

Lord of the Manor
The Lord Mayor, Commonalty and Citizens
of the
City of London
Since 1327

~
Borough founded by King Alfred
ca 880 AD

~
Southwark Jurors in Domesday Book
1086

~
Parliamentary Borough
1295

~
Preserved Legal Jurisdiction
Administration of Justice Act 1977



GVILDABLE MANOR
Colechurch House, London Bridge Walk, London
SE1 2SX
Registered Address
020 7394 1271

Senior Patrons

The High Steward of Southwark
HHJ Mark Lucraft KC
The Recorder of London

The High Bailiff of Southwark
Myles Kaplan
Head of Operations at MH and CCC

The Queen's Remembrancer
Senior Master Barbara Fontaine
The Curstior Baron of the Exchequer

The Recorder of Southwark
HHJ Usha Karu
The Senior Resident The Sessions House

Foreman
Christopher Hayward

clerk@guildablemanor.org
www.guildablemanor.org

The association of the Jurors of the Court Leet, Exchequer Court and Borough Court



On 14th September 2022 Southwark Council gave a developer the go-ahead to tear down a 1970s office block next to London Bridge, to be replaced by a 22-storey tower, which shall be on stilts to allow a public open space at ground level between Duke Street Hill and Tooley Street. The council gave developers, CIT Group, the green light to knock down Colechurch House and build a “commercial-led” block in its place. Steve Riddell of CIT called the new block “a genre-defining building that will lead the way for sustainable office space, placemaking and community value in the heart of London Bridge – one of the capital’s best connected locations that has evolved dramatically over the past decade.” The new development will also include two new theatres, with 250 and 150 seats respectively, which are likely to be operated by the Southwark Playhouse.

Annual Letter 2023

1st October 2023

Dear Jurors,

As required under Rule 6.1 the following is provided for your information

Annual Letter

You have been notified of the High Steward's Precept and by now received your Summons for the November Court Leet. Please find my Letter, the formal Notices, the Agenda* and abstract of Audited Accounts for the Annual Meeting, which shall take place at that venue at 2.15pm that day, enclosed: This document shall be taken 'as read' at the meeting. On **30th August** the Tithing scrutinised applications for and attendances and suitability of the Sworn and Supernumerary Officers and elected the following to serve in the relevant positions as per the indicated Rules:-

**ie draft agenda; members may propose any business before the Meeting for inclusion, or use 'AOB' at the Meeting; however, if there are Questions Without Notice then a written reply will be given afterwards and published in the Minutes*

The Officers to be Sworn are:-

- 1: FOREMAN
- 2: CONSTABLE
- 3: AFEEROR*
- 4: FLESH TASTER*
- 5: ALETASTER
- 6: ALESIZER †

Tithing*#¹⁻⁶ Sworn Officers

by succession and service under Rule 7

Lawrence Day
John Spanner
Julie Fox
Royston Fox
Daniel Heath

To be filled by a Supernumerary

**Rule 7.1 † Rule 7.9 ‡ Rule 7.10*

Supernumerary and appointed:-

**ALE CONNERS (St Saviour's and
St Olave's side)‡**

**Keith Horsman[^], Keith Schnaar[^], Paul Gwilliam[^],
“ ” All other Officers and Tithingmen**

‡ Rule 7.9 ([^] Wine Steward)

CLERK OF THE MANOR‡

Tony Sharp (F: 2001-2002)

ORATOR ~ CLERK‡

Supernumerary and pro tem Officer

OUTROPER OR COMMON CRYER‡§

Simon S Walsh

§ Charter of Charles I 1638 ‡ Rule 7.9

BEADLES ‡ (Manor Beadle)

Keith Horsman ‡ (J - 2015),

(St Olave's side) ‡

Keith Schnaar ‡ (J - 2021), and All Officers and Tithingmen

(St Saviour's side) ‡

Paul Gwilliam ‡ (T - 2022), and All Officers and Tithingmen

and additionally:

Cedric Gerreyn, Antonio Masella; Mark McAllister, Leslie Jardine.

‡ Rule 7.9

TITHINGMEN ‡‡

Leslie Grout (F: 2013-2014) ‡‡

Ron Leek (F: 2009-2010)

AND

Tony Sharp (F: 2001-2002) ‡‡

Ian Tough (F: 2010-2011)

SERVED FOREMEN

Simon S Walsh (2021-2022) ‡‡

Ian Luder (F: 2014-2015)

‡‡ Rule 3.

Dr Ian Wingfield (F: 2002-2003, 2019-2021)

Christopher Hayward (F: 2022-2023)

Prof Frederick Trowman (F: 2007-08 & 2016)

David Boston (F: 2008-2009)

HON AUDITORS §§

Simon Walsh (F: 2021)

§§ Notified to Annual Meeting under Rule 8.

Lawrence Day

HON TITHINGMEN

Ian Luder (F: 2014-2015); Brian Barker QC (HS 2013 - 2014);

‡ Rule 7.9

Hon Juror; Bryan Whalley.

HONORARY CHAPLAIN

Rt Rev Dr Karowei Dorgu, the Bishop of Woolwich.

‡ Rule 7.9

Hon Assistant Chaplain Rev Charlie Moore, Rector of St Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey.

The three Southwark Courts Leet retain the right to sit for their customary business including "... the appointment of traditional officers" as a limited jurisdiction under the 'Administration of Justice Act 1977; §23 (1)(a) and Sch 4 Pt III'.

Membership and Tenancy

The costs of holding the Court Leet have risen and the necessity is now that we have to hire larger venues to hold this means our margins are squeezed. We admitted SIX new jurors. The Tithing hopes that this trend in recruitment will continue and urges all members to introduce a guest to our events in the hope that they will wish to join themselves. Currently we have 66 Jurors Summoned a drop from 82 since 2020 because of illnesses, death and formal resignations

mainly due to age and location and lack of recruitment. These falls in memberships are common in the City guilds and there is a suspicion that it is due to underlying demographic changes as well as drop outs from the pandemic.

PLEASE NOTE:- In compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations 2018, the Manor keeps its record of Jurors Names and Addresses in paper format and does not have any additional information, copies are sent to the three Courts Clerks for Summons and names are supplied to various publications. Communications are restricted to ordinary business of informing members of events. Communications via email are restricted to replies to enquiries from Jurors to the Clerk exclusively.

Remember that if new members are unlikely to become Liverymen but are attracted to the City's traditions, we offer the unique combination of the Southwark arrangements to propose them for the Freedom and to celebrate its receipt at View of Frankpledge and Quit Rents. Of course active Liverymen are very welcome. We have some very senior City representatives at these events, who have indicated that they are most impressed with the ceremonial aspects and conviviality. A general rise in costs for functions over the last two years may be reflected in the subscriptions for these events being revised. The Tithing is mindful that charges have to be levied at a rate that keeps them attractive for the members.

Events and Functions of the last year

Overall there has been a decline in the number of events we have held or participated in over the last few year. These were for reasons beyond our control or due to cancellation by the other participating organisations. We hope to introduce more informal functions, especially when we get our new facility at the New Colechurch House.

The Annual Court Leet 2022 Our most important event of the year was held on **16th November 2022. I was Sworn before the High Steward as Foreman.** This also marked a change in venue from our Guild church, which is now unavailable to that of **The Amigo Hall, St George's Cathedral, SE1.** This was presided over by the **Deputy High Steward, HHJ Anthony Leonard KC, of the Central Criminal Court and the High Bailiff, Adam Rout,** Head of Operations CCC and Mansion House. **Forty Eight Officers, Jurors and Guests attended** a marked improvement of 34 the previous year even though membership has fallen and indicates a recovery from the dislocations of the Coronavirus restrictions. The Official Guest included from the Old Bailey, **Jay Patel, Clerk of the Court, Ald Sir Andrew Parmley, Ald Timothy Hailes, Ald Prem Goyal, Alexendra Hayward, Master Art Scholar Alan Cook, the Master Marketor, the Master Tax Adviser, Keith Bottomley CC, Shok Umraidia CC, Jeremy Mayhew MBE and Laura Miller Clerk of the Chamberlain's Court.**

Borough Pickwick Club The Tithing's decision to hold a New Year event, in lieu of one at Christmas, the Tithing and Jurors 'posing as' **The Borough Pickwick Club,** at the **Lobby at The George Inn** on the High Street, a most appropriate location for a Dickensian event, on the **10th February.** **Nineteen** Tithing, Jurors and guests enjoyed short readings from the master story writer, improved from 17 previous year, but most importantly fellowship and good company involving a Southwark theme.

Annual Thanksgiving Service, Charter Day, Quit Rents Ceremony. This year was held in June because of the passing of HH Richard Hone. I was unable to officiate as I was called away by the FCO to visit China with a delegation. I am most grateful that Served Foreman, **Alderman Ian Luder,** Senior Past Lord Mayor stepped in to the role. This was held at **St Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey Street SE1** and the Luncheon was at **the Oxford and Bermondsey Club** in nearby Webb Street. Presiding and receiving the Quits was the **Deputy King's Remembrancer HH Stephen Kramer** and the new **Attorney to the City of London, Katie Foster** Senior Counsel the City Remembrancer's Office. The Service was led by our **Honorary Foreman's Chaplain, Rev Charlie Moore, Rector of St Mary's. Thirty One Officers, Jurors and Guests attended** (39 in 2022) and we were satisfied with the necessary reorganisation and transit between venues.

The History Tour of the Borough The annual guided walk was on Sunday **22nd April** conducted by our Clerk, Tony Sharp, with fifteen attendees, 18 in 2022. These tours are probably the most convenient and accessible way to understand the fascinating history of the Manors. I was surprised how long it took to cover a tiny area because of the depth of history related by Tony at every step. The Clerk is prepared to organise additional tours for members at any convenient time along the same format, he makes no charge for this but insists that attendees join for a social meal afterwards. We had a very full lunch at the 'Bunch of Grapes' afterwards. It is likely that next year he will conduct two different walks, North and South end of the ancient 'borough' area to see if that is attractive to more members.

The Justices and Jurors Lecture and Dinner This prestigious annual event was held after a break of some years due to Lockdowns and the pressure on judicial diaries. The lecturer was **Sir Julian Flaux, the Chancellor of the High Court.** Other Official Guests were the **Attorney to the City of London, Katie Foster, HHJ Stephen Kramer, Deputy King's Remembrancer, HHJ Tony Baumgartner from Southwark Crown Court, HHJ Freya Newbery from The Sessions House, Paul Wright the City Assistant Remembrancer and Jeremy Mayhew MBE,** making **30** Officers, Jurors and other guests.

Bridge House Yard Lecture & Dinner is to be held on 19th October, which is too late for a report in this Annual Letter. Last year's ie 2022, was cancelled because of the Queen's demise.

Clerk's Announcement of Retirement - Resignation:

Tony Sharp our Clerk, who is the longest serving Clerk currently of any City Guild, Livery or association informed the Tithing on 30th August of his intention to stand down. I think it best to simply copy his announcement from that meeting for the fuller background:-

"**The Clerk gives Notice of Retirement from 2027.** The Clerk joined the Manor as Clerk in 1997 and we began to hold more social and ceremonial events. There were a dozen Jurors in those days. By 2012 we had 120 members. Today we have fallen to about half of that. We were averaging 8 or 10 events a year but these have also fallen off to six. We also had a higher number reciprocal formal invites with Livery and these have also fallen off and we had a great success with the Tudor Rowing Race Frost Fair for some years and various other participating roles. The Clerk is somewhat disappointed at this reversal of fortunes and status. His intention has always been to stand down with the 700th Anniversary of the City's Lordship and Quit Rents Ceremony in 2027. It was hoped if we kept up our growth from 2012 this would be a Gala Occasion with all Livery Masters, perhaps also the Sheriffs, as invitees to the Ceremony at Southwark Cathedral followed by lunch at Glaziers. Frankly this will be difficult as we lack the finances. The Clerk would like to dissolve his duties among other members-Jurors from now onwards and step down fully in 2028".

The Tithing would urge all of the members to try and come to these functions with friends, partners and paying guests. Those of you who are **Liverymen** who intend to sponsor persons for the Freedom by Redemption without the intervention of a Livery Company are urged to consider making use of the **View of Frankpledge** and **Thanksgiving Service and Quit Rents Ceremony** events to be proposed for and celebrate the receipt of the Freedom in a suitable commemorative and dignified way.

Finances and Audit of Accounts With this letter you will find a copy of the abstract of the Audited Accounts which are placed before the Annual Meeting. As you can see, above, the Tithing has chosen Simon Walsh and Laurence Day to undertake these duties from next year. Authority over expenditure on goods and services is exercised by the Tithing and the Tithingmen.

The **Tenancy Fee Account** has to carry the costs of communications, the Tenancy Fee and sundry other items which the membership as a whole ought in fairness to carry, such as funding the costs associated with the **Court Days** and entertaining our official guests. However, at the last Tithingmen's meeting of the accounts and expenditures were reviewed and **it was considered necessary to change the Fee for the year ensuing to £75.00.**

Merchandise & General Account. Originally this account generated major surpluses by sales to third parties and was our principal subsidy when the Manor was expanding its activities and before we could recruit a 'critical mass' of support to events and membership. These 'customers' have now declined due to the recession and now the account's activity was mainly of expenditure and stock purchase. The value of the stock is written down as nominal on purchase as it is acquired as a much larger order the cost of which is covered on the initial part sale. The value of the stock is realised as full profit at sales. The prices for Guildable Manor Merchandise for our own members are deliberately set at below High Street rates to encourage membership identity, in most cases they are priced at a little above cost. These items are of exceptional quality and value.

Banqueting Account. With the combination of attenders and reasonably priced caterers this account again realises modest surpluses, which are applied to charity. Event subscriptions are closely budgetted to attract support. All of our major functions follow a format of an Event, be it ceremonial or a talk or other entertainment, a good quality meal at excellent prices with drink, usually with excellent company and official guests. This is a sensible mixture of formal and informal. No Livery Company can offer this value and no City Ward Club has this level of civic status and pomp. I would ask all members to bring guests with a prospect of joining a unique institution as an introduction to the rich heritage of both the City of London and Southwark.

Charitable Donations (Banqueting Account) The Tithing, in accordance with last year's Annual Meeting made further contributions to charitable objects, many of these were laying in long-term 'goodwill' with various institutions to develop better relationships. Some payments for venue hire are treated as 'gifts' as that is the way the relevant institution prefers this to be regarded. In fact despite a certain decline in attendances to certain functions in the year we have largely maintained our charitable donations. The Tithing of Officers shall vary these amounts as to what is a prudent disbursement in regard to the balance of the Accounts.

Banking and Audit Procedure: - All Expenditure is approved by the Tithing under general administration or as special purchases; the Tithing also receives Banquet Budget Reports from the Clerk at their meetings to monitor. Cheques / Payments are raised by the Treasurer on request of the Clerk, backed by an Invoice/ Receipt. All Income Pro Formas for goods/ services/ banqueting are retained and payments banked by the Clerk. Receipts and Pro Formas are attached to a narrative Memo by the Clerk and are given to the Auditors at the next Tithing Meeting, along with Bank Statements, with any used Pay-In and Cheque Books, to check off. The full narrative is also given on the Income and Expenditure report. The Auditors receive all other Pay-In and Cheque Books at end of FY to complete the account, balances and Income and Expenditure report, with the Treasurer and Clerk. The abstract of the Accounts are approved by the Auditors as attached to the Annual Letter.

Note by the Auditors

