



**Colonel Philip Bates  
Clerk and CEO**



On his retirement, Colonel George Kilburn, MBE, became the third to be elected as Clerk Emeritus. The Company wishes George the very best.

**Welcome to the first copy of our reinstated Freemans' Newsletter. I hope that you will find it informative, useful and something that you will be able to contribute to from time to time. My aim is to provide a forum to keep Freeman and Friends informed as to what the Company is doing, share reports, ideas and information and to add items that your businesses might find useful.**

I am very proud to have been selected as the new Chief Executive and Clerk to the Company. I must publicly thank George Kilburn for an excellent handover and I know that he will be much missed.

I retired from the Army in 2014, with my last post being Commander of Edinburgh Garrison. I then worked for Veolia, an Environmental Services Company, developing their Defence and Airports business.

Since taking over in June, nothing has been normal and I am certain that will be the case for all of you. It is frustrating that we need to plan and then cancel our events, but I hope that you will understand that the situation changes quickly and our first priority will remain the safety of our Members, Freeman, Friends and guests. I remain positive! We will continue to plan our events, working to the current and expected guidance and regulations. We may have to cancel some events along the way, but it is easier to do that than try to plan at short notice if things improve.

Please stay safe and I look forward to meeting many more of you soon.

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## **LinkedIn Group**

A LinkedIn group for the Freeman of the Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire has been set up and is due to go live on the publication date of this Newsletter. Freeman and Friends will all be able to join on invitation/application and post news items. It is hoped that this will be a useful networking opportunity, particularly during lockdown. Email info will be sent out shortly.