

THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF UPHOLDERS Royal Charter 1626 Livery precedence 49



Anthony Demby – Master 2019 - 2020

My year as Master is drawing to a close although this has been extended owing to the COVID19 crisis, so this is an opportunity to reflect on what I have achieved. When I asked Alderman Vincent Keaveny to join our Company it was done as much in hope as in expectation. That Vincent accepted my invitation is a significant event in our Company's history, as he will be only the second of our liverymen to become Lord Mayor. We clothed Vincent as an honorary liveryman at an extraordinary meeting of the Court held at the Old Bailey on 23rd September, shortly before he stood down as Aldermanic Sheriff.

What was unexpected is that Vincent will now ascend to the Mayoralty in November next year. The news has provoked a flurry of activity as we put together a working group to plan our float for the Lord Mayor's Show in 2021. This will be an opportunity for the livery to participate in this exciting event both in cash and in kind.

During my year we have also agreed a five year plan for the Company and agreed terms of reference for our Committees. One of the fruits of this is that the Communications Committee has been revived, enabling Upbraid to be produced again and hopefully on a regular basis going forward. We have long had close links with the Royal Navy and our affiliate vessel HMS Triumph is presently undergoing a major refit at the Royal Naval Base Devonport. During June a group of us, including the Senior Warden and the Immediate Past Master, were invited to experience life on a nuclear submarine, to participate in a war game exercise and to enjoy a Wardroom dinner. We came away full of respect for the Submarine Service. Being Master has been a privilege and it is a year I shall always remember.



Alderman Vincent Keaveny & The Master Anthony Demby

Congratulations Wendy Shorter-Blake MBE

Wendy was awarded an MBE in the Queen's New Year Honours List 2020 for services to upholstery, in recognition of her unparalleled craftsmanship and tireless work in ensuring her skills are passed on to current and future generations.

Wendy was one of three craftspeople nominated by the Heritage Crafts Association. Earlier this year, the charitable organisation – which was set up ten years ago to support and champion traditional craft skills – published the latest edition of its ground breaking **HCA Red List of Endangered Crafts**, the first report of its kind to rank endangered craft skills by the likelihood they will survive into the next generation. The Upholders supports the work of and is a member of the HCA. Their nomination of Wendy was supported in great and gleeful secrecy by a senior tutor at Wendy Shorter Interiors, plus several of her Upholders colleagues. It was a fantastic secret for some of us to keep for nearly a year! Warm congratulations to the Master elect on a very well-deserved honour. Look out for photos of Wendy's Investiture in the next edition!



Wendy Shorter-Blake MBE with Katy Emck & Victoria Gillies & Tim Solway at the Fine Cell Work Studio

Upholding our faith in view of COVID 19 - The Revd Caroline Clarke

This time is so unsettling – and frightening. I am reminded of the story of Jesus in the fishing boat on the Sea of Galilee with his disciples – apparently asleep while they were all starting to panic. I keep saying to my own inner turmoil the words he spoke to the storm, "Peace, be still" And towards the end of John's Gospel, John 14.27: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." I pray we may all know that deep inner peace in these troubled times.

The Dean of Southwark, Very Revd Andrew Nunn, has written a prayer which I think says concisely what we all pray for:

Loving God,
source of healing and comfort,
fill us with your grace,
that the sick may be made whole,
that those who care for us may be strengthened,
that the anxious may be calmed,
and those most vulnerable be protected
in the power of Spirit
in the faith of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

And I pray that we may continue to be able to see the way ahead through this confusion, and that by God's grace each one of us will come out the other side having found encouragement in all the messages of help and support in our communities, and perhaps for ourselves some time for the stillness and reflection which is hard to find when we are busy – though at the moment the business doesn't seem to have stopped! And a special prayer for our funeral directors who will be facing very difficult times as they support grieving families.

I ask God's blessing on each one of you and pray you will stay safe and well through the coming months.

Mrs Wendy Shorter-Blake MBE – Master Elect 2020 - 2021



The Master Anthony Demby the Senior Warden Wendy Shorter-Blake

2020 was turning out to be a very exciting year for me. First with the honour of receiving an MBE for Services to Upholstery in the Queen's New Year Honours List and then to be made Master of the Upholders. Sadly because of the Coronavirus pandemic, some things have been put on hold.

I have been working with members of the Court and Trustees of the new Upholders' Charity, on a new bursary scheme for the young and financially disadvantaged to be able to undertake training in upholstery at one of the AMUSF's training centres. In order to help boost the funds for this scheme, in November, all being well, I am planning a charity auction of chairs and cushions that some of my past and present students have been making. All funds raised this year will go towards this new charity initiative, so I hope that you will join me in giving the scheme a really good kick start.

We still plan to participate in the Lord Mayor's show in 2021, something that we have not done for over 20 years. Some of my events will almost certainly have to be cancelled or postponed, but we are hoping that all will be well by the time we want to go to the Mansion House for our annual banquet in October. I am also planning a summer barbecue on HQS Wellington in July (fingers crossed) & in September will be participating in the annual Sheep Drive over London Bridge. I hope you all stay safe, well and sane and that we get to meet again very soon.

Editor's Note – Simon Thorp Liveryman & Editor of Upbraid

Welcome to this, the 23rd issue of Upbraid and our first of the new Decade! It is my privilege to assume the mantle of Editor, particularly as there is so much to report for our current Master's year. We also look forward to our new Master taking office, as well as reflecting on a range of charitable and educational activities and we welcome those who have joined the Company since Upbraid was last published. Thank you to all contributors to this issue.

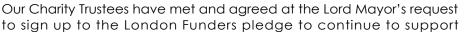
The success and frequency of Upbraid depends entirely on the stories you have to share, so please send any articles and photos you would like to be considered for a future edition. With limited space, if you can keep such items as succinct as you can, that should help avoid the 'Editor's cut'! The only other request is that you send submissions by email in Word format and photos in High Resolution.

We will assume that you agree we can publish your article in full or in edited form unless you state otherwise. Please send any articles to be considered for future editions of Upbraid to the Editor, Simon Thorp, by email - simon.thorp@simonthorp.co.uk We hope you enjoy reading Upbraid, which will also be available in digital format on our website

www.upholders.co.uk

Upholding our Clerk's corner

What a fitting time for the Marketing & Communications Committee to be relaunching Upbraid, to coincide with us all being home-based and with more time for reading. The Court's initial move to bring forward our Installation ceremony to the Master's Court Dinner was soon overtaken by the worsening of the Covid-19 situation. Very quickly after the lockdown the IPM established an online 'Covid-19 group' to help steer us through the early days of the crisis. Then after more than 650 years of existence, the Court held its first 'virtual' meeting on Zoom, showing the Upholders to be as adaptable and technologically capable as anyone. With the Court's approval Master Anthony Demby and the Wardens kindly agreed to continue in office beyond 1st April for an initial period of up to six months.





The Master Anthony Demby (Right) with the Immediate Past Master Tim Solway

our existing charities. After discussion they decided not to make any exceptional grants immediately but to wait to see where our crafts need extra help - we have publicised this to the AMUSF, GTU, TS Upholder, and the Funeral Directors. If any individual members would like someone to chat to or some more specific help at this time please do either email almoner@upholders.co.uk or ring the Clerk. The Court has also met to approve the appointment of Michael Tang as the new Treasurer, welcome Michael! Although the 'pause' button has been pressed on events, there is much behind the scenes work to be done. It is a time to reflect and give thanks for all those who have given the Company very long service. There are still birthdays to celebrate; the Beadle Roy's 70th birthday was marked in early March by a large surprise reunion of the Kent Branch of the AMUSF, and one 50th, two 60ths, one 80th and one 90th celebration will follow later in the Spring and Summer. Without naming names, we wish all those Liverymen a very special Happy Birthday. If you would enjoy some extra reading material on the Upholders or London history, Hon Archivist Jackie Williams and the Clerk have compiled a list of suggestions, available in the members' area of the website. Some of us may be picking up former hobbies and crafts; several other Liverymen are engaged in making PPE for the NHS. Although sadly there are no face to face courses running, you may like to watch some clips on crafting and be inspired! I have recently enjoyed a short film on the very specialist making of horsehair fabric you can see at www.johnboydtextiles.co.uk. And attached to the members' area of our website you can see a video of gilding techniques taken at a fascinating visit to E&A Wates, with thanks to Liverymen Roger Wates, and Basil Preuveneers who filmed Alison explaining the process. Finally, do please make use of the new Livery List to stay in touch with and support one another and above all, stay safe and healthy until we can meet again in person.

S Nevard

The Immediate Past Master 2018 – 2019 - Tim Solway

Gilly and I look back at my year as your Master and Consort with great fondness. The support, friendship and kindness that we were shown by members of our livery made us feel humbled. The popular phrase "You do not know what you do not know" was so appropriate at the start of our year. Indeed, there is no book on what to do if elected a Livery Master. Maybe I should write one? It has been a pleasure to support our Master, Anthony Demby. Over the past few years we have become good friends. Like me, the Master also firmly believes that charity should be at our core. I was particularly pleased to see that our friendship with our chosen charity, Fine Cell Work (FCW) continues to this day. You will be delighted to hear that the training given by JW elect Malcolm Hopkins has been a success and the footstools continue to be a good seller for FCW! On the 27th of February this year the Master Elect Wendy and I plus our partners attended FCW Human Touch Exhibition, little did we know that COVID19 was around the corner. This was a fundraising event with Ai Weiwei, Idris Khan and Cornelia Parker amongst the FCW supporting artists. The famous designer Cath Kidston MBE also gave an address on the valuable work being done by FCW to help the disadvantaged members of our society. Antique Chaise Longue is upholstered with 10 embroidered panels stitched in black and grey stranded cotton using back, stem, satin and darning stitches, with additional freehand embroidery by the artist.



The chaise, entitled 'Hope from a Thin Line, 2019' was created by artist Annie Morris, who said; "I've always loved what Fine Cell Work do and it was a pleasure to cooperate with them. For this piece, I made individual drawings on sections of fabric and they were sent to various prisons in the country to be sewn by prisoners who did an incredible job.

After getting them all back I created the composition around every inch of the chaise longue. Now I don't think anyone should sit on it!" Winnie, one of the Fine Cell Work stitchers, said:

"I feel very proud and humble when I [work on] my piece, and a lot of love and affection has gone into this work. Fine Cell Work means the world to me. It has allowed me to get through a very bad time of my life & has given me the motivation and determination to look forward to the future and make a difference to my life". I feel proud of the association that the Upholders now have with FCW. It started with an e-mail I received with a ten-pound offer of hearing the founding partner Katy Emck MBE speak at Liberty of London in November 2017. I would say it was the best ten pounds I have ever spent and the meeting at Liberty started a journey with FCW that continues to this day.

Thank you again for the kindness you have shown Gilly and I. Sustine Bona.

Master's Red Cross Collection at London Bridge

Master Anthony Demby spent an early morning in his robe collecting for the Red Cross on London Bridge, along with other Masters & Wardens. The Master's tin yielded £198.25 in what is now an annual event for Masters and Wardens.







The Master in action

Liveryman Richard Matthews overcomes fear of heights in epic abseil

In July 2019, Liveryman Richard Matthews overcame his rather poor head for heights by abseiling down the 156m/512ft Barclays Tower in Canary Wharf in aid of the Lord Mayor of the City of London's Appeal. On a clear and, happily, still day, Richard recalls that the view from the top, across the Thames, over the O2 and beyond was stunning, whilst lowering backwards off the scaffold to get into position alongside his minder from the Mile End Climbing Wall was rather unnerving. However, the rest of the 32 storey descent was thoroughly exhilarating: the photo shows the beginning of the 'exhilarating phase' with Richard on the left.

In addition to Family lending moral support were the Master, Anthony Demby, and the Clerk, Susan Nevard. Their attendance was greatly appreciated and Richard advises that the pint in the park afterwards was particularly welcome! He was able to donate \pounds 5,000, raising money for especially worthwhile charities being supported by the Appeal, with an emphasis on mental health, and would particularly like to record his thanks here to those Upholders who contributed so generously to the final total. His next septuagenarian exploit remains under consideration!



Richard Matthews (left)

Upholding our summer function... A tour of Richmond





We ventured ten miles from the City to Richmond in Surrey for the 2019 Summer Function where we were guided around by Paul Velluet, a long time friend of the Master who has been leading tours of the town for nearly forty years for the Richmond Society, and whose knowledge of all things Richmond is encyclopaedic. The tour started at Richmond Theatre, designed by Frank Matcham the doyen of English theatre design in 1899, before moving on to Richmond Green and through the remains of Richmond Palace where Elizabeth I died, and from there to the river. We learned that Richmond Bridge, completed in 1777, is the oldest surviving bridge across the Thames.

Continuing along the river we crossed under the Petersham Road at Buccleuch Gardens and climbed Richmond Hill to the Terrace to survey the views across Surrey and Middlesex. We then retired to the Roebuck pub across the road for some well earned refreshments on what was a warm and sunny afternoon.

Upholding our Livery ... our Naval Links

Visit to HMS Triumph and Devonport - I had been hoping to tell this story at the Master's Court Dinner at Wax Chandlers Hall back in March but COVID-19 had other ideas. Wendy and I had the great pleasure of joining the Master along with Immediate Past Master, Tim Solway, his wife Gilly and Court Assistant Rob Ward on a visit to Devonport Royal Navy Submarine Base in Plymouth, where HMS Triumph presently resides, and is currently in dry dock undergoing a period of deep maintenance. We had a truly memorable day that started with a tour around HMS Courageous, a nuclear class submarine, now in dry dock as a museum ship. Followed with a splendid buffet lunch and chat with many of the crew.

After lunch we were allowed to play on the simulators. We were split into two groups: our group started in the Tactical Command and Weapons Station where we were tasked with tracking and identifying an enemy ship and then sinking it, which I'm happy to say we accomplished with a true team effort.

Once the Russian Udaloff had been dispatched to the bottom of the ocean we were off to the next simulator: the Nuclear Ship Control Trainer. Here we had a chance to pilot the boat, which was great fun but awe inspiring to think of the people that are tasked with doing these things in real life.

A truly memorable day that wasn't yet over. In the evening we were invited back to the HMS Drake Wardroom for a wonderful banquet hosted by Commander Steve Waller. I have now been given the latest update about HMS Triumph by, soon to be, new Liverymen Lieutenant Dennis Tate, that they are deep in ramp and making preparations for flood up over the next few months. As soon as she is in the water, re-commissioning of all the systems and training of the crew will commence to ensure she is ready to go in spring 2021.

Steve Blake, Liveryman and Master Elect's Consort



Commander S A Waller H.M.S. Triumph with the Upholders at affiliates June 2019

Upholding our history - Visit to 'Lost Treasures of Strawberry Hill', 7th February 2019

The history Society remains so active with thanks to Junior Warden Jackie Williams. On Thursday the 7th February a group of Upholders and their guests visited the Lost Treasures of Strawberry Hill exhibition. Held at the impressive Strawberry Hill house, originally built by Horace Walpole in the second half of the 18th Century, it celebrated the return to their original home of several artefacts and treasures. These had been sold in 1842 and so were returning to the house for the first time in 176 years.

We were fortunate to have as our guide Dr Silvia Davoli, one of the curators of the exhibition. She explained that the exhibition was the culmination of five years' work spent tracing as many artefacts as possible from the 1842 sale and arranging their loan from the current owners.

They were able to do this as both the original illustrated inventory and the sale catalogue were still available along with details of all the buyers. Many were found still to be in the possession of the original purchaser's family who kindly allowed their loan for the duration of the exhibition.

Each room in the house contained treasures from the collection, all of which added to the already rich decoration of the Gothic revival interiors. Although the exhibition is now closed, Dr Davoli's detailed and enlightening explanation of many of the treasures clearly demonstrated her passion and love of all the items that had been returned for the exhibition. Of particular interest to our group were some family portraits featuring Catherine Shorter, Lady Walpole, who is a direct ancestor of our own Wendy Shorter-Blake.

On the completion of the guided tour we returned to the Cafeteria for lunch. Afterwards we were then able to spend more time in the house on our own if we wished. Sadly no pictures.

Richard WJ Ranklin

A Tale of Two Court Meetings in September 2019

Plans for the month of September 2019 looked as they normally would in our Master's pocket calendar of events issued at Installation time. However as Anthony Demby's year and the thinking of the Court developed, the month of September will go down in our records as memorable for its two Court meetings, one on 10th and the second on 23rd when our first Honorary Liveryman of modern times, Alderman (and then Sheriff) Vincent Keaveny was admitted.

The first meeting was the most complicated in terms of ceremony that I have ever organised in my 8 years as Clerk! In preparing for the clothing of 7 Liverymen, the admission of new Court Assistant Steve Gardner and the installation of new Warden to the Trade Philip Wellesley-Davies, I was grateful for advice from PM Michael Gilham and our loyal Beadle Roy. With one Livery gown for 7 candidates, a big challenge was how to keep to time, ensure the formalities were met and not miss out the traditional blessing and photographs.

Time spent choreographing an event is never wasted. Photos of the new Liverymen will reveal we managed a 'gowned' shot with 6 out of the 7 Liverymen - not bad at all. The seventh Liveryman has graciously accepted a re-enactment in the gown at some stage in the future in order to achieve the perfect photo. The Company is very fortunate indeed to have such a supportive Court and a strong group of new Liverymen. We wish them all well in their Livery careers and you can read their short biographies on page 10.

We were the first Livery to enjoy a full Court and dinner at the splendid Butchers' Hall following its three years of closure for refurbishment. Not all parts of the building were in perfect working order (the Father of the Company and the Beadle will be able to enlighten you in a quiet moment), however the catering certainly was and we were treated to a sumptuous dinner of cured salmon, fillet steak and pear & blackberry tart.

The second, Special Court meeting of the month was convened with reference to WCU Rule 3.1 for the sole purpose of admitting Alderman and Sheriff Vincent Keaveny as the first Honorary Liveryman in recent decades. The advantage? No gown-sharing required!

Sheriff Keaveny was presented with his Upholders' Freedom certificate. He made his Declaration clearly, was clothed in the Livery with the assistance of IPM Tim Solway and PM Hugh Taylor and received his Liveryman's badge, a copy of Featherbedds and Flock bedds and a practical black notebook embossed with the Company crest provided by the IPM. The formal business and thanks concluded, there followed much congratulation, photography and patting of the Keavenys' black Labrador India who was let into the City Lands (Court) room at this point. India immediately established a bond with Father of the Company Alan Kinsey and spent the rest of the reception settled happily at his feet.

After the Champagne reception kindly provided by Vincent and Amanda, most Court members departed for a supper in the Chop House, Paternoster Square, perhaps to compare the 'long and the short Courts' of September 2019, each of which gave equally good reason for celebrating fellowship and welcoming all our new Liverymen.

S Nevard



Alderman Vincent Keaveny, Mrs Amanda Keaveny accompanied by the Master and Wardens



Dr Christine Booth and Liz Thornborough



Rophena and Peter Askew

Upholding Our Craft - The Upholders Travel Bursary Recipient 2019



Anne Murray is based in a remote location in north east Scotland. In anticipation of completing her AMUSF Diploma qualifications at the Cornhill Courses Approved Training Centre in Fife she was already used to making a 250 mile round trip each week. The Usher Travel Bursary enabled Anne to attend the Chippendale International School of Furniture, near Berwick in the Borders of Scotland, completing an introductory course to enhance her appreciation and experience of working with upholstered frames and the fine and varied woods frames are made from. Anne writes: "The course allowed me to design and make several items from scratch using a variety of woods as well as

introduced me to tool sharpening and wood finishing such as shellac, waxing, oils, stains, paints and decoupage. Through attending the course there have been many ongoing benefits which have allowed me to develop an interesting network of contacts across Scotland". Since completing the woodworking course, Anne has had access to a local wood turner's workshop and been invited to make use of tools and teaching at The Boatshed, Portsoy. She has also developed skills in recycling fabric samples to make

new fabric for small upholstery projects eg footstools. Anne continues; "... having attended the AMUSF and Chippendale courses I feel I am in a good position to promote alternative careers in furniture making and upholstery within my local secondary school and community. I have recently been selected as an MCR Pathway mentor. MCR (Motivation, Commitment and Resilience) Pathways is a Scottish Charitable organisation. Their primary purpose is to drive better educational outcomes for care experienced young people. They do this through a comprehensive programme which has mentoring at its core. Mentors are volunteers from all walks of life who are committed to making the MCR Pathway programme a success. I'd like to thank Wendy Shorter, Antony Usher & Stephen Chapman for their involvement in the bursary award and to Cornhill



Courses for making me aware of the opportunity". Anne runs a small business, Sitsmith & Co, Artisan Upholstery & Soft Furnishings, and her genuine interest for the crafts is revealed in her Twitter feeds, @SitsmithandCo.

Susan Nevard - Clerk

• The Upholders History Society visit to the Frederick Parker Collection



An enthusiastic group of Upholders continued their quest for knowledge, enjoying a fascinating visit to the Frederick Parker Collection at Calcutta House, part of London Metropolitan University on 29 January - the first History Society gathering of 2020. The Frederick Parker business was founded in 1870 by Frederick Parker (later becoming Parker Knoll).

To aid his business he purchased examples of the finest models of 17th and 18th century chairs, which he used to give his employees the opportunity of acquiring the skill & feeling of the early craftsmen. It is probably the finest and most comprehensive collection in the world. Indeed, the Upholders used to be involved in the management of the Collection,



which is held at the part of London Metropolitan University where the Upholders Awards to students of Upholstery and Furniture design are given in the summer.

Article and photos by Upbraid Editor & Liveryman, Simon Thorp

Upholders visit - Learning the Knole Knowledge on Conservation matters

The Master Elect Wendy Shorter-Blake MBE organised a fascinating visit in May 2019 to the new Conservation Studio at Knole House in Sevenoaks. Charles Sackville was once Lord Chamberlain to William III and Queen Mary and in his role of managing the domestic affairs of the royal family was able to take from the royal palaces any furniture which was deemed out of date or unsuitable as a perquisite or 'perk' of office. In this way he acquired beds, tapestries, chairs and stools from Whitehall, Hampton Court and Kensington Palaces. Early 17thcentury English upholstered furniture is a rarity, and the royal Stuart collection at Knole is unsurpassed.



Our group were shown the fine brushing techniques used in the meticulous surface cleaning and conservation of the iconic Knole Sofa, resulting in the colour of the original crimson velvet being enlivened. The conservators are also restoring the profile, uplifting the base of the sofa to better support the structure and upholstery.

At the time of our visit, the Conservators were working on two of Churchill's chairs from Chartwell. Fine conservation netting, dyed to match the fade of the original, is used to stabilise areas of weakness of the fabrics and prevent loose fibres or threads coming away. When restoring the trimmings, they decided to keep to the colours as they appear now, which have obviously faded over time. The original colours would have looked out of place with the rest of the fading and deterioration of the original fabrics. Some of the chairs in one room have fabrics on them that are not centred. It turns out that, many years in the past, when they needed more fabric to restore pieces, they cut fabric from behind the large paintings and portraits hanging on the walls of the same room. An ancient version of recycling perhaps?

The Knole Conservation Studio is one of over 40 organisations receiving details of the annual Usher Travel Bursary of up to £1,000.

Master Elect Wendy and Clerk Susan





Upholding the Craft - The Cass/ LMU Awards 2019

The Upholders' Awards at the Cass, London Metropolitan University, were held on 25th June. Course Leader Liveryman Franco Marinelli welcomed sponsors, students, staff, and Liverymen from the Upholders and Furniture Makers' Companies to the exhibition and Awards evening. Stuart Elmy, another familiar face at the ceremony, then presented the Heico Design Competition Awards, which like ours have been held for a number of years. Liveryman David Johnson has also been a stalwart of the Awards evening and this year he was warmly welcomed back to present two Awards in memory of his late wife Margaret. Franco Marinelli introduced the Upholders Upholstery Awards and Warden to the Trade Stephen Chapman the Derek Austin Awards, with certificates and cheques presented by the Master Anthony Demby. In congratulating the students, the Master said; "In the modern world where many of us, including me, earn our living looking at computer screens and where there is no tangible product, coming here this evening and seeing the outstanding work that you have created using the skills you have learned here is humbling. Many of us yearn to do what you have done and learn a trade that dates back far beyond medieval London, and where the techniques you have learned would be recognised by your predecessors from previous centuries. It only leaves me to thank you all for helping to keep traditional upholstery alive for future generations and wish you all every success in your future careers".

2019 Award Winners Upholders Awards

1st Prize Intermediate Upholstery
 Lucy Nunn



- 2nd Prize Intermediate Upholstery
 Monica Delgado Soto
- Highly CommendedMichelle Low

Margaret Johnson Memorial Award

- First Prize, First Year Stuff and Stitch Sophie Carter
- Second Prize, First Year Stuff and Stitch Sophie Howlett



Derek Austin Awards

1st Prize BA Furniture and Product Design Year 3
 Anton Mikkonen



 2nd Prize BA Design Studio Practice Fioralba Elezi



Upholding our Livery - Welcome to our Newer Liverymen

ELLY ALLEN Elly Allen has a business specialising in bespoke, made to measure curtains, blinds and soft furnishings. She has over 20 years of experience in working with fabrics and product management. Elly works with an experienced team of makers that have been with her for many years. My background is from the Arts, with a BA in textiles. I have various other qualifications in tailoring and sewing and have also taken courses in upholstery. I live and work in London with my family and my business serves mainly the SW and SE London areas. I am an AMUSF member and am very much looking forward to being involved with the Upholders and serving on the Marketing and Communications Committee. Elly Allen Interiors is found at: http://www.ellyallen.com/Her beautiful room sets and projects can be found on the www.houzz.co.uk platform; enter Elly Allen into the search box for 'Find a Pro' then read more of Elly's profile.

MICHAEL BANNON Dr Michael Bannon trained in paediatrics in Ireland and in Liverpool before becoming Consultant Paediatrician in North Staffs in 1990. He began a developing interest in child protection, immunisation and child health surveillance. He has since occupied roles of increasing responsibility in educational leadership including Senior Clinical Lecturer and Associate Postgraduate Dean for refugee doctors. In 2003 Michael took up the post of Postgraduate Dean working for Health Education England in Oxford, where he is also a Professorial Fellow of Wadham College. Michael's current role is a complex one and is basically involved with the postgraduate training of around 2000 junior doctors and dentists across the counties of Thames Valley. He has considerable experience in leadership, governance and budget management. On becoming



a Liveryman, Michael says; "It is a privilege and pleasure to be associated with an organisation which can boast a proud tradition of ceremony and which is also focused on charitable acts". He is proposed by Prof John Darby and seconded by PM Christopher Hayman.



STEVE BLAKE "Born in the crossfire of a Hurricane..." would have been a great way to start, except that I wasn't. I was a post war baby boomer generation born in Barnet, Hertfordshire. Having managed to negotiate my way through childhood, puberty, adolescence and schooling without being arrested and thrown in jail, I consider my early years a success. My career has been in the film industry where I have had the pleasure of working in many countries around the world and innumerable locations in the UK. Over the years I have met some very interesting actors and actresses, thankfully not all total divas. I am now at the stage of life where diversification is possible: making the odd film, teaching film lighting at Ealing Studios, a bit of upholstery, increasing involvement with the Livery and as much golf as I can fit in.

CHRISTINE COLLINS Hailing from the North West Christine came to London University's Institute of Education to qualify as a teacher. She obtained a post at Lycee Francais Charles de Gaulle in South Kensington and as a true Francophile, there she stayed for thirty-nine years, receiving a long service medal and benefitting from the experience of the French life style. In retirement she spent some time in the Cotswolds in the hospitality sector. Christine became a member of the Lime Street Ward Club. She was made a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Educators in the year of their charter. She was pleased to be invited to take part in City life in order to become more familiar with English tradition. Hobbies include millinery and wine-tasting and she loves to go to occasions involving both. She is also a keen traveller.





SHANE McNAMARA Shane McNamara is a Global Technical Manager at Anheuser-Busch InBev the world's largest brewer; home to beers such as Bass, Budweiser, Stella Artois and yes, Corona! He holds a Master's (MSc.) degree in Brewing Science from the University of Nottingham and Bachelor of Laws (LLB) and Economics (B.Bus) from the Queensland University of Technology. Moving over from Australia in 2013, Shane has been a resident of London for the past seven years, living just beyond the walls of the City of London in Hoxton. A sports tragic he enjoys cricket (especially an Ashes win for the Aussies), tennis and golf. He looks forward to meeting fellow and future liverymen at events in the near future.

MICHAEL JOHN TICKNER Michael is owner-manager of Zip Mail Ltd, a Government-licensed postal operator with its HQ in Chancery Lane and operations from Newcastle to Southampton. He runs on-site and off-site corporate post rooms. He lives in Beckenham, Kent, where he is an elected Councillor, having served both as Mayor and leader of the Council of the London Borough of Bromley. Michael has 2 children and 2 grandchildren. His son Oliver is a former Cavalry Officer in the Royal Lancers and has since worked at Lloyds of London; his daughter Amy is a FANY, volunteering with City of London Police and working as a Marketing Manager in Liverpool Street. Michael attended John Ruskin Grammar School and City of London University. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Management Specialists and an active member of Castle Baynard Ward Club.



DAVID WOODWARD David was born in Plymouth and adopted six months later by a local family. He left school at the age of fifteen and joined the Junior Leaders Regiment Royal Armoured Corps at Bovington camp in Dorset. He was then posted to the Household Cavalry Regiment as a Royal Horse guard stationed at Knightsbridge barracks. He took part in numerous ceremonial events including the Investiture of the Prince of Wales in Caernarfon and the Funeral of Winston Churchill. After the army, he was offered a job as a salesman with Waring & Gillow, where his lifelong love of furniture began and where he met his wife to be, Anne. Waring and Gillow were eventually broken up and David joined Allied Carpets. During this time David and Anne having married had two daughters Katharine and Elizabeth. Over thirty years ago, they decided to set up their own business and founded Celtheath, focused on furniture restoration and logistics. The family business

continues with daughter Lizzie and Son in Law Chris taking on more and more of the responsibility. They live in Ealing and have a bolt hole in Cornwall enjoying walking, gardening and adventurous holidays.

Upholding the memory of our departed liverymen – Obituaries and Memorials

The following departed Liverymen were remembered in prayer at the Annual Church Service in February 2019. May they all Rest in Peace.

• KENNETH THOMAS SLOMAN - LIVERYMAN SINCE 1976, PASSED AWAY ON 30 APRIL 2019. I met Kenneth in 1970. He was in the army during the war and I believe that he was involved in the D-Day landings. After that he had two businesses, firstly in the motor industry where he was keen on motor racing, and afterwards he started his own paint manufacture and supply company. He was Secretary of his Masonic Lodge and Chapter, Secretary of a bowls club, an active member of the Burnham Sailing Club and member of PROBUS. His cousin Jack Ayerst was Master Upholder in 85-1984 & together they introduced me to the Company in 1985. I attended Ken's memorial at St Leonard's C of E Church, Southminster on 6 June 2019. Ken is survived by his son Greg and daughter Michele.

obituary by Liveryman Gerald Pickering



Davin White 9th March 1932 to 9th March 2020

PAUL DANBY - LIVERYMAN SINCE 1991, PASSED AWAY ON 7 JUNE 2019.

His widow Sarah wrote that Paul was "always very proud of his connection to the Upholders and his knowledge of his craft and he very much enjoyed joining in the Upholders' activities". He became known to more of us from playing Real Tennis and having entered the Brewers' Real Tennis Tournament in a pair with his son Charlie in 2017. A rare instance of an Upholders' team entry into another Livery competition!

• ALAN GEORGE BLAKE - LIVERYMAN SINCE 1996, PASSED AWAY ON 13 JUNE 2019.

His eldest daughter Susan Towner wrote that "I know it was a great privilege for Dad to have been associated with The Worshipful Company of Upholders and he truly enjoyed playing an active part in the Livery which he joined in 1996." Alan's funeral was held on 2 July at St Martin of Tours Church, Chelsfield. Alan was predeceased by his wife Peggy, who is also remembered here, and has thoughtfully left a Legacy of £500 to the Upholders, for which the Company is most grateful.

• RALPH THORMAN KING - LIVERYMAN SINCE 1987, PASSED AWAY ON 15 OCTOBER 2019.

The Clerk always enjoyed addressing letters to Gordon, who for many years lived in a house with a memorable name - Thunderdell House.

JOHN RICHARD POLE - LIVERYMAN SINCE 1987, PASSED AWAY ON 24 DECEMBER 2019.

John and Liveryman Peter Askew enjoyed meeting at events of The Royal Society of St George. A Thanksgiving Service for John's life was held on 20 January at St. Mary the Virgin Church Witney. John and his wife Valerie last attended dinners in 2015 and the Masters' summer event at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, in 2017.

DAVIN WHITE, A FREEMAN OF THE UPHOLDERS' COMPANY, PASSED AWAY PEACEFULLY ON 9 MARCH 2020.

Davin joined the Livery in 1998 and was a very long-standing member of the Association of Master Upholsterers and Soft Furnishers Kent Branch, holding the position of Secretary and Chairman. He was a great advocate of maintaining quality within the industry and supporting both organisations at many events. He will be deeply missed by his family and all his friends, especially those in the Kent Branch.

obituary by JW Elect Malcolm Hopkins FAMU

MEMORIAL: A memorial service for late Liveryman and Auctioneer **PAUL BARTHAUD**, who died on 24th July 2018, was held in London on 14th January 2020. Paul was a unique and extraordinary man. A career as an auctioneer and the youngest Managing Director of Christie's South Kensington at the age of 33! Highly respected within the auctioneers, a man of integrity who held the respect of others around him. Many of you who attended our New Livery evening at Cutlers Hall Nov 2015 will recall the role Paul performed as our host. In addition, Paul was our Auctioneer at the last Upholders Flock and Feather fundraising auction. Paul was an active liveryman serving for many years on the Membership Committee. IPM Tim Solway, David Johnson and Malcolm Hopkins attended to represent the Master and to convey our sincere condolences to Paul's widow Hélène.

MEMORIAL: The death towards the end of 2019 of **JOHN STANLEY STIFF**, former Liveryman who joined in January 1990, was reported by his son Michael. John's obituary in the RIBA Journal of 6 February 2020 was headed: "Successful architect who withstood enough booms and slumps to advise his son against joining the profession but ended up in joint practice with him". John's National Service was in the RAF, which he thoroughly enjoyed, and which allowed him

John's National Service was in the RAF, which he thoroughly enjoyed, and which allowed him to expand his jazz repertoire. After that he decided to become an architect, qualifying in 1961.

Upholding Our Events - Annual Church Service And Dinner At Armourers Hall, 18th February 2020

An evening full of music where all our needs both spiritual and corporeal were more than amply catered for! In an evening which strongly reflected Master Anthony Demby's personal interests and professional background, the Upholders were warmly welcomed once again to St Michael in Cornhill, a superb "Wren" church built on pre-Norman foundations following the Great Fire of London. The music at St Michael's is always excellent and we were treated to a superb Choral Evensong; a simple, reflective service which, and to quote St Michaels website "allows listeners a time for restful contemplation, Church members, agnostics and atheists alike", the music this evening being specially selected by the Master.



Our Chaplain was supported by the Vicar of St Michael's together with the Vicar of the Master's church in Richmond, the Revd Wilma Roest, who gave an excellent sermon. Dinner at Armourers Hall was excellent as always and after the toasts, the young and very talented clarinettist, Elliot Gresty, gave an outstanding musical interlude, made even more enjoyable by his saying a few words on the background to the music.



This was followed by the speeches, concluding with a superb response on behalf of the guests by the Bishop of Southwark, The Rt. Revd Christopher Chessun following our Senior Warden Elect's warm words of welcome. Bishop Christopher is himself a Liveryman of the Needlemakers' Company. Throughout we were honoured by the presence of very many Masters of other Livery Companies and many other distinguished guests.

And, as always and in true Upholders tradition, all our guests were made to feel most welcome. Sincere and warmest thanks are due to the Clerk, the Chaplain and the very many other people who contributed to the great success of the evening.

Dr. Christine Booth Court Assistant



The Mansion House Banquet October 2019
The Lord Mayor Locum Tenens Sir Alan
Yarrow with Master Anthony Demby



The Worshipful Livery Company of Wales - November 2019

"From the Archives" A passage aboard HMS Newcastle - 'The Geordie Gunboat' - and an affiliation remembered

A recent phone conversation between the current and former Clerks led to recollections of a treasured naval affiliation between the Upholders and HMS Newcastle, the oldest of the 11 Type 42 Destroyers, launched on the Tyne by Swan Hunter in 1975 and commissioned in 1978. The captain at the time, Commander Steve Pearson MA RN wrote to then Master Bob Olney that; "Over the years the Ship has seen active service around the world which has included peacekeeping duties, Crisis / War operations, disaster relief duties and the obvious Defence Diplomacy". Cdr Pearson attended the January Court dinner towards the end of the late Bert Chapman's year as Master, and proposed the Toast to the Upholders Company at Bob Olney's Installation dinner at Drapers' Hall in April 2001.

After two years in command, Cdr Pearson handed over to Cdr Jerry Blunden LVO RN, who had served as the last Navigating Commander and Sailing Master of the Royal Yacht Britannia during her final two years in commission. The highlight of this time was the 1997 deployment to the Far East, which included the ceremonies to mark the return of Hong Kong to China. In 2002 HMS Newcastle deployed from



the South Atlantic to the Caribbean for some anti drug operations before returning to the UK. In a letter to Hon Court Asst Aubrey Cox, Cdr Blunden described the operations; "This has been an interesting and challenging deployment involving patrols and operations off West Africa, among the Falkland Islands and the Caribbean where we enjoyed a good deal of success in the War against Drugs. Along the way we have enjoyed some very good visits to ports in South America and to islands in the Caribbean." A few very appreciative Upholders enjoyed one of two visits offered to the ship. During one, as Master and Clerk, Clive Roffe and the late James Cody spent 5-9 December 1999 on board, experiencing a passage down to the South West Approaches to carry out trials on a new piece of equipment. The other visit was shorter, but involved 15 Upholders and Consorts, so three current Past Masters, Aubrey and Jean Cody will have their own memories of this.

To mark the affiliation between the Upholders' Company and HMS Newcastle, which lasted from 1999, with Antony Usher acting as liaison officer, until her decommissioning on 1 February 2005, the Ship's company presented then Master Bob Olney with an impressive base of a shell into which the silhouette of the ship has been cut. (photographs from Jean Cody) After the decommissioning, the affiliation with both HMS Newcastle and submarines HMS Upholder and HMS Triumph was remembered at a special service organised by Master Julian Squire to mark the 650th anniversary of the Upholders Company and its historic association with the Royal Navy, held in the Chapel at Mercers' Hall in September 2010.

Finally in October 2013, Master Nick Meyer, accompanied by Derek Thornton, Jerry Appleyard & Richard Nevard, attended the Type 42 'End of an Era' Dinner at the Painted Hall in Greenwich Old Royal Naval College. To end on a note of warning to future Masters, those attending reported that the 'comfort break' took ¾ hour when about 100 Naval officers all made for the only two 'heads' available after which it proved impossible to regain the atmosphere of formal ceremony.

Compiled from letters in the archives, Upbraid issue 5 (2001) and the Special Edition, and with grateful thanks to Jean Cody.

Upholding our New Liveryman Installed 17th April 2018 - René De Silva JP

On 11th September 2017, I met with René for the first time as I had invited him to lunch with Jackie Williams to discuss the benefits of joining the Upholders and to answer any questions that René had. At the time I was Chairman of the Membership Committee & Jackie was soon to become the Committee Chairman.

In the convivial surroundings of the Livery Affiliated (Vintners), Boot & Flogger restaurant we had a most enjoyable lunch with open discussions about the Upholders. René explained that he was a Magistrate and that he had met Past Master Jerry Appleyard, also a Magistrate, when they sat together at Wimbledon



René de Silva Freedom Ceremony 27th Feb 2018. L-R Mrs Jackie Williams, Membership Cttee. Chairman, René, Mrs Susan Nevard, Clerk and Tim Solway Senior Warden

Magistrates Court. During his conversation with Past Master Jerry he had mentioned the Upholders. A few meetings later René committed to the Upholders and so began the process of joining our company with Jackie Williams and myself becoming his sponsors. By profession, René is a Solicitor. Previously from 1996 to 2001 he was a Civil Servant.

He has practised Immigration Law since 2001. He advises his private clients and prepares and submits their visa applications to the Home Office. He also conducts Immigration Appeals for his clients, appearing as an Advocate before the First Tier Tribunal: Immigration & Asylum Chamber. René was appointed as a Justice of the Peace in 2008 and currently sits as a Presiding Justice on the South West London Bench.

He lives in Kings Langley in rural west Hertfordshire, the village which has been home to his mother's paternal 'Young' family since 1810. Since 2015 René has been an elected Parish Councillor for Kings Langley for the Conservative Party.

As well as being a keen and active supporter of the Upholders, René has other interests. A member of the Army Cadet Force (ACF) since 2009, he currently serves as an Adult Instructor with Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Army Cadet Force.

He was commissioned in 2013 and currently serves in the rank of Lieutenant. In early 2020, René has joined the Honourable Artillery Company (HAC) as a Non-Regimental Member. The Upholders has close links with the Castle Baynard Ward Club so it will be no surprise that René is also a member! René is an Armiger, having in 2016 been granted a Hereditary Coat of Arms through the College of Arms. For the Upholders, René attends all our company events! He sits on the History Society Committee which is under the leadership of the Senior Warden Elect Jackie Williams.

We are fortunate in having René helping The Worshipful Company of Upholders move forward.

Tim Solway, Master 2018 – 2019



My thanks to the many contributors to this issue of Upbraid, including ... The Master - Anthony Demby, Our Chaplain - Revd Caroline Clarke, Master Elect - Wendy Shorter-Blake



Livery Certificate for René de Silva

MBE, Senior Warden Elect - Jackie Williams, Junior Warden Elect - Malcolm Hopkins, Our Clerk - Susan Nevard, IPM - Tim Solway, Richard Matthews, Steve Blake, Richard Ranklin, Gerald Pickering, Dr Christine Booth, Jean Cody and appreciation to others who also submitted words and photos.

Spread Of Upholders' Trades Recognised In Master Certificate Scheme 2020



15 Liveries took part in the Master Certificates ceremony held at Mansion House on 2nd March. Lord Mayor Alderman William Russell presented Apprentice, Journeyman & Master Certificates in the final large gathering attended by the Master Upholder before the City closed down due to Coronavirus.

The Master Certificate scheme was set up to encourage career progression in skills closely associated with City of London Livery companies. The scheme is organised by the Construction Liveries Group and undertaken with the City and Guilds of London Institute to encourage the pursuit of excellence.

We are proud that our Master Upholder Certificate recipients come from the Upholstery trade and the Funeral profession. In past centuries Upholders carried out not just the manufacture and sale of upholstered goods but were cabinet makers, undertakers, soft furnishers, auctioneers and valuers.

The profession includes Funeral Directors and Funeral Furnishers and Suppliers. Many are family businesses with a long history, and our first nominee, whose Citation is below, comes from one such Company:

"Clive Leverton started work with Leverton & Sons Independent Family Funeral Directors in 1959, becoming Company Secretary in 1989 and Chairman in 2005. A founder member of the Society of Allied & Independent Funeral Directors in 1989, he later became its President and also President of the London Association of Funeral Directors. Leverton & Sons was appointed royal undertakers in 1991 and has served the Royal Household in that capacity for nearly 30 years. Clive was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Good Funeral Awards in 2017. Clive has for many years worked to support the St Pancras Welfare Trust."



Our second recipient is also very well known within the Upholders and the AMUSF as he is one of their Fellows and is senior tutor at the Cass:

"Franco Marinelli, FAMU, started his career in Italy where he qualified in both traditional and modern upholstery, specialising in leather upholstery. He set up his own workshop in England in 1985 and with 40 years of experience he has promoted the craft of upholstery, holding senior positions in various organisations. He has continued to pass on his skills and knowledge to a new generation of upholsterers, teaching students in his workshop and at college and university. This has included people with disabilities for the Queen Elizabeth Foundation, helping them develop their skills and achieve their independence."



Clive Leverton (L) and Franco Marinelli (R)

It was interesting to read in the programme about the varied background and achievements of those receiving awards. Masons are still very much employed to maintain the stonework of the great Cathedrals. Constructors and Paviors influence our urban environments. More unusual trades were also represented at the Awards, and we learnt something of how the Ancient Liveries have adapted to modern life. As a natural plastic (keratin), horn was once beaten into flat translucent sheets for lantern leaves, and we may recall from our own childhood the beakers, buttons and combs fashioned from the material. Today's award winners are more likely to be involved in precision plastics components as toolmaking apprentices. Similarly these days the Wax Chandlers

are not all about beeswax candles, but about conservation projects such as

We commend Franco and Clive for the dedication you have shown to your two professions throughout your long careers. Sincere thanks also to Bill Fry and Malcolm Hopkins who nominated them for a Master Upholder Certificate. Nominations for the 2021 awards are now open and a form can be obtained from the Clerk. The closing date is August 31 2020.

airlifting beehives onto remote mountainsides.

S Nevard

Sad news Liveryman Ernest Spratling FAMU

It is with great sadness that the Court has learned of the passing of Liveryman Ernest Spratling FAMU, known to all as Ernie. For many years Ernie, along with Dave Johns, carried out the assessments of students' final upholstery pieces at the LMU/ Cass. A full Obituary will appear in the next issue of Upbraid and in the meantime we send our deepest condolences to Gill and the family.





Master and Court September 2019

Back row (L-R) P Wellesley-Davies A Cox, A Usher, Prof.GJK Darby, S P Tanner, R T Nevard, R N Ward, T L Solway, L Specterman Hon Treasurer, M Brecknell, Dr C M Booth, S J Gardner, S Chapman, M S Gilham, H E Taylor, M R Hopkins.

Front row (L-R) W A Shorter-Blake MBE, The Master A E Demby, J S Williams.

Principal Officers of the Upholders

Master – Anthony Demby Master Elect – Wendy Shorter-Blake Senior Warden Elect – Jackie Williams Warden to the Trade – Philip Wellesley-Davies Hon Treasurer – Michael Tang Clerk – Mrs Susan Nevard

Committees

The Court Chairman – The Master Anthony Demby Finance – Chairman Hon Treasurer Michael Tang Charity – Chairman Christopher Hayman

Trade & Education – Chairman Philip Wellesley-Davies (Warden to the Trade) Investment – Chairman Michael Brecknell Past Masters' Committee – Past Master Christopher Hayman Membership Committee – Chairman Steve Gardner

Marketing & Communications Committee – Chairman Past Master Tim Solway Emlyn Society – Please contact the Clerk History Society – Chairman Jackie Williams

CALENDAR OF FUTURE EVENTS 2020/2021 Subject to Covid 19

Date	Events	Attendance	Date	Events	Attendance
Wednesday 1st April 2020	-Installation Banquet - Grocers' Hall	Liverymen & Guests, Freemen	Saturday 14 November 2020	805th Lord Mayor's Show tbc	Ticketed stands & lunch venues tba
Tuesday 5th May 2020	-Warner Collection -History Society	Liverymen, Freemen & Yeomen	Wednesday 18 November 2020	Charity Auction, Furniture Makers' Hall tbc	Liverymen & guests, Freemen, Yeomen
Wednesday 10 June 2020	Audit Court	Court only, online meeting	Monday 23 November 2020	New Liverymen's Evening East India Club tbc	Liverymen from last 5 years plus new candidates
Wednesday 24 June 2020	—Election of Sheriffs—	Liverymen	Thursday 14 January 2021	January Court, Common Hall & Dinner Pewterers' tbc	Liverymen & Guests, Freemen
Thursday 25 June 2020	Awards & Prize Giving The Cass	Liverymen & Freemen	Wednesday 24 February 2021	Church Service St Michael Cornhill + Dinner at Armourers tbc	Liverymen & Guests, Freemen
Thursday 16 July 2020	— Master's Summer Event —Barbecue HQS Wellington	Liverymen & guests, Freemen & Yeomen	Tuesday 23 March 2021	Master's Court Dinner Cutlers' Hall Court rooms tbc	Court & partners / consorts only
Saturday 5 September 2020 tbc	History Society Guided Walk	Liverymen, Freemen & Yeomen	Friday 19 March 2021	United Guilds Service St Paul's + Lunch at Painters' Hall	Liverymen & Guests
Tuesday 15 September 2020	September (Installation?) Court + Dinner Saddlers' Hall tbc	Liverymen & Guests, Freemen	Thursday 15 April 2021	Installation Banquet Vintners' Hall tbc	Liverymen & Guests, Freemen
Tuesday 29 September 2020	—Election of Lord Mayor—	Liverymen	All future events are subject to government Covid19- guidance		
15 October 2020	Upholders' Banquet Mansion House tbc	Liverymen & Guests, Freemen			

Anthony Demby E-Mail master@upholders.co.uk

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