



Upholder News

The Marketing & Communications Committee
Newsletter Issue 7, Spring 2022

A new year, a new Master as Mrs Jackie Williams is installed at Vintners' Hall

2022 saw the return of Common Hall as a physical rather than a virtual event and it was a wonderful occasion to be able to reunite with Liverymen and their partners once again at the Dinner held in Vintners' Hall following the installation.



Left to right: Mrs Frances Ward, Junior Warden Rob Ward, Mrs Jean Hopkins, Senior Warden Malcolm Hopkins, Dr Keith Willaims, the Master's Consort and the Master, Mrs Jackie Williams

In the Master's address to Common Hall, she thanked the Court for the great honour bestowed upon her in electing her as Master and vowed to do everything possible to represent and lead this ancient Company.

The Master thanked the Immediate Past Master, Mrs Wendy Shorter-Blake MBE, for her eighteen months as Master highlighting her many achievements in what had been a difficult term of office.

The evening concluded with a Dinner where we enjoyed excellent entertainment given by three graduates from the Royal College of Music performing works by Gilbert and Sullivan.



Congratulations to Liveryman Jeremy Field OBE

I am sure you will wish to join the Master and Wardens in congratulating Liveryman, Jeremy Field in being awarded an OBE in Her Majesty's New Year Honours. Jeremy receives his award in recognition of his tireless work and support to the funeral trade throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jeremy has been at the very hours of his time to support the pressures as a working funeral

An Upholder since 1999, Jeremy a leading family-run funeral been providing personalised centuries. Owned and operated family is at the heart of the siblings Charlie and Emily. A director, from 2016- the National Association of Funeral Directors, the UK's industry trade association. Today Jeremy chairs the Policy & Communications committee of the NAFD and holds a seat on the Global Advisory Group for the National Funeral Directors Association (US trade association).



centre of this work, willingly giving up profession, despite facing considerable director in his own family business.

Field is Managing Director of CPJ Field, directors. Founded in 1690, CPJ Field has funeral services for more than three by the Field family for ten generations, business which Jeremy runs alongside his fully trained and qualified funeral

17, Jeremy held the role of President of the UK's industry trade association. Today Jeremy chairs the Policy & Communications committee of the NAFD and holds a seat on the Global Advisory Group for the National Funeral Directors Association (US trade association).

C.P.J. Field's home turf was Southwark and alongside their trades of building, carpentry, and joinery, they were involved in making shroud boards and cases, a growing business they tapped into. C.P.J Field has supported thousands of families in their time of need. Long before this pandemic C.P.J Field's history includes managing the funerals for Queen Victoria and the Duke of Wellington. The Company provided over £92 (just under £10,000 today) of items for Queen Victoria's funeral, including a "stout and large size Oak Case, framed and panelled throughout and finished in the best manner".

The Upholders are proud to have all those from the world of funeral directing as Liverymen of our Company and we thank you all for the vital role you have played at the centre of the national response to COVID-19.



Past Master Gerald Trevor Becomes Father of the Company

Past Master Gerald Trevor became Father of the Company at the April Court Meeting where he was presented with his badge, designed by PM Alan Kinsey.

Gerald Trevor succeeds Alan Kinsey as Father of the Company having been proposed by the Past Masters' Committee. Gerald has been a member of the Company since 1963 and was Master in 1982/83. Gerald has demonstrated loyalty and support to the Company and its charities over many years and he continues to uphold the Company of the Upholders ensuring that it continues to flourish.



Immediate Past Master Raises £6,500 for the Bob Fowlds Scholarship Fund

FLOCK & FEATHER CHARITY AUCTION

In November, the Master Furniture Maker and I had the pleasure of hosting a charity auction at Furniture Makers Hall. David Woodward, Master Furniture Maker, is also a Liveryman of our Company and has an upholstery business, Celtheath, in Hayes.

David and I have been salvaging old chairs for many years, so we decided to donate the frames to some of my past students, asking them to reupholster them, donating their time, creativity, and expertise to raise money for our two charities: The Upholders Charity Bob Fowlds Memorial Scholarship scheme and the Furniture Makers Welfare Fund.

The auction took place at a dinner at Furniture Makers Hall with James Braxton as auctioneer. James is an antiques expert, auctioneer and Liveryman of the Upholders Company from East Sussex, who you may recognise from

seeing him on the BBC television programme “Antiques Road Trip.”

With over fourteen pieces to auction and raffle, I am delighted to say that we raised just over £13000 for our two charities.

Two of the items being auctioned were a pair of refurbished Guildhall Chairs, with two more having since been sold. David has forty-six more that he is prepared to refurbish should anyone be interested in buying them. They cost £250 each, which again will be split between the two charities. Delivery can be arranged at a cost dependant on the delivery address so price on application or they can be collected from Celtheath’s premises.

Please email Wendy Shorter-Blake if you are interested in purchasing the Guildhall chairs.



Two Guildhall Chairs



Liveryman James Braxton, Wendy Shorter-Blake and David Woodward



Pieces for the auction by Carol Arnell, Liveryman Steve Blake and Greg Cupitt-Jones

Our First Bob Fowlds Scholars



THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF UPHOLDERS THE UPHOLDERS' CHARITY

The Charity Committee is delighted that all six Bob Fowlds' Scholars are progressing well and are eager to share news of their work with the Upholders'.

Libby Payne

The Upholders Charity Bob Fowlds Memorial Scholarship has allowed me to continue my studies into my second year of the AMUSF course. During this year I have been upholstering a nursing chair with an independent sprung edge. Although at times challenging, it has been a highly satisfying and rewarding process. My studies continue to instil a meticulous nature in me. I am reminded of the princess and the pea - if the under layers are not done properly, it affects all those above it!

Outside of the course I have recently received my first commission. The course has given me confidence in my skills to do so. Currently I am reupholstering a set of five dining chairs for a local villager. This process has been highly beneficial not only for the repetition but also for gaining a sense of independence in my decision making. As well as this in February I created pieces for VIN + OMI for their London Fashion Week show, including bow shaped pillows and upholstered headpieces.

I am also lucky enough to have recently been offered a job as a Trainee Upholsterer by the company "As New" in Abingdon which I will be starting in April. I believe working alongside a team of experienced upholsterers will allow me to continue to expand my skills.

I would like to take this opportunity to again thank the Upholders and of course the Fowlds family. Their generosity has made so much possible for me and the support I received has been hugely motivating. I only hope I can honour them throughout my career.



My pillow dress for London Fashion Week

Sonia Ratnan

The course is going well. I am currently nearing completion of my iron back chair and I am looking forward to starting my modern chair soon. Outside my studies, work enquiries are coming in which is very rewarding.

I cannot fault my course. I am fortunate enough to be studying with some lovely people and my tutors are incredibly skilled and at hand to advise and help.

Billie Haygarth Manchot

I am currently studying on the AMUSF Stage 1 Course. As I currently work full-time within the NHS, I am attending night classes at Shoreditch Design Rooms which run every Tuesday from 6.30-9.30pm and are spread across two years. I am absolutely loving the course and in line with why I applied for it originally, it is increasingly inspiring me to want to change careers and work with textiles and possibly train to become a full-time upholsterer.

So far on the course I have familiarised myself with the equipment used as an upholsterer and have gained practice with each of these tools throughout the various projects we have been set. These tools include, amongst many others, using a regulator to regulate stuffing, how to use a web stretcher to web and how to use our various needles to achieve the desired effects at the different stages in our upholstery projects. We also spent two full weekends covering various sewing techniques to enable us to make scatter cushions and box cushions. Within our sewing studies I learnt how to create various seams, make piping, sew in zips and many other techniques to enable me to now feel confident in my ability to make cushions.

Underlying all the practical projects that we have done is the theory and history that we are taught throughout each lesson regarding the materials, sundries, fillings and stuffing we are using and why. This information is further expanded upon by my own research which I have been doing towards my Research Project detailing the qualities of various materials. Our understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of different materials was further consolidated by a trip that we took to Chelsea Harbour Design Centre. Here we visited various upholstery fabric brands and designers who gave us expert insight into their products, their origins, costs and uses to give us a rounded impression of how to choose our fabrics and cost our services later down the line.

I wanted to thank you again for giving me the opportunity to study with this scholarship and I hope my enthusiasm and enjoyment of the course has come across in my report. I feel I have learned so much already and cannot wait to get started on this next project.

Tilly Rose Critchlow

The course is going really well. My tutor is pleased with my progress so far. I am finding the course very rewarding and look forward to going every week.

There have been a few occasions when I have left a little early last term due to Covid restrictions at my daughter's school but I have not missed any days so far.

I would very much like to continue and apply for level two however the additional costs for the materials of the course like fabrics and books means I would struggle if I did not qualify for another year of funding from the scholarship.



Layla Lamond

The second year of my studies has been going really well. I recently got my results back from stage 1 of my course and received two distinctions and one merit which I was very proud of.

So far in the new year we have started our written research project, learnt how to do a sprung edge, and are currently working on our modern chair, a Parker Knoll. I have been really enjoying everything we have learnt so far and am so happy that I have been able to keep progressing. I have also recently got a job in upholstery due to being able to continue with the next stage of my studies. I am due to start in April and will be teaching beginner upholstery courses to people who have had issues with past addictions, mental health issues or learning difficulties.

I am really looking forward to this and would not have been able to secure this position without the funding to do my second year of study. I am excited to carry on learning more this year, and just want to say a massive thank you, especially to Barbara Fowlds for helping me to do this.

Gemma Butcher

My course is going well, I am taking a catch-up class as I am a couple of weeks behind schedule due to illness, covid and moving house. I am working on an iron back which is proving rather challenging and of course more work than I anticipated. Especially as it is a year 3 style chair and not a year 2!! Always one for making the effort to challenge myself more than is needed. But I am making good headway and pleased with my efforts.

I have finally started my written assignment on the history of upholstery. Which will provide me with plenty of historical knowledge of the craft. And I have also acquired my next chair which is a Mid-century armchair for our modern piece which we will be starting in a few weeks.

In addition to my course I approached a local fine upholsterer in my home town of Northampton for some work experience. I felt the course alone was not enough to provide me with the confidence and knowledge to pursue a career working for myself at the end of my studies. They were impressed with my work and offered me a job two days a week. This is a valued opportunity and my experience and knowledge, supporting my studies are now going to hopefully benefit my future within the upholstery industry.

So in summary, all is going well and I am thoroughly enjoying learning all aspects. I am really hoping to continue to year 3.



Please find a photograph of my iron back showing my progress

TS Upholder Chelmsford Sea Cadets Activities

Lieutenant (SCC) Seb Britton RNR, Commanding Officer writes: “The Chelmsford Sea Cadets continue to excel, despite the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Ship’s Company is currently at 50 cadets, ably supported by a team of eighteen volunteers. We are still lodging at Boswells School but there has been some progress on the new build project. We have identified a site and negotiations on Heads of Terms for a 125 year lease are in the advanced stages. We are expecting to agree these very soon and then begin our fundraising. The proposed site is adjacent to the river and presents an exciting opportunity for the future of TS Upholder. The unit staff team were motivated by the need to continue engaging with cadets during lockdown and a very difficult time for young people. Spurred on, we succeeded in delivering a programme of interesting activities including guest speakers, virtual ship’s tours, snow ships, online magic shows and our now popular inter-divisional quiz. Cadets particularly enjoyed the opportunity to meet the crew of HMS Protector and gain insight into the role of the Royal Navy’s only Ice Patrol Ship.



Our cadets continued training towards their promotions and we were extremely pleased when we were able to promote one of our cadets to ‘Leading Cadet,’ the second highest rank attainable for cadets. To gain promotion LC Jack had to attend a virtual board which this was tricky to prepare for as it was new for everyone. This involved him teaching a lesson, completing leadership tasks and an interview with senior officers. He rose to the challenge and did exceptionally well, Jack is now in the final stages of preparing for his next promotion to ‘Petty Officer Cadet.’

He is pictured here at the Royal Docks Boat Station gaining his Royal Yachting Association Safety Boat Helm qualification, also gained in 2021, he is hoping to progress this to become a Powerboat Instructor this year.

The unit has continued to make good use of the boat station in London with both cadets and staff attending courses to gain qualifications on the water. We have also been able to use the ‘Upholder’ power boat to train crews and helms in their basic skills. It has proved to be an excellent platform for training, provide a solid foundation of skills for our cadets to move onto bigger boats.



Cadets have spent a lot of time in canoes and kayaks as paddle sports is a naturally socially distanced activity. They completed a two-day Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition on the River Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation. They also completed a challenge-expedition on the River Lea and Limehouse Loop. The 15km route which took in the Olympic Park, Limehouse Basin was designed to be a teamwork exercise and bonding experience for our cadets. They completed the trip on time, made loads of happy memories and gelled together as a strong team. Pictures and the route taken are above.



Residential activities were suspended for much of 2021 and this prevented the cadets from taking part in voyages on the Sea Cadets Offshore Fleet. They did however get a chance to visit TS Jack Petchey in London. Cadets spent the entire day on board, touring the Thames from Greenwich to Battersea. Alongside at HMS President they practiced their seamanship, rope handling, firefighting and bridge operations.

Back in Chelmsford, we were able to get afloat again, taking part in the nationwide Big Litter Pick initiative, we teamed up with Essex Waterways to collect rubbish from the river. One of our cadets was interviewed for the local news and in total we pulled fifteen bags of rubbish from the river as well as a toy car which can be seen in the bottom right of the photo below.



Our Royal Marines Cadets have been able to enjoy some nights away 'in the field,' refreshing their field craft skills and continuing to progress towards their next rank. In Chelmsford we proudly supported the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal, teaming up with Chelmsford Air Cadets to raise just over nearly £3K in just one day! This was particularly important as the RBL missed income from street collections last year due to the pandemic, it was also great to catch up with our friends from the Air Cadets again.



Perhaps the highlight of the year for me as Commanding Officer was having six cadets from TS Upholder represent the Sea Cadet Corps at the national Cenotaph Parade on Remembrance Sunday in front of members of the Royal Family. It was a cadet from Chelmsford, OC George that had the honour of performing the wreath bearer duty, carrying the wreath of poppies laid at the Cenotaph on behalf of all Sea Cadets. HRH Prince William, Duke of Cambridge took the salute at the end of the parade and a photo of our cadets was printed in The Telegraph.



Although we are not a recruiting organisation, we are proud that a significant number of our cadets go on to serve in the Armed Forces. 2021 saw two of our ex-cadets join the growing cadre of ex-TS Upholder cadets in the Royal Navy and Royal Marines. Sam and Megan both undertook their initial training through lockdown without any shore-leave at all. Megan (second from the left) passed out of HMS Raleigh, collecting the Best Class prize as Class Leader for her intake group.



Although not able to go any further than the main gate, our Detachment Commander, Lt Rae Jiggins RMR was able to meet Sam after his passing our parade at the Commando Training Centre in Lympstone and got this picture with him in wearing his coveted green beret after a gruelling 32 week course.

Our cadets have just begun a project on top of their Sea Cadet training to produce a document exploring the history of the unit. I will of course send you a copy of this when it is completed. 2022 looks set to be a

bumper year for the unit, we have exciting growth plans and are excited to get started on fundraising for the new unit."

I hope you have found this report interesting, and we are looking forward to seeing you all in October at the Mansion House Dinner and to hosting visits again soon.

The History Society visit the Warner Textile Archive



*Stampede, printed cotton
1960*

"I will never look at fabrics in the same way again!" This was the reaction from one of our ten strong number who enjoyed a spectacular visit to the Grade II listed Warner Silk Mill.

Our introduction to the tour took place in a contemporary exhibition room within Braintree Museum highlighting the fascinating history of the company from its Huguenot origins of William Warner a scarlet dyer, to Warner's factory at Spitalfields in London's East End in 1857 and its subsequent purchases of several rival companies including Daniel Walters' silk mill in Braintree in 1895. We saw unique examples of

weaving (cut and loop triple pile figured velvet) and learnt about the pioneering designers charting their history up to their current reworking of some archive designs in collaboration with Claremont fabrics which are for sale today. The company stopped weaving in 1971 and closed in the 1990s.

Then followed a short walk into the silk mill now converted into an exhibition gallery and working archive store. Here we were entranced by Warner's work with velvet, silk, printed fabric (some from their Dartford factory) including two Festival of Britain designs and others designed to mark the moon landing in 1969! During the war Warner's wove silk parachute fabric and later fabric for the utility years.

Then into the holy of holies, the archive including a massive worktable laid out for our visit with Warner's unique Royal collection of fabric, specifically woven for the coronation of every monarch since Queen Victoria. Here we saw original drawings for Queen Mary, samples for approval and the finished silks. Woven with gold and silver thread and silk embroidered flowers representing all four countries within the UK.



Sackville, hand woven silk velvet, 1911

Interestingly, Queen Elizabeth II reduced the gold content for her coronation fabric to empathise with post war austerity. The gallery in Westminster Cathedral had low screens covered in Queensway silk fabric for the coronation to protect the modesty of the congregation so the cameras could not film their knees!

Together with 'cloth of gold' samples we saw beautiful silk damask created for Windsor Castle and more figured silk velvet for upholstery use. On seeing a purple velvet used for the train of the cloak, worn over Queen Elizabeth's coronation dress and we felt transported into the abbey itself!

We were told the archive housed over 100,000 items and is the second largest fabric and paper archive in Britain. Sadly, no photography was allowed in the mill so their glorious secrets were not at risk from our enterprising tour group.

Report by Roger Wates

The History Society visit Apothecaries Hall

Fifteen members of the Company met on the chilly evening of the 25th January for a History Society tour of Apothecaries Hall. This was a real treat, as the current Hall of the Apothecaries' Society is the oldest extant livery company Hall in the City of London full of history and stories. It was formerly the guesthouse of the Dominican Priory of the Black Friars but was acquired by the Apothecaries in 1632. Although the original Hall burnt down in the Great Fire of 1666 it was rebuilt in 1672.

London apothecaries were originally members of the Grocers. The London apothecaries, with their specialist pharmacy skills, petitioned for several years to be separate from the Grocers' Company. They were eventually successful, with permission granted by King James I. 'The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London' became incorporated by Royal Charter on 6 December 1617 – much to the disapproval of the Grocers'.

King James justified his decision in the House of Commons in 1624: "I myself did devise that corporation and do allow it. The grocers, who complain of it, are but merchants; the mystery of

these apothecaries were belonging to apothecaries, wherein the grocers are unskillful; and therefore, it is fitting they should be a corporation of themselves."

In 1704 it was ruled that the Apothecaries could prescribe and dispense medicines, thus beginning the path to Apothecaries becoming general practitioners of medicine. Today, the Society conduct examinations, grant licenses to practice Medicine throughout England and Wales, as well as regulating the practice.

Monty the dog and the Society's Clarke, Nick, met us in the newly refurbished entrance. Since the Apothecaries acquired the building, this area had been an office, a restaurant, and an entryway to their factory at the rear of the building. It is now a relaxing bar, richly decorated, with an open fire, Chesterfield sofas and French doors opening onto the enclosed courtyard.

The building is full of fascinating features and history artefacts. We saw stained glass from 1671, the Tudor staircase which was already reclaimed when it was installed in 1667, the collections of drug jars and ceramics and the temperature-controlled archive which also contained the original kitchen fireplace left standing after the Great Fire.

Nick explained the Society's Coat of Arms; it features Apollo (the god of healing) killing a Wyvern (representing disease), supported by two unicorns (from King James's Royal heraldry), and a rhinoceros as the crest. Their motto translates as "I am spoken of all over the world as one who brings help".

There is sufficient historic stained glass at Apothecaries' Hall to write several books on the subject. As well as that mentioned above, we saw a large collection of glass panels of the coats of Arms of many of the Past Masters and Honorary Freemen. To celebrate the Society's quarter-centenary a project to "brighten up the parlour" with new stained glass on the theme of medicinal plants. As you can see from the picture, the project achieved its aim, providing a captivating focus to the room.

We finished the tour with a glass of wine from the very impressive wine cellars and following our thanks and appreciation we walked a short way to dinner at The Old Bell Tavern in Fleet Street.



The group in the Great Hall – apothecaries.com



The rhinoceros is depicted in the Coat of Arms

Report by Kirsty Lockwood

Welcome to our new Court Assistant, three new Liverymen, Liveryman by Presentation and Freeman

Court Assistant David Ayres

When Junior Warden Rob Ward asked me to write something for the Upholders' Newsletter, I began racking my brains, then it came to me, Rob Ward Cripplegate Ward!

Why not write a brief history of my Ward? Of the twenty-five city wards, Cripplegate is by far the most interesting and historical.

The name is derived from a subterranean passageway or crepel, plus gat, the Old Saxon for a hole. hence Cripplegate. This led to the berg kenning which was a Roman watchtower. Later the area has become known as the Barbican. To properly relay the history of the area would take volumes so here are just a few highlights.

Many famous people have lived in my ward, John Milton, Daniel Defoe, John Speed, the cartographer, John Foxe, the martyrologist, Martin Frobisher and Sir Humphrey Gilbert of Armada fame. William Shakespeare lodged in Silverstreet as did Hemmings and Condell who preserved Shakespeare's works for the world to know. Oliver Cromwell was married in our local church Saint Giles'. One vicar of Saint Giles was Dr Ainsley, whose daughter married Charles Wesley producing nineteen children, two of whom started the Methodist Movement.

Prince Rupert lived in Cripplegate he invented a very powerful form of gunpowder which sunk many an enemy vessel. Edmond Halley lived in our ward discovering the comet, not to be confused with Bill Haley and the Comets! The Earls of Bridgewater lived in Cripplegate and we still have a street named after them. I must mention William Blake who lived in the area. Every time I hear his hymn "Jerusalem" it reminds me of him of course. The list of famous people goes on and on.

Cripplegate had the first theatre in London, the Fortune Theatre, founded by Edward Alleyn who went on to found Dulwich College. We had the first licensed theatre in The City of London at the Cripplegate Institute.

Many Upholders have resided in my ward. In 1289 Thomas de Donstaple a fripperer, bequest five marks for the maintenance of the chantry in the Church of Saint Michael de Hoggenelane. Today we are still doing a variety of charity work.



If you would like to learn more about this historical Ward, please do not hesitate to contact me.
David Ayres

Mauricia Cebulec-Gardner



I initially joined the Upholders as my husband is a Court Assistant, but quickly found out what a jolly and welcoming Company it is. Unusually, when I mentioned to people that I am a Chartered Accountant, hardly anyone gave me the evil eye and although when I admitted to being a Partner and CFO of an investment management business, I did notice a few eyes glaze over!

I grew up in Slovenia, but I have lived in England for much of my life and made it my home. I have to confess that my knowledge of chairs and upholstery is limited, but I do have a keen interest in history, so I have found the Upholders a fascinating introduction to a branch of history of which I previously knew little.

Liveryman Lizette May

I grew up in South Africa and after graduating from Stellenbosch University, started my working life as a political and later technical journalist and IT professional working in Australia, Washington DC, and London.

In 1988 I joined Shell International in London and when I left them in 2016, I was running a global internal audit team specialising in refinery management and business controls. These days I spend my time in a similarly eclectic fashion from managing IT infrastructure to Company Director.

My hobbies include furniture refurbishment, writing, travel, and actively trading financial and currency markets. My husband John, solicitor and notary public, and I live in St Margaret's Bay most of the time and in the City of London for our London life.



Liveryman Kirsty Lockwood

Kirsty Lockwood began her 'career-life' as an Army Officer in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. She enjoyed serving in UK, Kosovo, and Germany, and, while in Germany she met her husband Hawthorn Lockwood, and their son, Cameron was born.

On leaving the Army, she spent some years working as a Project Manager for the MOD, procuring medical equipment and Special Forces communications equipment for front line forces. This included time in Afghanistan to install urgently needed CT scanners into the Camp Bastion Hospital.

After much soul-searching, Kirsty found that she needed a new path to focus on her creative side and to get away from the computer desk. She set up her own business making bespoke curtains and blinds as well as some light upholstery.

Preferring upholstery, she retrained on a City & Guilds course in Traditional Upholstery in Bristol.



Since then, Kirsty has run her own upholstery and soft furnishing business, including running classes for adults and children. She has managed the upholstery department in a high-end bespoke furniture workshop, upholstered for several films including Cruella and James Bond, and been employed by The Royal Household as an Assistant Conservator (upholsterer).

Kirsty was introduced to the Worshipful Company of Upholders through a presentation at Wendy Shorter Interiors. She was sponsored by Jackie Williams and Wendy Shorter and clothed into the Company as a Liveryman in September 2021 and looks forward to becoming fully involved in all that the Company has to offer.

Liveryman by Presentation Manjeet Upple

My career in the furniture industry started about 17 years ago when I joined the management team for furniture aftersales at John Lewis at their flagship store, in Oxford Street. Through the hundreds of comments we received a week, I found that my knowledge of upholstery was really not up to scratch and I didn't have the knowledge to be able to deal with some of these complaints. I got a bit fed up with this so decided to do an Upholstery course at Bob Barnett's training centre in Battersea. The aim was to just do stage 1 to give me some basic knowledge. Having completed this, I was then made

redundant from John Lewis but I then had the time to sit stage two and three, which was not the original plan but I loved doing my stage 1 so much that I had to complete the other two.

I moved to FIRA to become a furniture technician whilst deciding on what I really wanted to do next. This job opened my eyes up to manufacturing and I gained a lot of experience on doing some hands-on jobs in upholstery. In the same year I applied to the AMUSF as Manager of the Association, and I never thought I would actually get the job, three years on and I am still here.

I joined the Livery as it really does open you up to a whole network of different people both in and out of the industry. I have had the pleasure of meeting so many lovely people. It's a different world being part of the Livery Company and had I not joined then I would never have been able to experience as much as I have this past year. It is such a privilege and an honour to join the Upholders.



Freeman John Worth



In my early 20s I saw an advertisement in the paper “Are you in a rut?” I applied and it turned out to be a pharmaceutical company. I had little or no knowledge of this industry, my main skills were in marketing. I was assured that their six-week training course would provide the beginning of the knowledge needed to work in the industry BUT they said of course if you fail to make the grade you will be paid for your six weeks and we will say goodbye. I was newly married so we talked it over between us and decided it was worth the risk.

I came through the course and 35 years later I was still in the pharmaceutical industry and loving it albeit two takeovers, promotions and four work related house moves with fortunately the same wife, two children and three grandchildren.

Promotion of Liveryman Lt. Dennis Tate (RN) to Lieutenant Commander



Dennis Tate joined the Royal Navy in 2008 after reading a Masters in Nuclear Engineering. In 2012 he attended BRNC Dartmouth completing his initial fleet time onboard HMS ILLUSTRIOUS.

Prior to his professional training as a Marine Engineering Submariner, he spent six months onboard HMS BULWARK supporting Cougar 2013 Operations as part of Commander UK Task Group.

Attaining his Submarine Qualification onboard HMS TORBAY in 2015, he went on to complete the Nuclear Reactor Course and Cat A qualification with sea time onboard HMS TORBAY, HMS TRENCHANT and HMS TRIUMPH. Serving as an Auxiliary Marine Engineering Officer supporting HMS TALENT's return to sea and operations through 2018 and 2019.

After completing his Marine Charge Qualification in 2019, he was assigned to The Ministry of Defence in the Defence Nuclear Organisation Nuclear Emergency Planning, Policy and Operations team. In October 2021 he assumed his current role in the Submarine Delivery Agency Nuclear Propulsion Mechanical team as lead on technical integration and governance. In December 2021 he was selected for promotion to Lieutenant Commander which comes into effect on 1 October 2022. This marks the start of an exciting new chapter in which his days alongside are limited and an assignment as the Marine Engineering Officer of an Astute Class Submarine awaits.

JUNE BECKET PAGEANT

A wondrous display of pageantry and theatre is taking place in the City of London on Friday 17th and Saturday 18th of June. Visit the website for tickets and information:

www.becketpageantforlondon.com

It is promising to be a most fantastical event with theatrical displays of giant puppets and a true life-size pageant with all participants in full 12th century period costume. Two members of the company of Upholders, Past Master Wendy Shorter-Blake and new liveryman Lizette May have volunteered to join the Becket Costume Group of keen sewing bees to create some of the colourful array of costumes which will be worn by all the street actors.

Sponsorship for this exciting project was both in funds and gifts in kind. Nomura Bank donated two splendid sets of large curtains which yielded over 100 metres of wool, cotton, and silks and with gloves from The Glovers and other materials from the Leather Sellers it is truly collectively shared City event.

The raw materials were transformed by the sewing team under the expert guidance of Sasha Keir an experienced costume designer who has designed and made costumes for theatre, film, TV, opera, and ballet around the world from her studio in the City of London. Sasha is an avid supporter of the City Guilds and have given generously of her time and her studio resources to allow the sewing bees to work together twice a week since March and the results are magnificent. Huge quantities of pattern pieces, brightly dyed fabrics, braids and bling jewellery have been transformed into what is promising to be a mesmerising 12th century world in the streets of the City for the Becket Pageant.

Do come and join in the fun in June and to admire the colourful and original creations.



Bishops colours transformed from silk



Lizette and Stella make Saracen helmets



Wendy and Louise start the cutting work



Bling for the Bishops

Report by Lizette May

Upholder Events Calendar 2022-23

| Date | Event | Attendance |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Thursday 7 April 2022 | Installation Banquet Vintners' Hall | Liverymen, Freemen & Guests |
| Monday 25 April 2022 | History Society Church Crawl | Liverymen, Freemen & Yeomen |
| Monday 9 May 2022 | Summer Event Spencer House Tour + Lunch | Liverymen, Freemen, Yeomen & Guests |
| Friday 17 – Saturday 18 June 2022 | Becket Pageant & Craft Fair Guildhall | Public Event |
| Friday 24 June 2022 | Election of Sheriffs Guildhall followed by lunch | Liverymen only to vote, Liverymen & Guests lunch |
| Wednesday 29 June 2022 | Audit Court & Dinner Guildhall | Court only |
| Wednesday 13 July 2022 | Livery Prize Presentation London Metropolitan University | Liverymen & Freemen please support this event |
| Saturday 30 July 2022 | History Society London Walk | Liverymen, Freemen, Yeomen & Guests |

| Date | Event | Attendance |
|----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Thursday 19 January 2023 | January Court, Common Hall & Dinner Innholders' Hall | Liverymen, Freemen & Guests |
| Wednesday 15 February 2023 | Church Service St Michael's, Cornhill; Dinner at Armourers' Hall | Liverymen, Freemen & Guests |
| Wednesday 15 March 2023 | Master's Court Dinner Wax Chandlers' Hall | Court & partners/consorts only |
| Friday 24 March 2023 | United Guilds Service St Paul's followed by lunch | Liverymen & Guests |
| Thursday 20 April 2023 | Installation Banquet Saddlers' Hall | Liverymen, Freemen & Guests |

| Date | Event | Attendance |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| Thursday 8 – Friday 9 September 2022 | AMUSF Anniversary Celebrations | Liverymen, Freemen & Guests |
| Wednesday 14 September 2022 | September Court & Dinner Tallow Chandlers' | Liverymen, Freemen & Guests |
| Monday 19 September 2022 | New Members' Evening East India Club | New Liverymen & Freemen please support this event |
| Mid-End September (provisional) | Tour of the Somme Battlefields | Liverymen, Freemen & Guests |
| Sunday 25 September 2022 | Sheep Drive across Southwark Bridge | Public event |
| Thursday 29 September 2022 | Election of Lord Mayor Guildhall followed by lunch | Liverymen only to vote, Liverymen & Guests lunch |
| Wednesday 12 October 2022 | Upholders' Banquet Mansion House | Liverymen & Guests, Freemen |
| Saturday 12 November 2022 | Lord Mayor's Show | Public event with ticketed stands |

Upholder Events

City Events

Any alterations will be given in Upbraid and in the Members' area of the website.

With grateful thanks to all who contributed to this issue.

Photo credits this issue:-
Gerald Sharp
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