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THE LIVES OF THE GREAT AND THE GOOD
HONORARY FREEMEN OF THE CITY OF LONDON

by BILL CLARK

WHO WAS HONEST JACK? What was a Joey and who was it named after? Why do sailors refer to rum as “grog”? How did Ladysmith receive its name? Who erected the statue of Greyfriars Bobby in Edinburgh? Who had an American presidential estate named after them? All these questions and more are answered in this fascinating collection of mini biographies of Honorary Freemen of the City of London and other matters concerning the Freedom of the City. These men and women helped to shape the history of our Islands. Within the pages of this book lie an interesting catalogue of the great and the good; Royal scandals, yarns of derring-do and adventure, bravery and foolhardiness; stories of men and women rising from rags to riches, and accounts of spectacular falls from grace; stories of explorers and missionaries, heroes and villains; and heroes who became villains. In the words of Alderman Vincent Keaveny “...a fascinating and comprehensive compendium of many matters concerning the Freedom of the City, and in particular the lives of Honorary Freemen of the City of London since the first recipients in 1674...Every livery company library will be enhanced by possessing this book.”

BILL CLARK revived the sheep drive across London Bridge as an annual event in the City of London calendar, raising thousands of pounds for charity. He has spent six years researching and editing this book about the lives of the 265 people who have been voted the Honorary Freedom of the City of London of whom only nine recipients are alive today. The stories behind all these Great and Good men and women are a fascinating reminder of the varied and often controversial history of the United Kingdom.

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