

# **COMPANY COMMENT**

## **The Honourable Company of Freemen of the City of London of North America**

[www.freemenlondon.org](http://www.freemenlondon.org)

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### **From the Master**

I have been a member of the Honourable Company for well over a decade and served on the Court for a year as the Honorary Treasurer, four years as the Honorary Clerk, two years as Deputy Master and now culminating in this last year as your Master. I leave the Company affairs in the very capable hands of an enthusiastic Court and Master.

It has been good fun working with the diverse personalities and backgrounds of the Court members over the years, all united in a common purpose to promote the objectives of the Honourable Company. I see the Company growing stronger and richer in nature over time and this is the result of the dedicated hard work of the Court and the other volunteers, and our ability to attract a broader group of individuals interested in the City of London and the Freedom and formed and the experience gained.

The year has seen great success in attracting new Members, raising funds of our Charity, introducing an updated constitution and a grace for the Company (see articles in this newsletter on these two items), and most important of all, the wide variety of well-attended social and charity events. In particular, I recognize the particular contribution of a few individuals: John Smith, not only the Honorary Treasurer but also the organizer of most of the Charity events; Neil Purcell, the Membership Secretary and for his contribution to the revised Constitution and Company Grace; Martin Walmsley, our Honorary Secretary and for his largesse in hosting the Court Meetings and his process improvements in Company operations; Peter Leach, the editor of Company Comment with support from Sylvia Davis; and David Moorecroft, the facilitator of the Royal Bank Charity reception, the Company's most successful charity event ever

It is your support of these activities and events, however, that is so crucial in creating the vibrancy of, and value in our Company. I thank you all for your support throughout my year. It will be a delight to see you so many of you again at the AGM and to share our fellowship together.

*Hugh Oddie*

### **A Brief History of a City Livery Company – The Worshipful Company Pewterers**

Is pewter the metal of the Millennium? The Members of the Worshipful Company of Pewterers certainly think so and make that claim. There are others that would claim it to be steel, aluminum, copper or even gold, but pewter has some really interesting attributes that make its claim tenable. More of this later, but first lets look at the Worshipful Company and its history.

The Worshipful Company doesn't quite make it into the 12 Great Companies, but it is close – Number 16 – and it has an impressive heritage.

#### **History**

The earliest references to its existence go back to 1348 when the “goodfolk, makers of vessels of pewter” came before the Mayor and Aldermen asking for approval of Articles that had been drawn up for the regulation of their trade. While there are no records of the actual formation of the Guild, there are a lot of details that give information about its recognition and Charter. It is assumed that the Craft Guild was formed around a religious “Fraternity” of craftspeople in the production of pewter and pewter objects before 1348, but it was almost a century before a Royal Charter was sought.

The early attempts to secure legal rights clearly didn't proceed too smoothly. In 1432, the Guild paid a clerk of Chancery 5s. to assist in a search "for statute and other things to the intent to labour to the parliament for a charter for the craft to have search through England." Unfortunately the civil war again stopped these early efforts.

In the 1450's, a bill was prepared for Parliament, the cost of which amounted to 10s.8d. "A deputation was entrusted with 8d. to bestow in drinks went to Cutlers Hall to ask the advice of the officials there and another person of experience was interviewed at the Mitre in Cheap at a cost of 16d. in bread and wine" However, even with such advice, they realized that they had insufficient funds to proceed.

By 1467, a sum of £80 had been accumulated and, in 1471 and 1472, payments of a total of £9 7s. 4p. for legal fees were incurred and in 1473 the final sum of £41 18s. 8d. was paid for the remaining cost. The Royal Charter of the Company was granted in January 1474. As in most crafts of the time, one of the key roles of the Guild was to control the quality of the production of pewter. While many Guilds only had rights and control in London itself, the Pewterers received the right of search throughout all England.

The current Royal Charter was granted by Queen Anne in 1702.

From its earliest discovery in Roman times, pewter – an alloy principally made from tin, and including antimony, copper, bismuth and, in the past, other metals, were added in small amounts to make it harder – was the preferred material for plates, dishes, drinking vessels and other wares. Until early in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century other metals, such as silver, competed for these wares. However, silver was not so abundant as tin, was more expensive, and all other alternatives corroded or otherwise changed detrimentally. Also unlike a number of other possible metals, tin is non-toxic even though its mining in Cornwall and other places took its toll on the mining communities. It is very fortuitous that this material was chosen, as the concept of toxicity and its effects were only understood in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

The control over Pewter quality was exercised in a manner very similar to the assay process for Gold and Silver. Every Master Pewterer, before setting up in business, was required to record his or her 'touch' or trade mark on a pewter sheet retained by the Company. While the early touch marks were lost in the Great Fire in 1666, there are over 1000 individual marks of makers that are 'on record' today.

At the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the Company ceased the control of quality and its search activities, as prescribed in its Royal Charter. As with so many other Guilds, the relationship with the pewter industry became very tenuous.

#### Current Activities

In 1970, faced with increasing international competition and poorly defined and unenforced quality standards, the Company sponsored British pewter manufacturers in setting up the Association of British Pewter Craftsmen, with the

object of improving the quality and standards and stimulating the growth of the British pewter industry. New marks were introduced to provide visual assurance of quality and of manufacturing origin.

Based on this success, the Association formed a relationship with the European Pewter Union. This has allowed the development of trans-European standards. The Worshipful Company continues to support the popularization of pewter, and encourages new uses and modern designs. One of the ways it achieves this is an annual design competition "Pewter Live" for students in selected art colleges in the UK. Also, in February 2000, as part of the Millennium celebration, the Prince of Wales launched the Millennium Pewter Collection. The Company sponsors scholarships at the City of London Schools, has a number of charitable trusts, including one that supports a school for underprivileged children in Islington.

#### Pewter

While the precise composition of pewter has varied over time, the current requirement is for a minimum tin purity of 91.5%, with a maximum level of 8% antimony, of 2.5% copper and of 0.5% bismuth. Pewter can be fashioned by gravity casting, centrifugal casting, spinning, pressing, rolling or hand forming. There are a variety of finishing techniques and hammering, etching, painting and enameling are common. The fact that pewter is relatively soft allows it to be quickly and highly polished. Pewter that has developed a patina, due to infrequent polishing, can be easily restored.

#### The Pewterers' Hall

After the grant of charter and securing a seal together with a great book, and the start of enforcement, the priority of the new Guild was to acquire land and build a hall – not an insubstantial investment. The first hall was completed in 1496 in Lime Street and survived until the Great Fire. The second hall was built on the same site, eventually being demolished in 1932, before any German bombers could destroy it. The Pewterers still own this site, but a new Hall was completed in 1961 in Oat Lane, close to London Wall.

*Article prepared using information from the website of the Worshipful Company of Pewterers ([www.Pewterers.org.uk](http://www.Pewterers.org.uk)) and "The Guilds of the City of London" by Sir Ernest Pooley, published by William Collins of London in 1945*



**Guild of Freemen – Events open to Members**

As you will be aware, our reciprocal arrangements with the Guild of Freemen allow Members of the Honourable Company to apply for and attend events of the Guild, and for their Members to attend our events. The events for the Guild are included in the 2003-2004 program and are:

**Day visit to Leeds Castle** Wed 11<sup>th</sup> Jun 2003  
Depart from Guildhall 10 am, return by 6 pm  
Dress: Jacket and Tie  
Tickets £63 per person; Coach £20 per person  
Ticket allocation date 1<sup>st</sup> May 2003  
Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 14<sup>th</sup> Apr 2003

**Day at Sandown Races** Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Jun 2003  
Depart from Guildhall 10.15 am, return 6 pm  
Dress: Suit  
Tickets £120 per person inclusive of luncheon and tea; Coach £15 per person; Parking in Members' Car Park £5  
Ticket allocation date 1<sup>st</sup> May 2003  
Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 14<sup>th</sup> Apr 2003

**Coventry Banquet** Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Sep 2003  
Guildhall of St Mary's, Coventry at 6.30 pm to 10.30 pm  
Dress: Black Tie  
Tickets £65 per person  
Ticket allocation date 1<sup>st</sup> Jul 2003  
Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 14<sup>th</sup> Jun 2003

**Hilton in the Community Foundation Ball**  
London Hilton, Park Lane Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Sep 2003  
Dress: Black Tie 6.30 pm - 1 am  
Ticket £120 per person  
Ticket allocation date 1<sup>st</sup> Aug 2003  
Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 14<sup>th</sup> Jul 2003

**Mansion House Art Tour** Thu 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2003  
Mansion House - Lord Mayor's Charity Appeal  
Dress: Suit 10.30 am to 12 noon  
Tickets £25 per person  
Ticket allocation date 1<sup>st</sup> Aug 2003  
Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 14<sup>th</sup> Jul 2003

**Mansion House Tour** Thu 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2003  
Mansion House - Lord Mayor's Charity Appeal  
Dress: Suit 2 pm to 3.30 pm  
Tickets £25 per person  
Ticket allocation date 1<sup>st</sup> Aug 2003  
Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 14<sup>th</sup> Jul 2003

**Reception and Dinner** Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Oct 2003  
Ironmongers' Hall 7 pm to 10 pm  
Dress: Black Tie  
Tickets £78 per person  
Ticket allocation date 15<sup>th</sup> Aug 2003  
Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 1<sup>st</sup> Aug 2003

**Visit and Supper – College of Arms** Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Oct  
Maximum 20 people 6.15 pm to 10 pm  
Dress: Suit or Blazer  
Tickets £35 per person

Ticket allocation date 15<sup>th</sup> Aug 2003  
Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 1<sup>st</sup> Aug 2003

**Tour and Dinner – House of Commons** Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Oct 2003  
Host: Rt. Hon. Virginia Bottomley 6.45 pm to 10 pm  
Dress: Suit  
Tickets £74 per person  
Ticket allocation date 15<sup>th</sup> Aug 2003  
Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 1<sup>st</sup> Aug 2003

**Visit and Supper – College of Arms** Wed 29<sup>th</sup> Oct 2003  
Maximum 20 people 6.15 pm to 9 pm  
Dress: Suit or Blazer  
Tickets £35 per person  
Ticket allocation date 15<sup>th</sup> Aug 2003  
Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 1<sup>st</sup> Aug 2003

**Day visit to RAF Museum and Lunch** Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Nov 2003  
Depart from the Guildhall 10 am, return by 4.30 pm  
Dress: Jacket and Tie  
Tickets £74 per person; Coach £12 per person  
Ticket allocation date 1<sup>st</sup> Sep 2003  
Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 14<sup>th</sup> Aug 2003

**Lord Mayor's Show** Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Nov 2003  
St. Paul's Cathedral stands (south) 10.30 am to 12 noon  
Lunch at City Pipe, Foster Lane 12.15 pm to 2 pm  
Dress: Jacket and Tie  
Ticket (Show) £22 per person  
Ticket (Lunch) £28 per person  
Ticket allocation date 1<sup>st</sup> Sep 2003  
Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 14<sup>th</sup> Aug 2003

**Wine Tasting** Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Nov 2003  
Tallow Chandlers' Hall – joint with Society of Young Freemen  
Dress: Jacket and Tie  
Tickets £25 per person  
Ticket allocation date 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2003  
Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 14<sup>th</sup> Sep 2003

**Annual Banquet** Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 2003  
Guildhall 6.30 pm to 10.30 pm  
Dress: White Tie  
Tickets £89 per person  
Ticket allocation date 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2003  
Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 14<sup>th</sup> Sep 2003

**Carol Service** Wed 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 2003  
St Martin's-within-Ludgate 6 pm to 8 pm  
Dress: Suit  
Tickets £20 per person  
Ticket allocation date 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 2003  
Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 2003

**Reception and Dinner** Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 2004  
House of Lords – Peers Dining Room 6.45 pm to 10 pm  
Host: Field Marshal The Lord Vincent  
Dress: Black Tie  
Tickets £79 per person  
Ticket allocation date 17<sup>th</sup> Nov 2003  
Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 2003

**Visit and Supper – Old Bailey** Wed 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2004  
 Old Bailey 5.45 pm to 9.30 pm  
 Dress: Suit or Blazer  
 Tickets £39 per person  
 Ticket allocation date 15<sup>th</sup> Dec 2003  
 Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2003

**Reception and Dinner** Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2004  
 Painters' Hall 7 pm to 10.30 pm  
 Dress: Black Tie  
 Tickets £83 per person  
 Ticket allocation date 15<sup>th</sup> Dec 2003  
 Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2003

**Port Tasting** Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2004  
 Tallow Chandlers' Hall 6.30 pm to 9 pm

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## New Members

### Mr. Kenneth C. A. Brown

Ken is a retired police officer and now runs his own private investigation firm that specializes in providing security and investigation solutions to business and individuals.

He joined the Toronto Police Service from high school and has spent more than 30 years in all aspects of law enforcement from fraud to drugs and from morality to criminal. He was involved in the planning and security operations for many foreign dignitaries, including The Queen and members of the British Royal Family, Pope John Paul II, Presidents, Prime Ministers. He is the recipient of the "Exemplary Service Medal", the "Long Service Medal, a "District Service Award" and 15 letters of Commendation and Recognition.

The Honourable welcomes him into Membership and we look forward to enjoyable times with his Wife, Anna

### Ms. Lynn Doyle

Lynn Doyle is co-owner and partner in any executive recruitment firm specializing in marketing and communications. She first became an executive recruiter in 1987, and with her background in the advertising industry, her focus on marketing and communications executive recruitment became a natural course.

Lynn remembers little of her life in Birmingham England as Her Parents immigrated to Canada in 1959 when she was 4. Her husband, Stewart Hood, is also a London, England born immigrant, who was 7 when his Parents crossed the "pond".

### Mr. Geoffrey Keith Johnson

*A brief biography will be included in the next issue.*

### Ms. Penny McGill

For more than 20 years, Penny has helped large corporations to set strategy, formulate approaches, implement solutions and achieve results across multiple companies, subsidiaries,

Dress: Suit of Blazer

Tickets £25 per person

Ticket allocation date

15<sup>th</sup> Dec 2003

Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2003

Anyone wishing to take advantage of these opportunities should advise the Hon Clerk, or in his absence, the editor of Company Comment, as soon as possible. A sterling cheque or equivalent, payable to the Guild of Freemen in the amount indicated, together with the name of the Member and his or her Guest (only one can be permitted), must be in the hands of the Hon Clerk, or the editor, before the Hon. Co members booking date. No reimbursement is possible after the Ticket Allocation date.

~~divisions and business units. Generally, her most difficult~~ challenges have been building the collaborative working relationships to achieve the desired results. Penny's successful track record speaks to her key strengths in boundary definition, process effectiveness, measurement processes, relationship performance and project management.

She has held leadership positions in many corporations including the Bank of Montreal, Accenture, Ernst & Young and General Foods. She has consulted in the financial sector, and with business services corporations, consumer products companies and government organizations.

To the Honourable Company, she brings a great sense of humour, a ton of energy, and lots of enthusiasm for everything she does. The Company welcomes her as a new Member

### Mr. Robert Thomas

*A brief biography will be included in the next issue.*

### Mr. Paul J. S. Wilson

*A brief biography will be included in the next issue.*

**Obituary***David Chilton*

It is with great sadness that we report to you the death of Simon David Stainton Chilton on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2002 after a courageous fight with pancreatic cancer. David was a relatively new member of the Honourable Company, but he was a great supporter of charitable efforts especially those linked to the City of London. In a note received from his wife, Meredith, she commented that one of his proudest moments was when he became a Freeman of the City of London in June 2002.

David's volunteer and charitable activities were recognized by many. In 2002, he was the recipient of Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee Medal. He was an Officer of The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem and a Knight Commander of Grace of the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller. He served as Treasurer and a member of the Executive Committee of the St. John Ambulance for the Province of Ontario and as a Director of the National Club, where he served as vice-chair of the house committee.

While a great leader for Bowne of Canada, he was also a much-appreciated friend of all the employees of the Company.

Regardless of his other activities, David always had time for his family and friends. He was known for a great sense of humour, profound honour, unflinching courage, great charm, boundless optimism and deep love. Clearly his family and friends sorely miss him, and the condolences of the Company have been conveyed to them. He is also a loss to our community as a Freeman and a Member of the Honourable Company.