



Master's Message



Julian Squire was installed as the Master for the Company's 650th anniversary year on April 14th. The ancient ceremony took place in the Court room at Drapers' Hall. This was followed by dinner in the splendour of the Livery Hall after which, with his Lady Susan by his side, he spoke eloquently of the challenges he has set for his year.

He started off by quoting from Canterbury Tales, written a mere 20 years after our Livery's formation before going on to say; "To survive and flourish over 650 years requires a combination of evolution, continuity and vision. Our motto "Sustine Bona" conveys the need to not only 'Uphold the Good' but also the more subtle obligation to "Keep what's best." Equally, keeping what's best also means letting go what is less good and embracing change – something we have done constantly throughout our history. But for many

Liverymen, the so called Mystery of the Livery has been exactly that – a Mystery. So what exactly are our plans and how do we intend to deliver them? Well, a new year heralds fresh growth and for the first time the Court of our Company has approved a written Strategic Plan, setting out exactly what the Company's aims are, how it plans to deliver them and by when." The strategic plan can be found in full on the website www.upholders.co.uk.

Julian brings fresh impetus to the company's objective of supporting our trade, including the "Flock & Feather" event to be held in November. In August he will be supporting the Peter Jackson charity by walking part of the "Camino de Santiago" accompanied by a donkey. During his year the website will be overhauled and he is also keeping a weekly diary or "Blog" on the website.

For your Diary

9th September
Court & Dinner
Mercers' Hall
Liverymen, Freemen and Guests

14th October
Ladies' Night
Mansion House
Liverymen, Freemen & Guests

17th November
Flock and Feather
Skinners' Hall

13th January 2011
Court & Dinner
Vintners' Hall
Liverymen & Guests

17th February 2011
Church Service and Dinner. St Michael, Cornhill & Armourers' Hall
Liveryman, Freemen & Guests

23rd March 2011
Court Ladies Dinner
Ironmongers' Hall
Court & Guests only

United Guilds Service
1st April 2011

City Sheriffs Elected



The two candidates for the ancient office of Sheriff of the City of London were duly elected on 24 June at Guildhall. They are **Richard Sermon** and **Alderman Fiona Woolf**.

Upholding the Craft of the Upholsterer



The Master with Rachel Wheeler



The Master with Iain Pitchford



The Master with Andrea Naef

London Metropolitan University,
Sir John Cass Department of Media & Design
Worshipful Company of Upholders Awards

This year the annual prize giving celebrated 20 years of Livery awards and took place on 17th June. After examining the entries one of the judges said “the work produced is of the highest standard and it was very difficult choosing the winning students as they were all very close.” The Master presented the following certificates and prizes for Upholstery and Soft Furnishing:

Advanced Upholstery Skills 1st **Iain Pitchford**
2nd **Sarah Whyberd**
Highly Commended **Jolyon Atkison**

Intermediate Upholstery Skills 1st **Jenny Andeson**
2nd **Clare Upward**
Highly Commended **Deborah Richards**

Soft Furnishing Skills part I 1st **Rachel Wheeler**
2nd **Rosemary Williams**
Highly Commended **Regina Martins**

The Derek Austin Awards were also presented by the Master, funded though the generosity of Past Master Derek Austin.

Foundation Degree in Furniture Making
Winner **Andrea Naef.**
Derek Austin Award in Conservation & Restoration
Winner **Michelle Cleary.**

Liveryman Wendy Shorter was honoured and absolutely delighted to be named ‘Inspirational Woman of the Year 2010’ in the first ever Women In Furnishing Awards that were announced on Thursday June 3, at a luncheon held at Furniture Makers’ Hall in the City of London.



L-r Paul van der Heyde of sponsors Kinnarps, Wendy Shorter and guest speaker Alison Cork

The judges felt Wendy had not only established her own successful training school but had been instrumental in changing the face of training and qualification standards in the upholstery and soft furnishings sector. After a successful career in the film industry Wendy re-trained as an upholsterer/soft furnisher and became Student of The Year at London Metropolitan University. Following this she established her own interiors business, became involved in training and following redundancy took the gamble of her life in establishing her own private training school. This has flourished and Wendy has gone on to represent the furnishings sector on a number of national bodies and organisations as well as becoming Director of Training for the Association of Master Upholsterers and Soft Furnishers. Wendy has been instrumental in developing and

promoting nationally recognised qualifications for upholsterers and soft furnishers. Passionate about her industry she has also just had her first book – Soft Furnishings: The Complete Guide to Professional Results – published by New Holland Publishers (UK) Ltd.” price £14.99.



New Liveryman Richard Newbold



I was born in the North East of England in 1961 and lived in Durham City, attending the Durham Chorister then the Newcastle Cathedral Schools and eventually moved to Weybridge, Surrey in 1980. I am married with two children; Georgia aged 18 who attended Charterhouse School and Cameron aged 20 who now works in the financial industry in London. I myself work full time in a business I set up (Triple A Transport Services Ltd) in 1984

which specializes in Warehousing and Logistics and is based at the ‘Port of Tilbury’ on the river Thames to the east of the City of London. I am also MD of ‘Lancaster Homes Ltd’, a development company specializing in building prestige homes in London and the Home Counties. Finally I am a registered bookmaker and have ‘on course’ pitches at most of the major racecourses in the South of England. In my spare time I play golf and tennis.

Court News



From left PM Christopher Hayman,
Mrs Maureen Byllam-Barnes,
Hon. Treasurer Joe Byllam-Barnes & Master Julian Squire

Honorary Treasurer Retires J C F B Byllam-Barnes

Joe Byllam-Barnes became a Liveryman of the Upholders Company in 1984, having been introduced by Past Master Neville Hayman and seconded by Past Master Hugh Taylor. His two other Livery Companies are the Fletchers and International Bankers.

Joe enjoyed a distinguished City career with Barclays Bank, which he joined in 1945, eventually rising to the position of Head Office Inspector.

He retired in 1992 and spends his time at present as Secretary of the City of London Branch (Royal Society of St. George), reading and studying theology, walking and sitting on a committee reconstructing the Brighton Atlantic Beach Head Locomotive in Sheffield Park. He would like to celebrate his 90th birthday riding in a First Class carriage behind the locomotive, when it is finished - hopefully in 2016!!

His great love is music (opera) Mozart, politics, current affairs and travel. He is an Oblate of Quarr Abbey on the Isle Of

Wight. As well as being a member of the Royal Society of St. George, Joe is a member of Castle Baynard Ward Club, Farringdon Ward Club and Ward of Cheap Club and is a Past President of the latter two.

Joe joined the Court of the Worshipful Company of Upholders in 1986. He set up the Warden to the Trade Committee and was elected Master in 1994. Of particular distinction during his term of office as Master was the granting of the Company's new Armorial Bearings.

In 1985 Joe assumed the position of Treasurer, a role that he has continued to develop over the past 25 years, until his retirement today. The Company and Court is indebted to Joe for his enduring hard work and dedication to this task and to his wife Maureen for her support.

New Honorary Treasurer Appointed Michael Brecknell



The Court were delighted to appoint Michael Brecknell to succeed Joe Byllam-Barnes as Honorary Treasurer. On taking up this appointment Michael praised Joe for his diligence and longevity in the role. Michael became a Freeman of the City in 1982 and was made a Liveryman of the Insurers in January 1983. Sponsored by Ray Usher and Jack Ayerst he was clothed in the Upholders' Livery at the January Court in 1985. In 2004-5 he had a most successful year as Master Upholder. A former member of the national youth swimming team, in 2009 he took part in the Surveyors Inter-livery Swimathon raising funds for our charities.

Audit Court Meeting in Guildhall

The Upholders' Court have been privileged to hold their Audit Court meeting in the Aldermen's Courtroom in Guildhall in recent years. The picture alongside shows the Court with the Master in the chair. This was also the setting for the final finance committee meeting under the chairmanship of Joe Byllam-Barnes, which preceded the meeting of the full Court. The Court usually dines without guests after this meeting but on this special occasion was joined by the Late Lord Mayor Ald. Ian Luder, The Chief Commoner Robin Sherlock, Mrs Maureen Byllam-Barnes and our Auditor Mr Mike Proctor. After the meal in the private dining room the Master spoke of the service Joe has given our Livery and also the City and presented him with an engraved decanter.



Upholding Our Charities

The Master's Pilgrimage August 2010

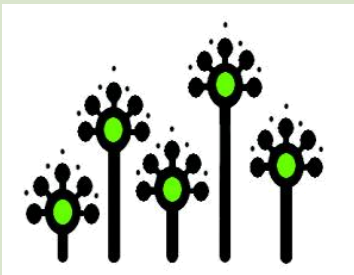
For those not present at the Installation Dinner, the Master is planning to walk the first 156 miles of the Way of St James as it leaves Puy-en-Velay in France towards Santiago de Compostela in Spain. An ancient route, the Way has been frequented by pilgrims since the early 800s, so the path is well trodden. Several "companions" have already signed up to participate for all or part of the trip - including both Livery and non Livery members, plus the Master and another Com-

pany. Our pilgrims will stay in simple accommodation, but anticipate making up for any savings in overnight hotel bills by drinking good wine. Support to the merry band will be supplied by the Master's lady, Susan in the back up Land Rover; to further reduce the burdens of those walking, the party will be accompanied by a donkey! It remains to be seen if this addition will be an asset or a liability. Aside from the physical and no doubt spiritual benefits of the trip, the main purpose of the enterprise is to raise funds for our Peter Jackson charity. You can potentially help the cause in two ways: By joining the expedition for all or part of the jour-

ney (from August 2nd - 13th, with a rest day on Aug 9th). The 156 mile section being undertaken is the most picturesque stage of the route and travels over high country, through stone villages and along the river Lot; the stage is registered as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Nearest airport for access is Rodez. By sponsoring a pilgrim - all donations welcome, especially when supported with a gift aid declaration. Full details are included in a document entitled "Pilgrimage" - which may be downloaded from the Public documents section of the Upholders' website. If you wish to contribute sponsorship please contact the Master, Julian Squire.

Finally, in November we have another new event; titled "**Flocke and Feather**" to be held at Skinners' Hall. There will be a public exhibition of the best work of our craft and a competition, followed by an auction of the winning pieces over supper in aid of the Peter Jackson charity. You are encouraged to give this event your particular support; please *flocke* along and *feather* the coffers of our charity.

Flocke and Feather Skinners' Hall 17 November



Branching Out

The Upholders are strong supporters of the **Liveries' Wood Group** who are raising funds for the National Arboretum at Castle Howard with an imaginative project titled "**Branching Out**".

Celebrities including Joanna Lumley, Jon Snow, Sir Matthew Pinsent and our own Master have decorated pieces of a branch.



These will be exhibited at **Wild about Wood** at the Arboretum, Castle Howard, Malton, York on 11-12 September and will be auctioned during September at www.branching-out.co.uk with a

few pieces going to a live auction at Bonhams on September 16th.



Inter-Livery Shoot

Early on the morning of 19 May the Master, Court Assistant Tony Lofts and their guests Claire Mackintosh and Anthony Hibbard gathered together with some 400 other liverymen and guests from over 70 Companies at the Shooting Grounds of Holland & Holland in Northwood.

Breakfast was served before teams embarked on a round of ten stands representing various "sporting birds" with each team member being presented with eight targets, taken as pairs. Part way round there was a team flush where a stream of clays came overhead. The problem was to avoid firing at the same clay as another

team member. The pace was fast and furious, with loaders provided.

To close an excellent buffet lunch was served and our very grateful thanks must go to The Worshipful Company of Environmental Cleaners for organising this event that has now been running for 17 years.

In the words of Master Julian Squire "The team has adopted a long term strategy whereby the aim is to improve the score steadily over many years and as a result can be confident of winning something in this competition sometime during the next century".

Would you like to take part next year? The idea is to have a good day out and although some participants are of a high standard the lowest declared score was only a quarter of that of the Master

being roughly half that of the highest. Also it should be recorded that Tony Lofts scored a perfect 8 out of 8 on the final stand.



L-r Anthony Hibbard, Claire Mackintosh, The Master Julian Squire and Court Assistant Tony Lofts

Naval Links

HMS Triumph Re-Dedication



From Left Senior Warden Jim Kelly, Mrs Susan Squire, Master Julian Squire, Junior Warden Jerry Appleyard

St George's Day saw members of the Court attend the re-dedication ceremony of HMS Triumph at Devonport, Plymouth. The ceremony was performed by Lady Hamilton and the Upholders party enjoyed a wonderful day including a tour of the submarine, an excellent buffet lunch and glorious weather.

The picture insert shows the detail from one of the 5 embroidered seat covers, made by Albert Chapman and Sons and presented by the Livery to HMS Triumph. These will be used to cover the Commander's chair and other key positions on ceremonial occasions.

TS Upholder

On 18 March Past Master Richard Nevard was invited to the Chelmsford Sea Cadets Awards evening. Commander Daniel Stovel, Assistant Canadian Naval Attache presented the awards which included the National Award for Electrical Engineering presented to Leading Cadet Michael Hardy, and Cadet of the Year to Able Cadet James Morgan. PM Richard Nevard was able to hand over our annual donation to Paul King, Chairman of Chelmsford Sea Cadets. Sub Lt Sebastian Rowland, Commanding Officer of Chelmsford Sea Cadets writes: "Overall it was a great evening with great support from both parents and associated colleagues like the Royal Naval Association, Chelmsford Rotary clubs and of course the Worshipful Company of Upholders.



HMCS Chicoutimi (ex HMS Upholder)

The fortuitous meeting with Commander Stovel led to an update on HMCS Chicoutimi. In May 2009 she was transported from Halifax, Nova Scotia around to the west coast to be re-fitted. The photo shows her being off-loaded from the transport ship. She is expected to re-join the fleet in 2012.

From the Archives

Upholsteresses 1880s

Following a discussion with our former archivist, John Houston, he convinced me that I should write an account of Upholsteresses about 1880. Social history being my subject I found that very little had been written about them, and thought it would be worth recording.

Our upholsteress is called Grace Kemp, aged twenty-four. She is a pretty, well dressed girl who lives in Hackney, in those days an upmarket area. There were no cars, planes, TVs, phones or computers, can you imagine.

Life was simple and the week's highlights were a visit to the music hall and church on a Sunday. There were rich colours, elegant furniture with gentle curves and soft springing. At that time there was a refinement in upholstering techniques. She would have travelled to work in Bethnal Green by a horse drawn omnibus.

The 1881 census return gives a total of 204 upholsteresses under 20 and 778 of all ages working in the East End district. The occupations scheduled are cabinetmakers and upholsteresses 530. There were also a few women guilders working on looking glass frames and small fancy goods.

Grace's skills were almost exclusively on parts of the work which required sewing, usually on a treadle sewing machine. The cutting of the covers was generally done by the men and was regarded as their work, as was the stuffing.

In the 1880s there was an increase in competition on part of the women and Grace would have learned part of the men's work. Her working week would have been about 50 hours and her wages would have been about 20 shillings a week.

At this time the Upholsteresses Society numbered about one hundred members, most of whom worked in the East End. Grace would have also done some polishing work on smaller

articles and light furniture. They were in competition with the men who earned about thirty shillings a week. In fact Grace would have been well off as an upholsteress, enjoying a good standard of living. They were better dressed, had better homes and food, they were at the top end of the trade and were usually of greater intelligence and possessed many skills. The only higher paid workers were the Furniture Wood Carvers.

Grace's work would have involved the covering of chairs, sofas, settees, mantel borders etc. She would have used dark green velveteen or corduroy costing about 2 shillings a yard also designs of Morris & Co. Dining room furniture would have been Upholstered in leather, the best from Russia, the Prince of Leathers. Next was Cordovan followed by Morocco. Grace would have excelled in this work.

Black cotton backed satin relieved by Gold coloured cords and buttons would have been used in sitting rooms. Sleeping apartments would have required a good deal of upholstery and for the top of a four-poster bedstead the Arabian tent like arrangement had to be skilfully managed. The fabric was changed for different periods of the year and for most folk there was nothing better then to draw the curtains around the head of the bed to keep out draughts and unwanted crawlies dropping from above. In short it all made work for our Intrepid upholsteress.

What has become of Grace's union? We know that 'The Upholsterers' consolidated their organisation. The two societies combined in 1834 to form the London West End Upholsterers trade society, and became a branch of the Amalgamated union of Upholsterers then a national society with a west end branch. Grace is long forgotten but I guess there are still examples of her work and let's hope like our own motto '**Sustine Bona**' her work continues to Uphold the Good.

David Ayres FRSA

William Morris 'Lea' design, 1885



Obituaries

Liveryman Roger James Coulson, who was clothed in the Livery on 16 September 1981, passed away in April 2010.

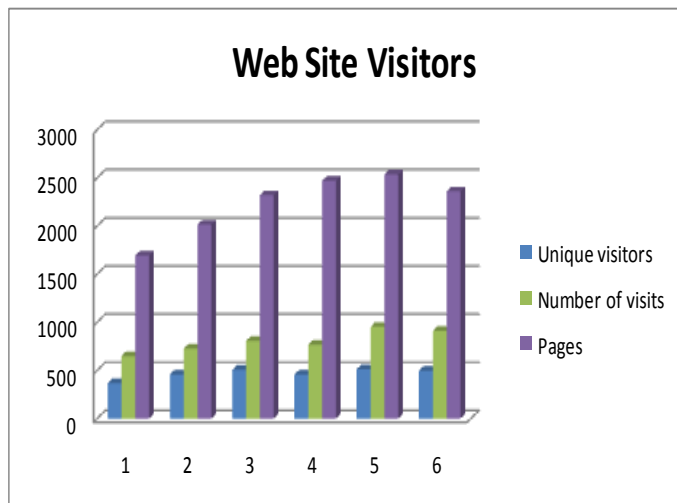
Liveryman John Barclay, who was clothed in the Livery on 28 September 1978, passed away on 26 January 2010.

The Clerk has also received notification of the death of **Liveryman Colin Lovat Farquhar McMillan**, who was clothed in the Livery on 25 September 1973.

In January our website www.upholders.co.uk moved. This went so smoothly that almost nobody noticed. The advantage of the move is that the site is now on some web space leased by the Livery. Before now we were using some space leased by Liveryman Alan Aldous for his business which he donated to the Livery.

Master Julian Squire has taken full advantage of the latest technology in creating his Master's blog. Clicking on the 'Master's Blog' button takes you to his pages where he is recording week by week a diary of his year. Since he is able to update this on the move it is not unknown that his report on an event is on the website even before he has reached home. Visitors can also see many of the photos he has taken at events.

Also via the Master's blog Liverymen can see more details of future events and download application forms so there is no need



to wait for the post to apply for tickets. Future developments planned will enable Liverymen to apply and pay for tickets on-line. This will speed up booking and simplify administration for our Honorary Treasurer and Clerk.

The new website also allows us to have our own email addresses eg Senior.warden@Upholders.co.uk We can also learn not only how popular our site is but much about who visits our site. You might expect it to attract visitors from the UK and the USA. But you might be surprised to learn that the site has also attracted visitors

from South Korea, Brazil, Russia & China amongst 31 nationalities in the first 2 weeks of July.

The Senior Warden has, on behalf of the Court, been building a database of our Liverymen. So in future it will be possible, for example, to make a particular effort to invite to Luncheons those who find evening events difficult to attend.

Common Hall, Spaniards Inn, Hampstead, 15 July 2010

The sun shone brightly on the righteous on the afternoon of Thursday 15th July 2010. Well at least that's what members of the Worshipful Company of Upholders felt as they arrived for this year's Common Hall, open to Liverymen and Freemen of our Company. The venue was the Spaniard's Inn in Hampstead Road, once on the route of the notorious highwayman Dick Turpin, but more cogent to Upholders was that our Company used to meet there in the seven-teen hundreds; indeed in the very room in which Common Hall took place.

Though not held every year, 'Common Hall' allows the Master and Wardens to report to the Liverymen and Freemen the details of the Company's activities and achievements throughout the past year, to give an indication of the objectives and activities for the coming year and to learn from those present what actions / activities might be desirable and in the Company's interest in the future. The verve and aplomb of the discussions more than compensated for the reduced numbers of those in attendance. An obvious advantage was that everyone's voice was able to be heard.

In a thorough report to Common Hall, the Master reported in detail of our key initiatives, including improved communication leading to earlier notice of events, redesign of the Company's website and the addition of the Master's Blog giving much detail of all activities together with photographs. The use of technology providing

an improved Membership database easing the collection of company dues, eMail etc. Following from the Master's speech at the recent London Metropolitan University Prize giving, outlining our commitment to the support of our trade and thereby prospectively of our Livery income by means of accreditation, members were treated to a report of a very positive meeting with



Buckinghamshire New University. Discussed was the formation of a National Centre for Upholstery and Soft Furnishing and a commitment to seeking ways of ensuring such courses were steered through the national qualifying procedure. Though early days in terms of discussion, it promises to be one of the most interesting projects of recent years. Our links with the Royal Navy have been reinforced with the recent visit of the company to Devonport & HMS Triumph and the presence of our own Liveryman, First Sea Lord Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope, Cdr Steve Pearson who formerly commanded HMS Newcastle and other naval friends at our forthcoming September Court Dinner. New

events, some deliberately at low cost were highlighted key among them the Sperver at Badminton, The Company trip to Bruges and the forthcoming Flocke & Feather event.

The Senior Warden, marker in hand, flip chart at the ready, noted conclusions of those present with a view to attempting to implement some of them into the company's strategic plan. Among items discussed was the frequency of Common Hall; would it be better attended if coupled with another event or venue of some interest? Low cost lunches might be attractive to retired members and perhaps also of assistance to those travelling long distances, as would be the rescheduling of existing events to a 6.30pm for 7.00 pm start and a 10.00 pm finish similar to the guild of Freemen. Past Master Bert Chapman reported on the meeting at Bucks New University and how we would need to take matters forward with discussions on the nature of our accreditation role etc. Of no mean significance was the request by lady members of the Company that a badge of office, a pin or similar, is long overdue.

After the formalities of the afternoon some excellent pub grub was served and the discussions continued, even more earnestly! All in all, an excellent summer's evening.

Senior Warden Jim Kelly

Company Weekend in Bruges



A TRIP BACK HOME

When the Master suggested a trip to Bruges it was a pleasure to agree. We lived in this beautiful city for just on six years and it is always great to go back. The Master visited my wife Dee and I whilst we were there and I think he fell in love with the old city.

When anybody mentions Bruges the first thoughts are lace, chips and beer, not necessarily in that order, and this conception is normally from a day trip, but the reality is totally different.

It was a wonderful place to live and very cosmopolitan. The city is of course Flemish speaking, which can cause consternation with some of the words and phrases, but everybody speaks English and they are very welcoming to our nation as they still remember the sacrifices that were made at the early part of the last century.

The Master asked me to recommend a restaurant for the first night of our trip, which was very difficult as there are so many eating establishments of very good quality.

I chose one we used to use, right opposite our hotel, on the other side of the canal, a delightful restaurant called Den Dyver, which recently featured on the Hairy Bikers food pro-

gramme. This establishment serves specialist beers to go with the meal in wine glasses. The maitre d' explains the beers' origin at every course, but you have to be careful as some of the beer served is up to 11% proof. The wine also flowed for those who preferred grape and a good night was enjoyed by all.

Martin's Orangerie hotel was delightful. It is probably in the best position to explore the city, on a canal which boasts some of the most spectacular views of the old town. The hotel was very comfortable and we had the most delightful meal there on Saturday night. The Master being a man for detail had brought to bear his professional skills to ensure that the menu was of the highest quality and the hotel did not disappoint.

The Company had a delightful evening; grace was sung by all, the Master as always gave an elegant address and judging by the laughter everybody enjoyed themselves immensely - or could it have been the wine?

On leaving the hotel next day Dee and I discovered the hotel manager and his assistant were the sons of friends of ours. When we lived in Bruges, the young men used to come to our house with their mothers and play with our dog. Where did the time go? It is such a small world, as is the city of Bruges itself. Here's to the next time!

Liveryman Michael Goddard