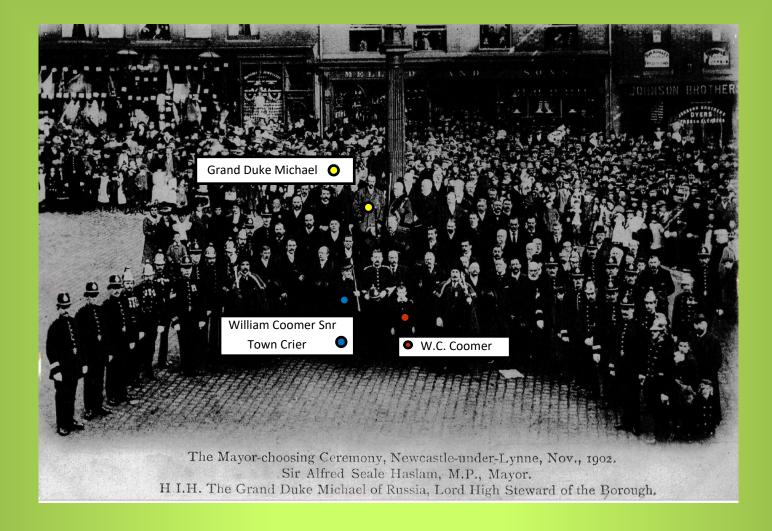
Editor: "The name running in the family!"

**Peter:** "W.C. Coomer! He hated to be called WC..." **Editor:** "And to think you carry the exact same staff..."

PETER: "There is a photo of my granddaughter Megan holding it, too...

EDITOR: "I wanted to ask you in particular about the wonderful staff you carry, with the brass

figure on the end, will you tell me about that, Peter?"



**PETER:** "It's one of our Queens - Elizabeth I we believe, it's been polished beyond recognition, and that belonged to the Mayor's Sergeant, but it's also the Town Criers truncheon. The Town Crier has a bell normally..."

**EDITOR:** "Would that be the same one..."

**PETER:** "It's exactly the same one... I have a picture of my granddaughter holding this, and a picture of my grandad's grandad holding it in his hand and he was the Town Crier. It's defiantly one of the Queens...

**EDITOR:** "You can hardly make out the figure because it's been polished and cleaned with such pride...."

**PETER:** "There's another one in Brampton Museum, made by Scanlan Jewellers of Hanley, who do all the silver plate for Stoke-on-Trent, and ourselves for any maintenance or damage. The mace was damaged at Stoke-on-Trent, and he rebuilt it. They repair the links on the mayoral chains, which of course costs hundreds of pounds... Of course, it all has to be done properly. I know Philip Scanlan, and there is another identical truncheon in the museum, and he said he made it, years ago. This is the original one, and of course, no-one knows that we have two maces..."

"The really interesting thing is that in the picture you can clearly see the Grand Duke Michael who unveiled Queen Victoria's statue. He was made the Lord High Steward of the Borough, and in one of the meetings for the 850<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the town they reinstated the position, though as yet no-one has taken it up (I'm hoping it's going to be me!!) but it's a position very like the Lord-Lieutenant. You can tell by his features that he is Russian, very grand, and as you can see here, the Mayor is holding his wand. (A slim white staff crowned with a silver acorn.) This would be Sir Alfred Seale Haslam, a massive industrialist who more or less invented industrialised refrigeration. (Sir Alfred was Mayor of Derby from 1890-1891, three times Mayor of Newcastle-under-Lyme, and MP for the Borough.) He owned a big estate near Derby, and he helped to build



Derby Infirmary. Queen Victoria visited and she dubbed him a knight. He had two sons, and they were both army officers. One got killed in the Great War, and his brother survived and became the Lord Lieutenant of Derby."

"It's also interesting that you can see the High Constable's staff. During the mayor making before 1897, at the time of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, there was a Mayor called Francis Stanier and he paid to have the silver embellishments added ,and you can see in earlier pictures it's just a piece of wood. He paid for the maces to be renovated, and he also paid for a lovely silver cup made by the jewellers Alchinson of London, jewellers to Queen Victoria. They were the pioneers of silver plating."

**EDITOR:** "We do have two lovely silver maces plated which you look after..."

**PETER:** "They were presented in 1680 by Leveson-Gower, of Magdalene College, and I love to polish and clean them. They weigh the same as about 3 bags of sugar, about 9 pounds, and of course the maces are the symbol of royalty. It's never happened yet, but if the Sovereign happens to be present they have to be

inverted, and of course a council meeting cannot take place if the maces are not in front of the Mayor. Now during Covid they were bought out by someone and you could see them of course on all the Teams meetings, but the tradition is for us to have a procession with the Macebearers."

"But I just love my job, and I love meeting all the new people from different organisations when we go out: Rich people, poor people, schools, at hospitals, laboratories, and of course, you always have to introduce the Mayor. I always go beforehand and find a parking place, especially when there are kids involved, and I just say how to address the mayor – 'It's Mr Mayor, and he'll probably say 'Call me Barry', or 'Call me Simon', we have to go through these formalities, and the children love it."

"I've had ten mayors under me, you know! I can remember one of my first mayors was Eddie Bowden, and we have a sword which is said to have been given to the Borough by Grand Duke Michael of Russia. It's in a sheath, and we would have all the school children gathered around in the old mayor's parlour, a very big room, and we would produce the sword, and Mayor Bowden would say, "draw the sword Mr Shore!" And when I did so he would suddenly look startled and regretful, and he's say, "I wish I hadn't asked you that! Every time it's drawn, it's GOT to draw blood...."And all the children and the teachers would react in amazement and he's say "We'd better put it away again, you're all a bit too old for this sort of thing!"

"Mayor Eddie Bowden was a real character, and his saying was 'You're sacked!' The more he sacked you, the more he liked you! Sometimes he would say 'You don't know how far you have got without having the sack today!' I remember we were down at the Mayors Civic Mass at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church, and he just walked out normally! The Mace-bearers were just getting up, and he was out of the church with his Mayoress! It's all a bit of fun really..."

We would like to thank Peter Shore, Mayor's Sergeant of Newcastle-under-Lyme for taking the time to speak to us, and sharing his fascinating family history and photographs. Additional photographs are Copyright

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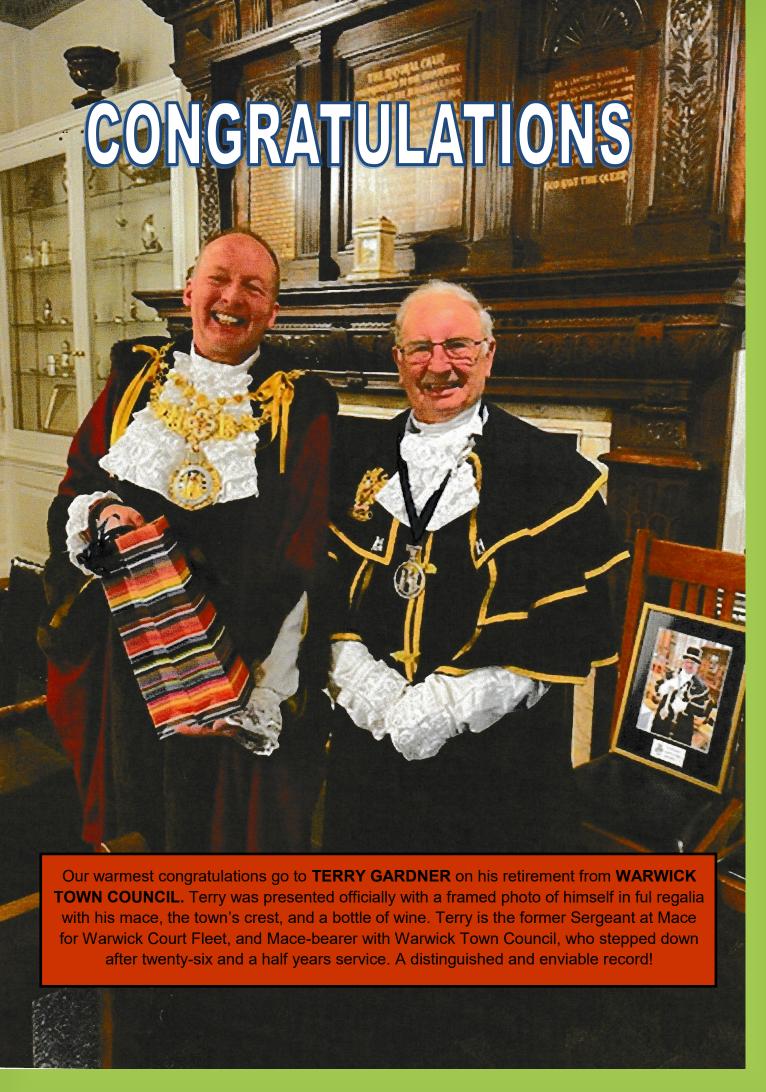


Have you got a fascinating family story connected to the mayoralty, mace-bearing, or your civic duty to tell?

Following down the generations?

We would like to hear from you!

Send your story to editor@macebearer.com



### Website News

Peter E. Legg Guild Website Officer

The Guild website is your go-to place for information on what's happening in YOUR Guild! In addition to the online shop for Guild ties, badges and memorabilia don't forget to register for access all areas!

Registration is free and easy, and once your membership has been verified you can get access to see and download minutes of recent Guild Council meetings and AGMs, read and download online copies of the magazines from the last 25 years, as well as the latest Guild Constitution and the Manual of the Mace.

You can also see a list of authorities where we have members - so if you are visiting an area where we have a member why not get in touch?



Plus, don't forget you can also find us on social media. Look us up on Facebook and X.



If you are interested in social media we would love to hear from you as we currently have a vacancy for someone to manage our Facebook and X feeds!







#### Long Ago and Far Away...

### Britain has a rich heritage, filled with heraldry, folklore, curious traditions and odd legends: A truly enviable story!

In the first of a new feature, *The Mace-Bearer* invites contributors to send us your own tales and unusual myths, delving into our shared ancient past....

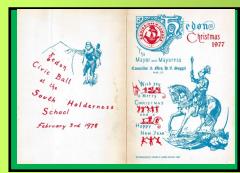
We would like to thank **RICHARD STRUDWICK** for this fascinating contribution, featuring the ancient song of **The Hedon Maces**, printed as part of the beautiful Christmas card of the Hedon Mayor and Mayoress in 1977. A renowned author and poet, Richard is a Freeman of the Guild and former Prime Warden, and his contribution to the life and work of the Guild since 1972 has been truly considerable.

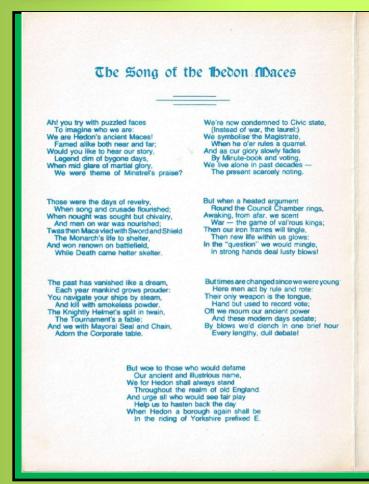


#### **RICHARD STRUDWICK**

Founder Member of The Association of Professional Toastmasters

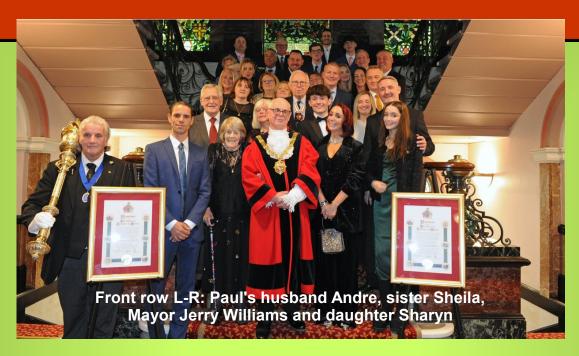
Sergeant at Mace to the City of Leeds 1972-1993







#### A TRIBUTE TO PAUL O'GRADY



The late Paul O'Grady has been recognised for his achievements with the Honorary Freedom of the Borough in his hometown of Birkenhead. During a private ceremony held in Birkenhead Town Hall on 14 November 2023, Paul's husband Andre, along with his sister Sheila, his daughter Sharyn and grandchildren gathered to receive the award on his behalf, before a civic dinner for invited guests. The family were joined by the Mayor and Mayoress of Wirral, the Leader of Wirral Council, the Vice-Lieutenant of Merseyside (Mr Robert Owen) as well as other family members, and close friends.

Cllr Jerry Williams, Mayor of Wirral, said:

"Paul O'Grady exemplified the best that our Borough has to offer. Birkenhead-born, he dazzled his way to the national stage as Lily Savage but never forgot his roots. Sharing stories with his family and friends as they received the Freedom of the Borough on his behalf, in the town where it all began, it was never more clear that his warmth, kindness and determination leave a lasting legacy. Paul was a man of great humour – a true entertainer – but also fearless and passionate in his support of the causes close to his heart. He remains a national treasure and British cultural icon, and as such it is only fitting that we bestow this rare honour in his memory. On behalf of the people of Wirral, I'd like to thank Paul's family for celebrating his life with us."

During the event, Paul's family were presented with a scroll which depicted snapshots of Paul's early life including images of his place of birth, St Catherine's hospital and his alter-ego Lilly Savage's place of birth - outside the Legs of Man pub.

Other illustrations included; Paul's family home at Holly Grove, Birkenhead Park gates (which were close to his secondary school) and the No 11 bus he used to take, Birkenhead library, where he was a frequent visitor with his mum, Molly. And of course, his beloved dogs, Buster and Olga.

The Honorary Freedom of the Borough is the highest award the Council can give – only 12 individuals and groups have had this honour bestowed upon them and it is only awarded to someone who has made an exceptional contribution to the borough. It was agreed, at an extraordinary meeting of full Council in July 2023, that Paul O'Grady would receive this honour.

The Mayor continued:

"It is my great honour, on behalf of the Council – and the people of Wirral – to present these scrolls to Paul's family, which we hope will provide a permanent reminder of the esteem that this borough holds for its newest Freeman - the broadcaster, comedian, actor, writer, campaigner, friend, cousin, uncle, grandad, brother, father and husband. The unique and irreplaceable Son of Birkenhead, Paul O'Grady MBE DL, Freeman of Wirral."

With many thanks to Paul Anthony Stead for contributing this story to *The Mace-Bearer* 

### REMEMBRANCE DAY

David Coates, Mace-Bearer in the City of Ripon, has asked *The Mace-Bearer* to print a commendation of high praise for Gunner Adrian Mardon who really stepped up for his colleague at the Remembrance Service in 2024.

#### "Hi There

Thought I'd send these pics for publication. This is Adrian (gunner) Mardon, who is ex army. He served with the Horse Guards and filled in for me this year due to me having an operation on my knee.

He pretty much got thrown in at the deep end, but with a heads up from me as to the order of parade and a crash course and a walk through, he pulled it off with amazing military fashion.

He's been a real credit this year I don't know what we would have done without him.

#### Best regards David Coates City of Ripon







### MACES HIGH

#### THE MACE-BEARER QUIZ



### FROM GROUCHO MARX TO GOLDFINGER, FROM BLACK ROD TO PEAKY BLINDERS,

Presenting The Mace-Bearer Quiz...

- 1. Which notorious International jewel thief escaped prison in late 2024, took a diamond hidden in a teapot, and escaped by narrowboat....
- 2. How many times has King Charles III visited Australia?
- 3. Which British politician could have kindly used an umbrella in spring 2024?
- 4. Which famous Peaky Blinder featured in a film about the invention of the nuclear bomb....
- 5. How many times must Black Rod strike the door of the House of Commons?
- 6. Who said "I never forget a face, but in you're case I'll make an exception..."
- 7. In which series of children's films did Donald Trump appear?
- 8. Which renowned Scottish leader passed away in October 2024?
- 9. How was Donald Trump injured in the shooting incident of June 2024?
- 10. Which Scottish runner notably competed in the worlds toughest race in 2024?
- 11. What was unusual about Auric Goldfinger's Rolls Royce?
- 12. Whom was Admiral Lord Nelson's sarcophagus originally intended for?
- 13. Who was the famous Queen of King Henry II?
- 14. What did Sherlock Holmes fear would entirely cover the bed of the ocean?
- 15. Why was Marvin the Android in 'The Hitch-Hikers Guide to the Galaxy' in so much discomfort.....

N.B. The answers were going to be on PAGE 52, BUT we only go up to 42 in this issue, so try page 40.... BUT mind you, NO PEEKING....



### Rewriting History...

Photographs Copyright © Glenn James 2023-25

#### 'RETURNING TO SENDER'

During the reign of Charles II, someone noticed that the founding charter of Newcastle-under-Lyme was missing. It had apparently been missing for some time. This crucial birth certificate of the Borough, possibly the oldest Borough in the UK, has certainly not been seen since. How lovely to think, then, that all these centuries later, a new incarnation of the document has made its way to King Charles III, returning to the desk of the Monarch.

Originally granted to the new town by the brilliant Henry II in 1173, the charter of Newcastle-under-Lyme may be one of the first granted, (if not THE first), and the fledging settlement prospered mightily after the monarch's bold new stroke.

Granting independence from Royal and Church control, the charter made the traders free Burgesses, (Liber Burgess) and the townsmen were able to prosper from their own mercantile success. And prosper they did, with the towns 'new-castle' by the 'Lyme' Brook, from which the settlement took its name. And so, 850 years later, Newcastle-under-Lyme celebrated a venerable birthday in 2023. I'm very proud to have made my contribution to the celebrations.

The original charter would have been small, a couple of paragraphs in Latin on velum or parchment, able to fit in a saddlebag.

The great elegant charters, beautiful works of art in their own right with a detailed portrait of the monarch, were yet to come, but it was this style I wanted to emulate.

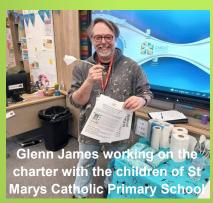
The reborn charter is an illuminated document, with an image of King Henry, surrounded by autumnal lime tree leaves in ochre and yellow.

It has the town's famous castle, taken from the common seal, (the fortress is sadly long gone), standing in its pool, and cameo sketches of ancient St. Giles Church and the Guildhall.

A duel document, one version is in English and one in Latin.







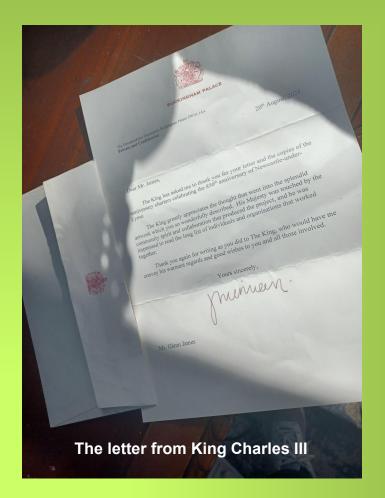
Part of the Lost Charter Project (where the surviving charters were exhibited together), the whole endeavour was a huge success.

Supported by then Mayor Simon White, Councillor Simon Tagg, and the Borough Council, the celebrations were a great hit.

At the conclusion of festivities, I sent a copy of the charter to King Charles – and much to my delight, he replied, in affectionate terms, clearly approving of the reborn document. There is a lovely circularity to this: The charter hasn't just come home, but returned to the throne whence it came.

A copy of the King's letter was presented to Newcastle-under-Lyme Guildhall to display with the charters.

**Glenn Martin James** 



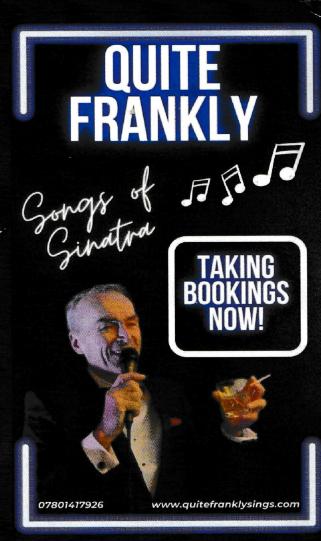
I am indebted to Professor Andrew Fear for authenticating the Latin translation, and Jim Worgan for affirming the Burgesses rights.

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- Great for Civic Dinners, Mayoral Charity Events and formal evenings.
- Previously seen at Brentwood, Sutton and Bromley Councils. As well as Southend Guild Conference dinner
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### Guild Subscriptions 2025

Members £35.00 (Discounted to £10 for renewals)

Honorary Members £6.00 Friends of the Guild £6.00

Fees are due upon receipt of your invoice.

MEMBERSHIP as at 1st March 2025 Total	200
FULL MEMBERSHIP (includes 4 Masters of the Guild)	163
Honorary Members (includes 3 Masters of the Guild)	26
Friend of the Guild	8
Freeman of the Guild	3

The Guild has 200 members carrying out ceremonial duties at 118 separate authorities/universities spread across the whole of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland.

### MACES HIGH

#### **QUIZ**

- 1. The Dreaded Feathers McGraw, currently at large and wanted by the authorities
- King Charles III has visited Australia 17 times, 15 of which he either accompanied or represented his mother, the Late Queen Elizabeth II.
- 3. The former Prime Minister Richi Sunak, who could have really used one last summer.
- 4. Cillian Murphy who played Tommy Shelby also played Oppenheimer in the film of the same name.
- The Usher of the Black Rod will then bang three times on the door with the rod. The MPs then follow the Black Rod to the House of Lords in a loud manner, which is meant to signal MPs' independence.
- 6. The incomparable Groucho Marx....
- The Donald famously had cameos in the first two 'Home Alone' movies with Macaulay Culkin and Joe Peshi.
- 8. The former Scottish leader Alex Salmond passed away last autumn.
- The upper part of Trump's right ear was grazed by the first bullet or a fragment thereof fired by Crooks.<sup>[</sup>
- 10. The formidable Scottish runner was Jasmin Paris.
- 11. Auric Goldfinger's car, a 1937 <u>Phantom</u> plays a pivotal role in the famous Bond film. It was used in the film to smuggle two tons of gold from England to Switzerland in a unique way. The car's body was made of gold and melted down with the original body replaced to repeat the journey.
- The marble sarcophagus was originally intended for Cardinal Wolsey, Archbishop of York and one-time Lord Chancellor to King Henry VIII.
- 13. Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine, played by Katherine Hepburn in 'The Lion in Winter'
- 14. Holmes feared that oysters would cover the bed of the ocean in 'The Dying Detective'.
- Marvin the Android was inflicted with 'A terrible pain in all the diodes down my left side....' (Amongst other things!)

#### **ANSWERS**



### Past Prime Wardens

1947-1952	Cmdr John Poland RN (Rtd.)	City of London
1953-1954	Cpt. W.F. Floyd	Northampton
1954-1955	H. Gregory	City of Chester
1955-1956	R.H. Strong	Middlesbrough
1956-1957	A. Johnson	Paisley
1957-1958	R.C.F. Leppard	Dover
1958-1959	A. Broadhurst	Nuneaton
1959-1960	W.R.H. Thompson	City of Edinburgh
1960-1961	J.W. Foreman	Norwich
1961-1962	W. Wood	Goole
1962-1963	J. Currie	Ayr
1963-1964	W.G. Webber	Gravesend
1964-1965	H. Giliver	Bolton
1965-1966	J.P. Slater	Dumfries
1966-1967	R. Pote	Bedford
1967-1968	T. Lewis	Bury
1968-1969	J.R. Moffat	Falkirk
1969-1970	G.T. Eadie	City of Bath
1970-1971	C.F. Clifton	Barnsley
1971-1972	C. Macrae	Inverness
1972-1973	G. Busby	Sandwich
1973-1974	W. Lambert	Harrogate
1974-1975	W. Allen	Hawick
1975-1976	J. Eaton	Taunton
1976-1977	J.W. McKiernan	Tyne & Wear
1977-1978	D. Aitkin	Kirkaldy
1978-1979	C. Watts	Southampton
1979-1980	J.C. Robinson	City of York
1980-1981	G. Paul	Renfrew
1981-1982	V.A. West	Woodspring
1982-1983	F. Purcell	City of Kingston
1983-1984	R. Scott	Hamilton
1984-1985	D. Trafford	Banbury
1985-1986	R.T. Strudwick	City of Leeds
1986-1987	J. Malone	Falkirk
1987-1988	G.D. White	Barnstaple
1988-1989	A. Milner	Pendle

1989-1990         D. Megarry         City of Belfast           1990-1991         T.T.F. Harding         Peterborough           1991-1992         G. Robbins         Burnley           1992-1993         G. Milligan         Roxburgh           1993-1994         I.E. Warner         Stevenage           1994-1995         K.M. Carson         Charnwood           1995-1996         D. Morrison         Western Isles           1996-1997         A.M. Hughes         Northampton           1997-1998         P. Nendick         City of Kingston           1998-1999         T. Cobban         City of Aberdeen           1999-2000         G. Weatherhead         City of Wells           2000-2001         L. Love         South Ayrshire           2001-2002         D. Jardine         Blandford Forum           2002-2003         G. Adams MBE         Caledonian University           2004-2005         R. Buckle         Colchester           2004-2005         R. Buckle         Colchester           2005-2006         W. Paterson         East Dunbartonshire           2006-2007         D. Knight J.P.         Poole           2007-2008         P. E. Legg         Charmwood           2008-2009         A.			
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2005-2006         W. Paterson         East Dunbartonshire           2006-2007         D. Knight J.P.         Poole           2007-2008         P. E. Legg         Charnwood           2008-2009         A. Jenkins         St. Helens           2009-2010         S. Dennis         City & County of Swansea           2010-2011         J. Smoothy         St. Ives, Cambs.           2011-2012         P. Townsend         London Borough of Croydon           2012-2013         J Caruana         Hertford           2013-2014         O Collier         Royal Wootton Bassett           2014-2015         R Crabb BEM         Exeter           2015-2016         A Spencer         Portsmouth           2016—2017         R Trigger         Yeovil           2017—2018         J Vauvert         Ripon           2018—2019         K Simpson         LB Hammersmith & Fulham           2019—2020         C Hobbs-East         Deal           2020-2021         A Tregoning J.P         Southend-on-Sea           2021-2022         A Tregoning J.P         Southend-on Sea           2022-2023         V.Morrish         Bideford           2023-2024         C. East         Margate Charter Trustees	2003-2004	P. Hyde	City of Manchester
2006-2007         D. Knight J.P.         Poole           2007-2008         P. E. Legg         Charnwood           2008-2009         A. Jenkins         St. Helens           2009-2010         S. Dennis         City & County of Swansea           2010-2011         J. Smoothy         St. Ives, Cambs.           2011-2012         P. Townsend         London Borough of Croydon           2012-2013         J Caruana         Hertford           2013-2014         O Collier         Royal Wootton Bassett           2014-2015         R Crabb BEM         Exeter           2015-2016         A Spencer         Portsmouth           2016—2017         R Trigger         Yeovil           2017—2018         J Vauvert         Ripon           2018—2019         K Simpson         LB Hammersmith & Fulham           2019—2020         C Hobbs-East         Deal           2020-2021         A Tregoning J.P         Southend-on-Sea           2021-2022         A Tregoning J.P         Southend-on Sea           2022-2023         V.Morrish         Bideford           2023-2024         C. East         Margate Charter Trustees	2004-2005	R. Buckle	Colchester
2007-2008         P. E. Legg         Charnwood           2008-2009         A. Jenkins         St. Helens           2009-2010         S. Dennis         City & County of Swansea           2010-2011         J. Smoothy         St. Ives, Cambs.           2011-2012         P. Townsend         London Borough of Croydon           2012-2013         J Caruana         Hertford           2013-2014         O Collier         Royal Wootton Bassett           2014-2015         R Crabb BEM         Exeter           2015-2016         A Spencer         Portsmouth           2016—2017         R Trigger         Yeovil           2017—2018         J Vauvert         Ripon           2018—2019         K Simpson         LB Hammersmith & Fulham           2019—2020         C Hobbs-East         Deal           2020-2021         A Tregoning J.P         Southend-on-Sea           2021-2022         A Tregoning J.P         Southend-on Sea           2022-2023         V.Morrish         Bideford           2023-2024         C. East         Margate Charter Trustees	2005-2006	W. Paterson	East Dunbartonshire
2008-2009         A. Jenkins         St. Helens           2009-2010         S. Dennis         City & County of Swansea           2010-2011         J. Smoothy         St. Ives, Cambs.           2011-2012         P. Townsend         London Borough of Croydon           2012-2013         J Caruana         Hertford           2013-2014         O Collier         Royal Wootton Bassett           2014-2015         R Crabb BEM         Exeter           2015-2016         A Spencer         Portsmouth           2016—2017         R Trigger         Yeovil           2017—2018         J Vauvert         Ripon           2018—2019         K Simpson         LB Hammersmith & Fulham           2019—2020         C Hobbs-East         Deal           2020-2021         A Tregoning J.P         Southend-on-Sea           2021-2022         A Tregoning J.P         Southend-on Sea           2022-2023         V.Morrish         Bideford           2023-2024         C. East         Margate Charter Trustees	2006-2007	D. Knight J.P.	Poole
2009-2010 S. Dennis City & County of Swansea 2010-2011 J. Smoothy St. Ives, Cambs. 2011-2012 P. Townsend London Borough of Croydon 2012-2013 J Caruana Hertford 2013-2014 O Collier Royal Wootton Bassett 2014-2015 R Crabb BEM Exeter 2015-2016 A Spencer Portsmouth 2016—2017 R Trigger Yeovil 2017—2018 J Vauvert Ripon 2018—2019 K Simpson LB Hammersmith & Fulham 2019—2020 C Hobbs-East Deal 2020-2021 A Tregoning J.P Southend-on-Sea 2021-2022 A Tregoning J.P Southend-on Sea 2022-2023 V.Morrish Bideford 2023-2024 C. East Margate Charter Trustees	2007-2008	P. E. Legg	Charnwood
2010-2011 J. Smoothy St. Ives, Cambs. 2011-2012 P. Townsend London Borough of Croydon 2012-2013 J Caruana Hertford 2013-2014 O Collier Royal Wootton Bassett 2014-2015 R Crabb BEM Exeter 2015-2016 A Spencer Portsmouth 2016—2017 R Trigger Yeovil 2017—2018 J Vauvert Ripon 2018—2019 K Simpson LB Hammersmith & Fulham 2019—2020 C Hobbs-East Deal 2020-2021 A Tregoning J.P Southend-on-Sea 2021-2022 A Tregoning J.P Southend-on Sea 2022-2023 V.Morrish Bideford 2023-2024 C. East Margate Charter Trustees	2008-2009	A. Jenkins	St. Helens
2011-2012 P. Townsend London Borough of Croydon 2012-2013 J Caruana Hertford 2013-2014 O Collier Royal Wootton Bassett 2014-2015 R Crabb BEM Exeter 2015-2016 A Spencer Portsmouth 2016—2017 R Trigger Yeovil 2017—2018 J Vauvert Ripon 2018—2019 K Simpson LB Hammersmith & Fulham 2019—2020 C Hobbs-East Deal 2020-2021 A Tregoning J.P Southend-on-Sea 2021-2022 A Tregoning J.P Southend-on Sea 2022-2023 V.Morrish Bideford 2023-2024 C. East Margate Charter Trustees	2009-2010	S. Dennis	City & County of Swansea
2012-2013         J Caruana         Hertford           2013-2014         O Collier         Royal Wootton Bassett           2014-2015         R Crabb BEM         Exeter           2015-2016         A Spencer         Portsmouth           2016—2017         R Trigger         Yeovil           2017—2018         J Vauvert         Ripon           2018—2019         K Simpson         LB Hammersmith & Fulham           2019—2020         C Hobbs-East         Deal           2020-2021         A Tregoning J.P         Southend-on-Sea           2021-2022         A Tregoning J.P         Southend-on Sea           2022-2023         V.Morrish         Bideford           2023-2024         C. East         Margate Charter Trustees	2010-2011	J. Smoothy	St. Ives, Cambs.
2013-2014 O Collier Royal Wootton Bassett  2014-2015 R Crabb BEM Exeter  2015-2016 A Spencer Portsmouth  2016—2017 R Trigger Yeovil  2017—2018 J Vauvert Ripon  2018—2019 K Simpson LB Hammersmith & Fulham  2019—2020 C Hobbs-East Deal  2020-2021 A Tregoning J.P Southend-on-Sea  2021-2022 A Tregoning J.P Southend-on Sea  2022-2023 V.Morrish Bideford  2023-2024 C. East Margate Charter Trustees	2011-2012	P. Townsend	London Borough of Croydon
2014-2015         R Crabb BEM         Exeter           2015-2016         A Spencer         Portsmouth           2016—2017         R Trigger         Yeovil           2017—2018         J Vauvert         Ripon           2018—2019         K Simpson         LB Hammersmith & Fulham           2019—2020         C Hobbs-East         Deal           2020-2021         A Tregoning J.P         Southend-on-Sea           2021-2022         A Tregoning J.P         Southend-on Sea           2022-2023         V.Morrish         Bideford           2023-2024         C. East         Margate Charter Trustees	2012-2013	J Caruana	Hertford
2015-2016 A Spencer Portsmouth  2016—2017 R Trigger Yeovil  2017—2018 J Vauvert Ripon  2018—2019 K Simpson LB Hammersmith & Fulham  2019—2020 C Hobbs-East Deal  2020-2021 A Tregoning J.P Southend-on-Sea  2021-2022 A Tregoning J.P Southend-on Sea  2022-2023 V.Morrish Bideford  2023-2024 C. East Margate Charter Trustees	2013-2014	O Collier	Royal Wootton Bassett
2016—2017       R Trigger       Yeovil         2017—2018       J Vauvert       Ripon         2018—2019       K Simpson       LB Hammersmith & Fulham         2019—2020       C Hobbs-East       Deal         2020-2021       A Tregoning J.P       Southend-on-Sea         2021-2022       A Tregoning J.P       Southend-on Sea         2022-2023       V.Morrish       Bideford         2023-2024       C. East       Margate Charter Trustees	2014-2015	R Crabb BEM	Exeter
2017—2018 J Vauvert Ripon  2018—2019 K Simpson LB Hammersmith & Fulham  2019—2020 C Hobbs-East Deal  2020-2021 A Tregoning J.P Southend-on-Sea  2021-2022 A Tregoning J.P Southend-on Sea  2022-2023 V.Morrish Bideford  2023-2024 C. East Margate Charter Trustees	2015-2016	A Spencer	Portsmouth
2018—2019 K Simpson LB Hammersmith & Fulham 2019—2020 C Hobbs-East Deal 2020-2021 A Tregoning J.P Southend-on-Sea 2021-2022 A Tregoning J.P Southend-on Sea 2022-2023 V.Morrish Bideford 2023-2024 C. East Margate Charter Trustees	2016—2017	R Trigger	Yeovil
2019—2020 C Hobbs-East Deal 2020-2021 A Tregoning J.P Southend-on-Sea 2021-2022 A Tregoning J.P Southend-on Sea 2022-2023 V.Morrish Bideford 2023-2024 C. East Margate Charter Trustees	2017—2018	J Vauvert	Ripon
2020-2021 A Tregoning J.P Southend-on-Sea 2021-2022 A Tregoning J.P Southend-on Sea 2022-2023 V.Morrish Bideford 2023-2024 C. East Margate Charter Trustees	2018—2019	K Simpson	LB Hammersmith & Fulham
2021-2022 A Tregoning J.P Southend-on Sea 2022-2023 V.Morrish Bideford 2023-2024 C. East Margate Charter Trustees	2019—2020	C Hobbs-East	Deal
2022-2023 V.Morrish Bideford 2023-2024 C. East Margate Charter Trustees	2020-2021	A Tregoning J.P	Southend-on-Sea
2023-2024 C. East Margate Charter Trustees	2021-2022	A Tregoning J.P	Southend-on Sea
	2022-2023	V.Morrish	Bideford
2024- P. Mayhew Brentwood	2023-2024	C. East	Margate Charter Trustees
	2024-	P. Mayhew	Brentwood

#### **JOINT PATRONS**

The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor of London The Presiding Office of the Scottish Parliament
The Speaker of The House of Commons The Presiding Officer of the National Assembly of Wales



**PROFILE OF THE MACES:** This issue is featuring the 1780 silver-gilt Restoration Maces of Newcastle-under Lyme. The Ancient and Loyal Borough has always had two unique maces, the earliest recorded being made of iron.

These beautiful silver gilt maces weigh 9 lb each and are 3 feet long. They are lovingly maintained by Mayor's Sergeant Peter Shore and carried by Mace-bearers Jenny Otter and Glenn Martin James.

With each edition of *The Mace-Bearer* we aim to feature and celebrate some of the beautiful maces cared for by members of the Guild on our front and back covers. Please contact us at <a href="editor@macebearer.com">editor@macebearer.com</a> about your maces.

#### **Mace-Bearer**

"A Sword. A cup of Maintenance. A Mace Great and well gilt, to do the town more grace And on festivities or High Days, then Those Magistrates their scarlet gowns do wear and have six Sergeants to attend each year"

John Taylor 1622

#### Noun:

an official, as of a city or legislative body, who carries a ceremonial mace before dignitaries.

#### **Origin:**

1545-55, mace + bearer

#### SEMPER FIDELIS

www.macebearer.com