



New Father of the Company Elected

Following the sad passing of Alan Fowler the January Court considered who might be elected as his successor in this role. Past Master Bert Chapman MBE was proposed by Past Master Christopher Hayman, seconded by Past Master Joe Byllam-Barnes and elected unanimously by the Court. Bert joined the Court in September 1991 and became Warden to the Trade. He stepped down from this role to become Master in 2000/1 after which he resumed the role until April 2008. Even after this he has actively enhanced our Livery's links with the Upholstery & Soft Furnishing trades and represents our Livery on the Livery Companies Wood Group and Construction Liveries Group. He is also very active as a Fellow of the AMU and travels the country arbitrating in disputes relating to his trade.

The Court also recognised our Livery is blessed with several other members who have contributed hugely to the growth and progression of the company and whose wise council is valued greatly.



For your Diary

13th April — Installation Dinner
Drapers' Hall,
Liverymen, Freemen and Guests

14th June — Audit Court Meeting
Aldermen's Court
Court Members Only

16th June — Prize Giving
London Metropolitan University
All Liverymen welcome

29th June — Company Evening at Old Bailey
Liverymen & Freemen

18th July — SUMMER FUNCTION
Royal College of Physicians
Regent's Park
Liverymen, Freemen & Guests

13th September — Court Dinner
Butchers' Hall
Liverymen, Freemen and Guests

13th October — Mansion House
Liverymen, Freemen and guests

1st April — United Guilds' Service
St Paul's Cathedral
All Liverymen Welcome

24th June — Election of Sheriffs at Guildhall, followed by lunch
All Liverymen welcome

3rd October - Lord Mayor's Election followed by Lunch
All Liverymen welcome

12th November - Lord Mayor's Show
All welcome

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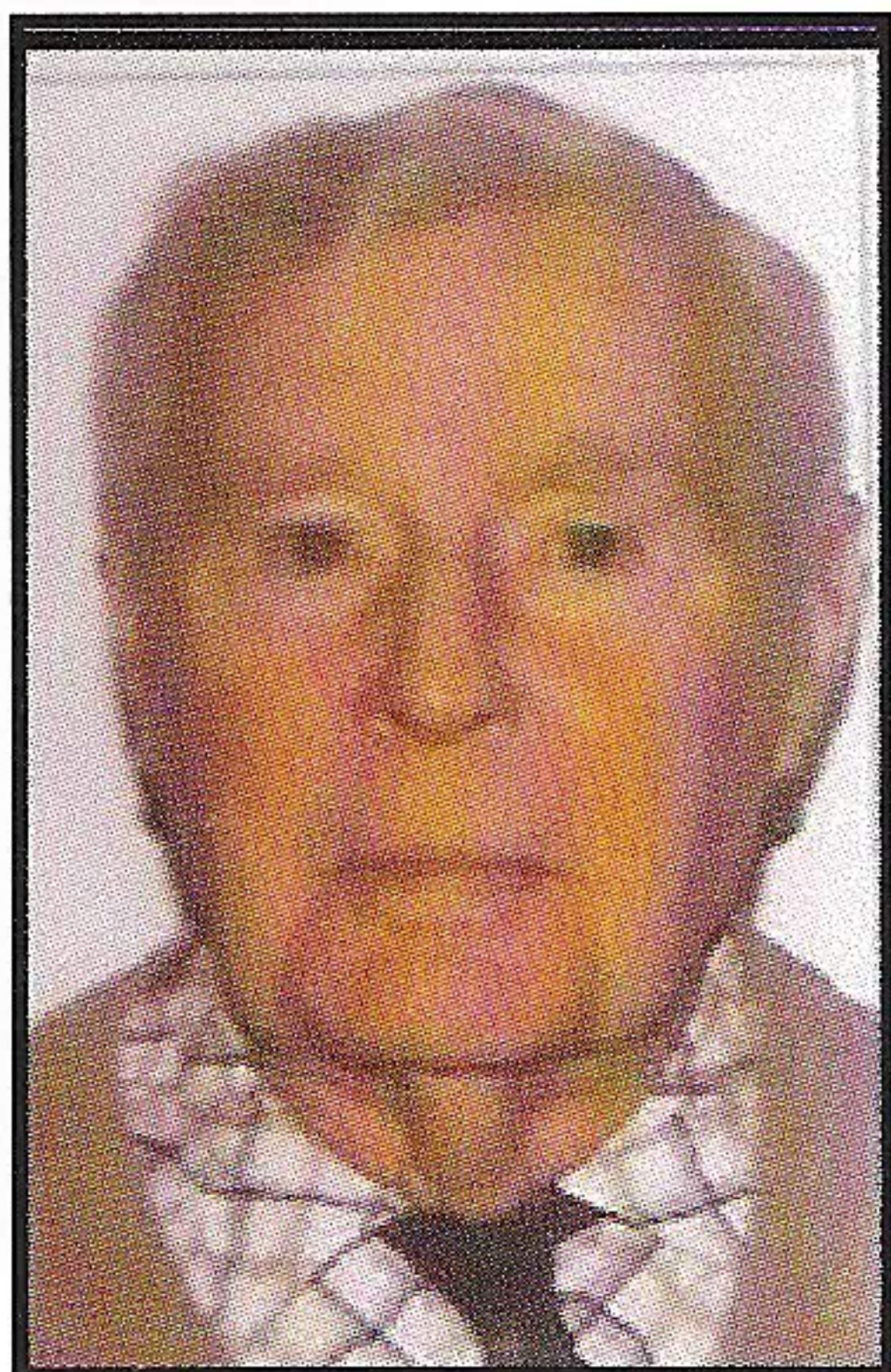
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The Master Julian Squire is inducted as a Chevalier by Julian White UK Ambassador, Confrerie DE Sabre D'or.

Upholders' News



The Father of the Company, Past Master Alan C. Fowler, passed away on 3rd October 2010.

Alan was clothed in the Livery on 25th April 1954, joined the Court of Assistants on 21st January 1975 and was installed as Master of the Company in 1978.

Alan was a great supporter and promoter of the well being of the Company in thought, word and deed. He was remembered with great fondness at our January Court meeting.

Past Master Bert Chapman said; "Even in his last few days his strength of mind overcame his weakness, he remained jovial to the last. He will be remembered as a fine

gentleman."

Past Master Christopher Hayman said; "He was a tremendous Upholder and a great supporter in whatever you did for the company."

He remembered Alan's wife; after her death Alan took his holidays travelling the world on tankers and merchant ships. "Alan," he said, with the wholehearted support of the Court, "was always held in highest respect."

Past Master Hugh Taylor recalled the occasion of his installation when he reminded Alan that he had clothed Hugh in the Livery. Alan replied

with typical humour "oh you mean it's my fault!" During the dinner the Master reminded the company that Alan Fowler commissioned the model of the original HMS Upholder to celebrate our Naval links. Since the death of his wife the Livery had become his family. Indeed he has treated us as a family in his will with a substantial bequest. The Master invited members of the Livery to send suggestions for the use of this bequest to Jerry Appleyard, Nick Meyer or Richard Nevard who will present them for discussion in our April Court.

Ian Allen

Born Stoke Newington in November 1944. Brought up in Chingford, and educated mainly at Chingford County High School and Manchester University; graduating in 1968 in Metallurgy.

I have had two main employers; firstly United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority – later British Nuclear fuels Ltd- for about 20 years, Starting as a Scientific Officer in their Metallurgical Laboratories, and finishing as a Supplier Quality Engineer.

Secondly as an International Lead Assessor Quality Systems for BSi assessing for the Kitemark and BS 5750 later to become ISO9000. The last 7 years at BSi I lived and worked in the USA assessing mainly in USA, Canada, and Mexico. Ian was proposed by Bert and seconded by Stephen Chapman.



Denise DeRoy-Parker

Was proposed by Judy Tayler-Smith and seconded by Senior Warden Jim Kelly. Denise is a qualified Civil Engineer and was previously Chairman of South Thames Group of Engineering Industries Association and Chair of Governors at Stanley High School. Denise designed, built and currently owns and manages the Alexander Family Nursing Home for the disabled. She participated and was successful in competitive target shooting for Surrey and England. She recently participated in a visit by the Guild of Freemen to Syria.

Anthony Demby

Anthony has spent his career in finance and is currently the Finance Director of Galbraith's Limited, a leading firm of Ship brokers. He previously held senior financial positions at a number of financial service related businesses. After graduating with a degree in Economics from the University of Kent at Canterbury, Anthony qualified as a Chartered Certified Accountant.

He is Honorary Treasurer of his local parish church and has previously been deputy Church Warden. His interests include walking, gardening and architecture. He has also run the London Marathon. He lives in Richmond with his wife and daughter.

Freeman Les Beagen Celebrates his Centenary

It was a pleasure to receive, after the last issue of Upbraid, a most delightful letter from Mr LR Beagen. A Freeman since 1966, he joined the AMU in 1948 and celebrated his 100th birthday last June. Just to put many of us to shame he writes that he keeps up to date with news via the internet. Les is a prolific writer. He has written some 53 articles and two full books. These include his book "The Chaise Longue Story" and his booklet "My part in the Upholstery Industry" which is a series of short stories depicting his early days in the trade. The following is an extract:

"My father started life in the upholstery trade and mother made curtains and covers and I was constantly told the Upholstery trade was 'the' thing. After some looking about at the age of fourteen and a half I had an interview at an old established furnishing firm; the title above the door was impressive. House Furnishers, Cabinet Makers, House Decorators, House Agents, Funeral Furnishers, Removers and Storage. I was interviewed by the governor, a tall man with white hair and a beard, he wore a tail coat, pin stripe trousers and had a gold watch and chain which seemed to bear him down. After much probing I was told that I could start on a month's trial, after which I should, subject to satisfaction, become an indentured apprentice. My wages would be five shillings a week in the first year."

Upholding Our Livery

New Route To Joining the Livery - Friends

In line with our strategic plan the Court has approved a new route for joining our Livery. Those interested in joining but who do not have any previous connection can become Friends for one year. As friends they will receive invitations and Upbraid in the same way as Freeman, giving them an opportunity to understand the Company's aims and objectives and gain knowledge of our links with the Upholders' trades and the City as well as our charitable works. It is hoped that Friends will build friendships and contacts within our Livery.

At any point Friends can apply to become Liverymen or Freeman of the company and the Company will assist them through the usual process.

It is suggested that after making a donation (similar to the annual Quarterage Fee), Friends will enjoy their first Court dinner free of charge. The Friend's membership is not renewable but may be extended while their application is proceeding if they apply for Livery or Freeman status.

Full details are available from the Clerk.

clerk@upholders.co.uk

Back to the Future: Election of Master & Wardens Returns to 1626 procedure.

The sharp mind of Liveryman Stephen Dolland spotted that the Upholders' rules and procedures for election of the Master and Wardens adopted in 1948 and 1998 were at odds with our Charter granted in 1626. After careful study it is clear that our Charter takes precedence.

Therefore on January 13th 2011 the Master convened a Common Hall with the words; "Brother Liverymen and Freeman, we are met here today in accordance with the provisions of our Royal Charter of 1626, to elect a Master and two Wardens of this Company, who shall go forward

for installation on Thursday April 13th 2011 for a period of one year."

So some 37 Liverymen and Freeman came together in the Court room of Vintners' Hall, fittingly one of the oldest in the City, for this election.

Nominations for election must be submitted in writing to the Clerk at least 2 weeks in advance and to be eligible candidates must be members of the Court and put in writing their willingness to serve. On this occasion only 3 nominations were received and after the clerk had confirmed the candidates' eligibility the commonality elected Jim Kelly as Master, Jeremy Appleyard as Senior Warden and Montague (Nick) Meyer as Junior Warden for the coming year.



Celebrating Our Naval Connections Mercers' Hall

On 9th September the Master arranged for our Livery to have the privilege to dine in the unsurpassed splendour of the Mercers' magnificent hall. First Sea Lord Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope GCB OBE and Upholder was our guest of honour as we celebrated our naval links in the Mercers' Chapel in a service led by our own Honorary Chaplain Rev. John Cowling and Rev. Martin Poll RN, Principal Anglican Chaplain and Archdeacon for the Royal Navy. We were also delighted to be joined by representatives of our naval affiliates from the submarine HMS Triumph and from Sea Cadet unit TS Upholder. Also present was Commander S J Pearson RN who was commanding officer of HMS Newcastle during the short period she was affiliated to the Upholders.



Upholding Our Charities



The Master's Pilgrimage

The Master, accompanied for part of the way by the Master Joiner & Ceiler, completed his Pilgrimage from Puy-en-Velay to Conques on the Route de St Jacques de Compostelle, in August 2010, Having walked the 131 miles, with his long-eared friend - a very large donkey, called Quinto - the sponsorship monies which were so kindly pledged amounted to just over £4,000. [See the Master's blog for the full and amusing story –Ed.]

Upholding the Craft of the Upholsterer—Flocke & Feather

By Malcolm Hopkins, London Metropolitan University.

May I start by saying how much both the students who were able to attend and I enjoyed the Flocke and Feather event in November, which I believe was an outstanding success both in promoting the Company and the Industry, including the rarely seen craft of Undertaking. Furthermore I would like to extend my thanks to all those, of whom there were many, who assisted in setting up/breaking down the exhibition.

After twenty years of awards and being able to give practical assistance to the Livery at many events, it was a pleasure to be involved again on this occasion, especially as it turned out that I became the auctioneer's apprentice assistant for the night, ably assisted by fellow Liverymen and the Master's Lady, when the item was made up of multiple items or if they were on the large side and requiring lifting to be viewed.

As those who attended will know, many students from the London Metropolitan University donated a fairly large quantity of furniture and soft furnishings to the auction, some of which were especially produced for this event. In doing so, I wholeheartedly agree with the many students who stated that "it was a pleasure to be able to return something to the Company which has given so much in both support and awards over the years."

In conclusion may I offer my congratulations to both the Master, his good lady Susan and all others who helped to organise this function. Here's to more of the same.

Wendy Shorter, the AMU's Director of Training and her students also donated items including Kathryn "Kat" Nisbet who donated a child's chair that was auctioned in the evening raising £90 – she also gained a commission for another to be made.