

A Coat of Arms – the gift that just keeps giving.

If you had lived in the City of London between 1687-1700 it's likely you'd have been subject to one of the last visitations by the Heralds from the College of Arms.

Visitations were systematic inspections that ensured no person was using a coat of arms to which they were not lawfully entitled. Penalties for unlawful use of arms included the offender making a public declaration that they would never again falsely claim to be a gentleman, ouch!

Surprising as it may be, most people, and certainly the vast majority of Freemen and Liverymen (irrespective of gender) are eligible to petition for a lawful grant of arms.

The process is fun, fascinating, rewarding and results in a unique, personal form of identity which is inheritable. You don't have to be a Master, Alderman, Sheriff or Lord Mayor to petition but you will need a nice spot to display your vellum Letters Patent when you receive your grant.

If you're thinking about petitioning for a coat of arms, remember, remember the 5th of November – the date of a virtual workshop titled “A Practical Guide to Petitioning for a Grant of Arms” led by Paul Jagger, author of *The City of London Freeman's Guide*, Trustee of the Heraldry Society and successful petitioner (see image).

Full details and online enrolment at: heraldry2020.eventbrite.co.uk

