

Account that in 1747 they amounted to £2.3s.6d.<sup>10</sup> A figure of 13s.3d. is given by the Town Clerk in 1797, made up as follows:

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
'Stamp which is on a Bailpiece	2.	3
Mayor		6
Chamber	1.	6
Chamberlain	2.	0
Town Clerk	2.	0
Sergeants-at-Mace	2.	0
Wine and Cakes	3.	0 <sup>11</sup>

Then, in the last days of the close corporations, the 1835 Report of Commissioners, appointed in 1833 to enquire into the state of the old municipal corporations, states that 'on taking up his freedom each person pays the sum of £5.14s. to the corporate fund, besides the stamp upon his admission. He also pays a fee of one guinea to the town clerk.' The Commissioners found that there were, at the time, 'no freemen excepting members of the Corporation' and 'as freemen all the members of the Corporation are by an express clause in the governing charter exempted from serving on juries for the county of Oxford out of the borough'; they 'could not discover any other privilege to which they are entitled.'<sup>12</sup>

Although a fair amount of space in the Journal is taken up with recording the election to office of the members of the Common Council – the Mayor, Aldermen and Capital Burgeses – and their Assistants, and the admission of Freemen of the Borough, there are sufficient entries to illustrate the Council's responsibilities in borough administration. Borough officers were appointed: Recorder, Chamberlain, Town Clerk, Auditors, Bridgemasters, Testers ('Gustators'), Searchers ('Scrutators'); and, for the first time, at a Hall on 17 December 1733, paid Scavengers were set to work cleansing the streets of the borough [94].

Property owned by the Corporation was let to provide income: on 15 January 1734/5 it was agreed that James Stewart could lease the room under the Latin school at 20s. per annum, payable quarterly [105b]; on

<sup>10</sup> Chamberlain's Account, 1747-1816, 1.

<sup>11</sup> Town Clerk's Book of Forms and Precedents, 1797, 37. The item for 'Wine and Cakes' was first entered in the Chamberlain's Account in 1777 and regularly included thereafter as 'Cake Money'.

<sup>12</sup> First Report, Section 20, 11.