

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 King's Royalties Collector
HH Stephen Kramer KC

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

Foreman

Lawrence Day
ISO, CSTJ, JP

clerk@guildablemanor.org
www.guildablemanor.org

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



On the 11th of October, during a special Thames cruise, the Manor Officers participating shall present Manor Pennants (photo above centre) to the City of London's Port Health Authority cruisers, 'Londinium III' and 'Lady Aileen' and, which have participated in the Rochester Admiralty Regatta and Cruise as the Foreman's Barge since 2008. These are to be flown on relevant occasions. No Livery Company has this privilege.

Annual Letter 2024

1st October 2024

Dear Jurors,

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

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 **29th July** 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

John Spanner
Julie Fox
Royston Fox
Daniel Heath
Antonio Masella and Mark McAllister
Leslie Jardine and Clive Grimley

**Rule 7.1 ‡ Rule 7.9 † Rule 7.10*

Supernumerary and appointed:-

Keith Horsman[^], Keith Schnaar[^], Cedric Gerreyn[^],
“ ” All other Officers and Tithingmen

‡ Rule 7.9 (^ Wine Steward)

Tony Sharp (F: 2001 - 2002)

Simon S Walsh (F: 2021 - 2022)

§ Charter of Charles I 1638 ‡ Rule 7.9

Mark McAllister

Keith Horsman ‡ (J - 2015),

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

Cedric Gerreyn ‡ (J - 2024), and **All Officers and Tithingmen**

Additional applicants are always welcome for Beadles duties

‡ Rule 7.9

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

CLERK OF THE MANOR ‡

OUTROPER OR COMMON CRYER ‡ §

ORATOR ~ CLERK ‡

BEADLES ‡ (Manor Beadle)

(St Olave's side) ‡

(St Saviour's side) ‡

TITHINGMEN ‡ ‡

AND

SERVED FOREMEN

‡ ‡ Rule 3.

Leslie Grout (F: 2013-2014) ‡ ‡

Tony Sharp (F: 2001-2002) ‡ ‡

Simon S Walsh (2021-2022) ‡ ‡

Christopher Hayward (F: 2022-2023) ‡ ‡

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

David Boston (F: 2008-2009)

Ron Leek (F: 2009-2010)

Ian Tough (F: 2010-2011)

Ian Luder (F: 2014-2015)

HON AUDITORS §§

§§ Notified to Annual Meeting under Rule 8.

HON TITHINGMEN

‡ Rule 7.9

HONORARY CHAPLAIN

‡ Rule 7.9

Simon Walsh (F: 2021 - 2022)

Cedric Gerreyn

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

Hon Juror; Bryan Whalley.

Vacant.

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'.

Firstly an Apology

As some of you are aware I have been taken unwell and am under Doctor's Orders to rest for some months. I cannot therefore attend the Court Leet to install my successor John Spanner. However, I feel I had a good year as you may gather from the events I list below. During the year I have attended a number of smaller events, lectures, displays, talks and gatherings at various venues in the City. I have enjoyed my year tremendously and at all times have promoted the status of the Guildable Manor.

The year commenced by being invited to join the "Domini XXIV" the 2023/24 Master Elects Group. and to be Past Masters. Here I was able to network and meet other Livery Master Elects, this enabled me to be able to invite many Livery Masters to the Court Leet in **November 2023** and to promulgate our Guildable Manor. So my year really started as Constable attending various events arranged by "Domini XXIV". A most notable event was the visit to Lock & Co Hatters St James Street London the oldest hat shop in the world others events included visits to churches, the Tower of London. Just before our Court Leet I joined the Liveries Senior Wardens at a dinner Chartered Accounts Hall to meet and talk with Alderman Michael Mainelli (Lord Mayor Elect). I was then invited by Master Glover

(Elect), Clive Grimley, to his Installation Service at St Margaret Lothbury followed by Lunch at Drapers Hall. Clive has not only been invited by me as a guest to Manor events, he has actually joined the Manor and shall be Sworn as a supernumerary Ale Taster at the Court Leet. Next was Lunch was with the Tax Advisors and further invitations then started to flow: **November:** The Horners Co Annual Banquet at Mansion House; the Royal Society of St George Wine Tasting Evening at Guildhall; **January:** the Basket Makers Dinner at Butchers Hall; the Watermen & Lightermen Annual Dinner at Fishmongers Hall. **March:** Invitation to lunch at Windsor Castle by The Friends of St George & Descendants of the Knights of the Garter; Installation Dinner Master Pattenmakers at Vinters Hall. An invitation to be the principal guest and speaker at the Massey Shaw Dinner of the Firefighters Co, where I spoke about the Guildable Manor of Southwark. **April:** Had the privilege to attend the 500th Anniversary Dinner of the Pewterers Royal Charter; Attended the Election Court Lunch along with the Lord Mayor of the Water Conservators at Butchers Hall; attended the Annual Banquet of the Wheelwrights at Mansion House; Invitation to a Tour of the Palace of Westminster and House of Lords followed by afternoon tea from Baroness Finlay of Llandaff. I had the great honor to be invited as a principal guest for dinner to my own Company, The Makers of Playing Cards. **May:** Via my Consort I was invited to attend Westminster Abbey to a commemorate service to the Life of Florence Nightingale; invited along with many other Livery Masters to a Royal Garden Party. **June:** attended the Joiners & Ceilers Summer Banquet in Stationers Hall; An invitation from General Sir Adrian Bradshaw to attend the Governors Review of the Chelsea Pensioners at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. **July:** Had great pleasure in attending a "Thank You" Sunset cruise on the river Thames by invitation of the Master of the Water Conservators; Attended the Worshipful Company of Carmen 'Cart Marking Event' and lunch in Guildhall. Next with the Guild of Freemen for the Swan Upping cruise at Henley. **September:** attended the Trades House of Glasgow at their London Dinner in Guildhall; Poole Dorset was my last event when I joined the Makers of Playing Cards for their Master's Weekend in supporting the RNLI.

I must extend my very grateful thanks to my Wife Hazel for accompanying me throughout the year as my Consort.

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 TEN 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 69 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 High Bailiff 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

We hope to introduce more informal functions, especially when we get our new facility at the New Colechurch House.

The Annual Court Leet 2023 Our most important event of the year was held on **16th November 2023. I was Sworn before the High Steward as Foreman.** This was held at **The Amigo Hall, St George's Cathedral, SE1.** This was presided over by the **High Steward, HHJ Mark Lucraft KC, of the Central Criminal Court and the High Bailiff, Myles Kaplan,** Head of Operations CCC. **Some Eighty Officers, Jurors and Guests attended** a marked improvement of 48 the previous year even though membership has fallen and indicates a recovery from the dislocations of the Coronavirus restrictions. The Official Guests included from the Old Bailey, **Jay Patel,** Clerk of the Court and notably **four Livery Masters.**

Borough Pickwick Club 2024 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,** held at the **The George Inn, High Street SE1** a most appropriate location for a Dickensian event, on the **16 January. Twenty three** Tithing, Jurors and guests enjoyed short readings from the master story writer, improved from 19 previous year, but most importantly fellowship and good company involving a Southwark theme. We had some four new members attending. A Livery Master who attended in the past told our Clerk at another event that he thought it was one of the most fun occasions in the City he had ever been to.

WALKING TOUR, 13th April; 15 attendees - highest for some years: This was enjoyed by the members and their guests. This started at Borough tube station to cover the southern part of the manor area ending eventually, via Trinity Square at the Guy's Chapel. New members should certainly book in for this as it is the easiest way to understand the history and layout of the area within context.

Justice & Jurors; Could not be held as no Senior Judge was available, Clerk approached the new Lord Chief Justice Baroness Carr LCJ and then Lord Jonathan Sumption UKSC - In fact every senior Head of Division Judge has been a guest speaker in previous years.

Annual Thanksgiving Service, Charter Day, Quit Rents Ceremony. This year was held 19th March. 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 **King's Royalties Collector HH Stephen Kramer KC** and the **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. **Fifty Nine Officers, Jurors and Guests attended** and we were satisfied with the necessary reorganisation

and transit between venues. The Foreman's and official guests were very impressed by the ceremonial. Unfortunately I could not attend the lunch because I had a health issue and this was presided over by SF Simon Walsh.

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.

d) MIDSUMMER POMPS. There were **fourteen** in attendance on 12th June. It was held, unfortunately due to unavailability of The George, at **the Mug House** under London Bridge. It was not ideal being windowless. Nevertheless newer members said they enjoyed the conviviality of the occasion.

ROCHESTER ADMIRALTY COURT 10th July ; We are guests at this event of the ROFF guild. This has at last been reinstated after Lockdown dislocations at the Cruising Club and is the first since 2019. The Foreman, Affeeror, Snr T'man, Clerk attended with full support of LM Mainelli who was most impressed by the Illuminated Address he signed manual. The Cruiser Londinium III carried our party on the two days of regatta, only room for a few senior Officers and Foreman. The Manor was introduced to the Rochester Guild of Free Fishermen by the Clerk over 20 years ago when he advised it over a legal matter to do with poacher-trawlers. The Council and the Freefishers hold an Annual Court, like the manor Court Leet, which is a conservancy body for the Medway. The Medway Mayor is Admiral of the Medway and the Lord Mayor is Admiral of the Thames and these border at Sheerness confluence. The Manor now conveys the LM's Greetings to the Mayor of Medway and this is a unique privilege for the Manor as no other guild-livery does so. We then process the Mayor and the Freeman to the Esplanade and participate in the Saturday and Sunday 'Admiral's Cruise Regatta'. The Manor officers used to go on the Trawlers of the Freeman, but since 2008 we have been afforded the honour of using the LM's barge of the Port Health Authority a large cruiser. The original intention was that the Manor hire an event boat to sail from Southwark to Rochester to participate. Perhaps one day we can.

Bridge House Yard Lecture & Dinner 2024 on 11th September was our history lecture. Some 26 jurors and guests attended. For the first time in many years we secured the attendance of one of the **two new Bridge Masters, elected by Common Hall competitively, Sue Threader** who attended a BHYD in her role as a Rochester Bridge Trust capacity some years ago.

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

