



Upholder News

The Marketing & Communications Committee
Newsletter Issue 8, Spring 2023

On behalf of the Master Jackie and the Marketing & Communications Committee welcome to another bumper edition of the Newsletter.

In this edition, we showcase some of the events that have been enjoyed by the Livery. In addition, the excellent presentation made to the Court at Common Hall in January by one of our first Fowlds Scholars, Libby Payne, showing that the Company continues to invest in the future.



A small working party has been set up by the Court to consider ways to make our dinners enjoyable and affordable without compromising on the fantastic quality of the food, wine, and entertainment. We are privileged to be able to dine in venues that are not open to the general public but we are, of course, subject to increased hire charges in order to use these facilities and that has to be reflected in the cost of tickets. However, if attendance for dinners increased then as a consequence the individual share of these “standing charges” would reduce helping to keep costs manageable. If you have any thoughts or suggestions on this topic we would like to hear from you, particularly from those of you who are not regular attendees.

Please contact Junior Warden Rob Ward at Robward106@aol.com

Congratulations to our Honorary Chaplain

Our Chaplain Caroline was installed as an Honorary Canon of Southwark Cathedral at a special Choral Evensong on Sunday 22nd January followed by tea at the Weston Library of the Cathedral. The



service was presided over by the Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark, and the Very Revd Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark Cathedral.

The congregation included her husband Sir Christopher Clarke, her three children and their spouses and four grandchildren as well as friends from Holy Trinity, Clapham and elsewhere.

Our congratulations to Caroline who was installed as our Chaplain in 2013

Creation of the Anointing Screen for the Coronation of King Charles III

Through our membership of the Livery Company Textile Group, we are delighted to announce that we will be participating in the making of a unique screen for the King's Coronation in May. This has been made possible by a donation from the Company together with additional pledges from Company benefactors.

We were fortunate enough to have Peter Baxendell, Upper Bailiff Weaver, as a guest at our dinner following the Church Service at Armourers' Hall in February. Here is what he had to say.

"Late last year, the Weavers together with the Textile Livery Group opened discussions with Buckingham Palace to see how best to support the Coronation. The response from the Palace was more significant than we had anticipated for they suggested that we assist with the creation of a new Screen for the Anointing Ceremony of King Charles.

A short explanation might now be in order: During the Coronation, before the Investiture and before the Crowning, the Archbishop anoints the Sovereign with holy oil on the hands, the breast, and the head. This is perhaps the most important part of the Coronation.

Right through the middle-ages until the seventeenth century, the ceremony of anointing confirmed that the sovereign was appointed directly by God. Although the monarch is no longer considered divine in the same way, the ceremony of anointing confirms the monarch as the Head of the Church of England.

During the Anointing Ceremony the sovereign is shielded from public view by a Screen.

The King has personally approved the design of this Screen. The details are top secret. No one apart from those people currently making it has seen it, however, it is likely to be the talking point of the Coronation.

Faced with a commission of such significance and importance, it was considered appropriate that participation should be extended to the whole Livery. So far 63 Companies, large and small, have agreed to be part of this great undertaking.

Thanks to contributions from these Companies, including the generous contribution from the Upholders, we have raised most of the monies required. Work continues, to bring more Companies on board to raise the balance. There will be total transparency as to money raised and costs incurred.

To commission the screen, the Drapers and Weavers created a project group which includes the Remembrancer, the Garter King of Arms, the Deputy Comptroller and livery representatives from the related trades required, notably the Broderers and the Carpenters.

The screen will consist of three panels which will be supported by soldiers from the Household Division. Each panel will be embroidered by the Royal School of Needlework at Hampton Court. They are hard at work as we speak. The poles for the frame will be turned from oak from Windsor Great Park and are currently being kiln dried. The eagle finials on the top of the poles are being cast and will be gilt with gold leaf.

The main fabric is made from Australian and New Zealand wool, spun, woven and dyed at AW Hainsworth in Leeds. All the remaining fabric will also be spun, woven, and finished in UK mills. We are hoping that the Screen will be handed over to Buckingham Palace just after Easter.

The Screen will officially be donated to the Royal Collection. It is hoped that it will be displayed in the Tower of London and ultimately in the Museum of London.

This will be one of very few new pieces created for the Coronation so will truly add to the Country's Heritage.

Finally, a forward communications plan is being developed to highlight how the Livery contributed to the Screen and the Coronation; and the wider work the Livery undertakes to support its associated trades, education, and training."

Peter Baxendell, Upper Bailiff Weaver

You may also be interested to note that the cloth for the screen has the following provenance:

- **Main fabric (maroon for body and slate for pelmet)**
 - Made from Australian and New Zealand wool, spun, woven, and dyed at AW Hainsworth in Leeds
- **Applique fabric**
 - Wool fabrics:
 - Spun in UK at Camira Fabrics Ltd (Huddersfield) and R Gledhill Ltd (Delph)
 - Woven at Camira Fabrics Ltd (Huddersfield) and John Spencer Textiles Ltd (Burnley) for Ian Mankin Ltd (Burnley).
 - Finished at Camira Fabrics Ltd (Huddersfield) and WT Johnson & Sons Ltd (Huddersfield)
 - Linen fabric
 - Woven at John Spencer Textiles Ltd (Burnley)
 - Finished at H&C Whitehead Ltd (Brighouse)
- **Embroidery** (for the Gold & Silver Wyre Drawers): There is gold and silver thread being used. These are made up of a gold or silver foil, wrapped around a cotton or silk thread core.

So, although not all the base fabrics have come from the UK, all the processes for the cloth are being conducted in the north of England.

We understand that a document will be produced listing all the Companies who have donated as well as the story behind the creation.

At the time of writing, confidentiality prevents us from sharing any further details or photographs of work in progress.

The Master's Summer Event to Spencer House

On 9th May 2022 one of the hottest days of the year, Master Jackie, more than 30 Upholders and their guests congregated outside Spencer House, arguably the finest Georgian house in London.



Built for the first Earl Spencer, the father of the celebrated Georgiana Cavendish Duchess of Devonshire, and an antecedent of Lady Diana Spencer. Originally designed by John Vardy with subsequent additions by John "Athenian" Stuart and Henry Holland, the House has been restored as far as possible to its original late eighteenth-century appearance.

The Spencer family last lived in the House in 1926 and subsequently let the building to a variety of tenants. As a result, the State Rooms were used as offices from the late 1920s until 1985, when the process of restoring the House began.

In recent years the house has undergone a substantial restoration by its current occupiers who are a financial services company that is owned the Rothschild family. Lord Jacob Rothschild taking a particular interest in the process.

All the principal rooms, some of which had been subdivided, were painstakingly restored and their missing original features, including the chimneypieces, doors, chair rails, skirting mouldings and architraves, were carefully copied from the originals which had been removed by the Spencer family to Althorp in 1942, at the height of the Blitz.

Working from paint scrapes and documentary evidence it was possible to determine the original allocation of colour and gilding in the state apartments and, therefore, to recreate accurate decoration of the principal rooms. The missing carved architectural detail, including the elaborate chimneypieces, was replicated by Dick Reid, the York-based master carver, and his team of craftsmen. The quality of their work rivals that produced in the eighteenth-century.



The magnificent Palm Room

The missing carved architectural detail, including the elaborate chimneypieces, was replicated by Dick Reid, the York-based master carver, and his team of craftsmen. The quality of their work rivals that produced in the eighteenth-century.

Following our guided tours, we made the short walk to Mark Masons Hall in nearby St. James's for an excellent lunch to cap a memorable day with the Master.

Report by Rob Ward

Bob Fowlds Scholar, Libby Payne



THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF UPHOLDERS THE UPHOLDERS' CHARITY

Members of the Court were delighted to welcome Bob Fowlds' Scholar, Libby Payne to the Court meeting in January to share with us her amazing year.



According to the Migration Advisory Committee, in 2020 employers of upholsterers reported shortages of talent largely due to a lengthy training period for new entrants. The employers verified, as I'm sure every upholsterer can, that the occupation is highly skilled and requires years of training. As I was told by my supervisor, an upholsterer has to be three things, the first, an upholsterer, obviously, but you then have to be a carpenter, with an understanding of French polishing and paintwork, and also a machinist. As a result, employers usually require experience of at least 3 years in a workshop. These facts reflected my own experiences within the trade and is precisely why the Scholarship I was lucky enough to receive is so valuable.

As a student of a grammar school in Buckinghamshire, I was encouraged by my teachers to pursue university. To paint you a picture, 17-year-old Libby was obsessed

with the band McFly, the best-looking boyband of the 2010s, would be regularly sent out of class for giggling too much and would come home covered in paint. I did not know what socks I would wear each day, let alone which career I would chase for the rest of my life. After attending countless university open days and being still none the wiser, my mum convinced me to complete an art foundation course at Oxford Brookes, with the hopes that would somehow clear my foggy mind.

At Oxford Brookes, after thoroughly enjoying textiles classes, I was diagnosed as a maker. During the same year, my mother was doing a short-term upholstery course with a local upholsterer. Her work caught my eye. She was reupholstering my grandparents' old dining chairs. Not only did the making side of upholstery appeal to me, but also the fact that these chairs would be given a new life and a part of my grandparents would be kept with us for years. I then attended several sessions of an upholstery summer school to complete my first ever sprung dining chair. It was the first of several horrendously garish painted chairs that to this day I continue to pretend do not exist. Despite this, I thoroughly enjoyed these sessions. I began to understand the importance of precision. It is much like the fairy-tale the Princess and the Pea - each layer needs to be executed well or it affects all those above it!

So, I eventually came to the realisation that this was what I wanted to make my career. But how to go about it? Well, for a person looking to become an upholsterer, there are a few routes. Perhaps the most

appealing option is to work within a workshop. The average starting salary is around £14,500 a year for a full-time worker. At the time, I was living with my parents, so in my case this would still feasibly allow me to be able to live. I did not however, take into account the lack of upholsterers willing to take on new trainees. Training an apprentice takes time and does not allow for instant financial rewards. After emailing every upholsterer within 40 miles of my house, one replied offering me a tour of the workshop. I was offered a one day a week contract, which unfortunately due to Covid eventually fizzled out. I then found the AMUSF, which led me to Gareth Rees and Greg Cuppitt Jones at the British School of Upholstered Furniture. The course is excellent and the teaching is far better than any I have received throughout my entire educational experience. But there was no funding. I had to put any plans to move out of my childhood home on hold and I was lucky that I had a family that has allowed me to do so.

I am currently one of two under 25s at the British School of Upholstered Furniture, which initially came as a surprise to me. It is not as though Gen Z don't enjoy crafts, I have seen countless knitted scarves, balaclavas and even powdered wigs for cats on TikTok. But it became even more clear as to why it was full of people, I would call real adults as the course went on. Excluding the course fees of £3,360, there is of course the cost of the fabric, which is usually a minimum of £30 per metre. Then there is the cost of tools, books for the written project, materials and the cost of frames. Fortunately during my second year, Gareth and Greg informed me of my eligibility for the Upholders' Charity Bob Fowlds Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship offered to contribute £1,800 towards the fees. The generosity of this benefaction was hugely motivating for me. It allowed me to comfortably complete the second year of the course, increasing my skills steadily

and growing my confidence. Feeling empowered enough to look for full time work, Greg recommended Asnew Upholstery & Design in Abingdon, which I managed to convince to give me a job.

The workshop was a very different experience to classes. Most glaringly the demographic. The AMUSF is largely women, the workshop was all men. Of these 8 men, 2 were aged 19 and 20. They were actually the company owner's son and son in law. I remember a conversation with my boss regarding their considerations about sending their son to do the AMUSF course in which he revealed that they had seriously considered it, but questioned whether it was worth it due to the cost, since he was already getting industry experience every day.

Labour is undeniably the greatest cost for an employer. For new entrants to the trade, workshop training revolves around modern upholstery, due to it being the least labour-intensive way of reupholstering furniture and thus more affordable for the customer. As a result, there is certainly a lack of traditional skills for young people entering the trade without the aid of a course. The original creation of the Worshipful Company of Upholders partially served as a method of preservation of the craft, through the training of apprentices to ensure high quality products. To me, this is precisely what the Scholarship is ensuring continues. I believe the AMUSF is currently the best institution for training of the craft. In a community where academia is pushed by the government and hand skills are evermore being neglected, the scholarship allows more students to attend the course. So, I would like to thank you so much for being a part of this institution and helping a McFly loving, giggly, paint covered girl to continue studying a craft that I enjoy so much.

I am filled with gratitude for what this scholarship has provided me with. Thank you.

Libby Payne

Welcome to Court Assistant Roger Wates, new Liverymen and Freeman

Court Assistant and Warden to the Trade Roger Wates

Following an upbringing in Surrey and school in South London I attended Stirling University where I developed a love of all things Scottish. After 3 years in Commercial Management with Marks & Spencer and a wonderful time in Peru doing voluntary work in 1985 I joined the family furnishing business E & A Wates with three shops established in Streatham in 1900.



I became a director in 1987 and then Joint Managing Director in 1990. We expanded our furniture restoration and soft furnishing work by purchasing a subsidiary company in Bermondsey in 1993 and exhibited at the Ideal Home Exhibition for 12 years and over 30 times at the Decorative fair in Battersea Park.

The company developed its interior design work and provided Commercial restoration work for embassies, galleries, museums, Government and corporates.

I closed the business in 2021. Outside of work I have had a long interest in youth work, travelling with my wife Sue and more recently qualifying as a London Guide. I joined the Upholders in 2019 being sponsored by Wendy Shorter-Blake and Richard Ranklin and the Court in 2022. I have served on the Trade & Education Committee becoming warden to the Trade in 2021. I am passionate about the trades that we support and enjoy playing my part in helping them flourish.

Liveryman Dr Sarah Cockbill

Sarah qualified as a pharmacist in 1970 and practiced as a registered pharmacist until 2019 when she retired from the Register of the General Pharmaceutical Council to focus on her current consulting activities.

She is experienced in the academic, community, hospital, veterinary and regulatory areas of the pharmacy profession. Knowledge of the pharmacology related to wide medicinal products prescribed for the treatment of both human and animal conditions has been a significant element of my professional activities.

Sarah has research expertise in wound management at a cellular level as well as the chemistry and mode of action behind the formulation of many of the materials applied and prepares Expert Witness medico-legal reports when requested so to do by relevant solicitors.



Master of the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales between October 2015 and March 2017 Sarah is now a member of the Phoenix Group of Past Masters as well as a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Upholders. Sarah's sponsors were Jackie Williams and Michael Tang.

Liveryman Rachael South



Rachael has worked in various roles within the furniture and textile industry for 25 years. Her father ran an upholstery business and her grandfather was a chair caner. This background together with her design training have enabled Rachael to set up a thriving upholstery business offering clients a professional and personal approach.

As well as modern and traditional upholstery she also specialises in seat weaving using traditional techniques and materials (cane, rush and Danish cord) for restoration work. She uses non-traditional materials such as leather and wire on antique and new hand-built frames. She has produced these pieces for exhibitions, commissions and collaborations with other designers and larger companies.

Rachael is a member of The Basket Makers Association and Heritage Crafts Association and her work is currently on display at The William Morris Gallery and the Museum of London. Rachael has also appeared on BBC's "The Repair Shop".

She began teaching upholstery at London Metropolitan University when Franco Marinelli was Course Leader, three years ago he passed the position on to Rachael and she hopes to continue to offer the high standard of upholstery training which the University is known for. Rachael wishes to thank her sponsors Malcolm Hopkins and Steve Gardner. It's a great honour to join the Company!

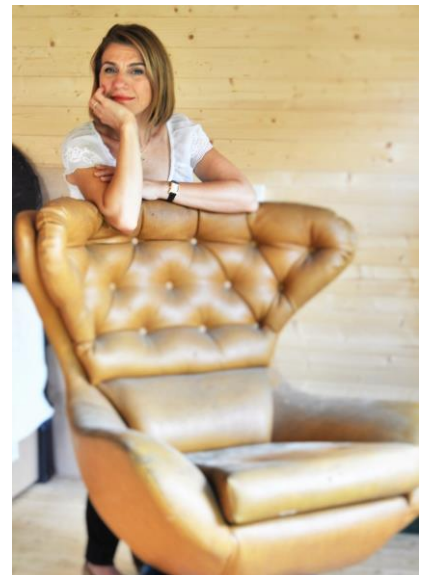
Liveryman Natalie McCurry

I would like to thank Wendy Shorter-Blake for nominating me and Malcolm Hopkins seconding the reference. I would like to also thank Steve Gardner in guiding me through the intricacies of the application.

Natalie started her career in upholstery after having children. This came about with a friend giving Natalie Wendy Shorter-Blake's business card and saying, "why don't you try this as you like sewing". In 2009 Natalie enrolled at Wendy's training centre to embark upon the Upholstery qualification.

After finishing both level 2 & 3, Wendy asked Natalie to teach an evening leisure class, which she found great fun and where she learnt a great deal, guiding students through the art of Upholstery as well as the moans of hands hurting with all the regulating.

In 2015 she embarked on the Soft Furnishing course. This was such a joy going back to her sewing routes which she has always loved. Natalie is full time at her own business, Butterfly Upholstery, enjoying using her skills to restore furniture to its former glory and dressing windows with curtains and blinds.



Freeman Jennifer Worth



Jennifer worked in Human Resources for a UK wide company of chartered surveyors, involved in all aspects of HR. She has travelled countrywide to major cities supervising the company's branches with their HR policies. Became a Member of the Guild of Freemen in 2005.

Jennifer spent her early childhood in Perth Western Australia and is now married to Freeman John Worth, with 2 children and 3 grandchildren. She is a keen golfer and tennis player.

Her sponsors to be members of the Upholders were Roger Wates and Steve Gardner.

Freeman Pam Lorraine

Pam trained as a teacher of House Craft working in schools and colleges of higher education throughout Hertfordshire. She then moved to a local agricultural college, teaching courses on a variety of home economic subjects to WI groups and other women's groups although there was a group of retired men who turned up once!

Pam then moved to the Youth Service where she organised meetings, exhibitions, and courses for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme in the St Albans' area.

Pam has two daughters, one a radiographer, while the other has just moved from being a dog handler in the Met Police to being a police diver based on the Thames at Wapping. Pam herself enjoys gardening, two walking groups, and her local history society group. Her sponsors were Jackie Williams and Basil Preuveneers.



Freeman Sam Samuel

Sam began his professional life 1989 serving with the Royal Navy for six years. Returning to London Sam entered housing management completing a HND in Social Housing, then private work for a Letting Agency for over ten years before launching Edward Ashdale November 2007.



Alongside business, Sam is Kent Regional Executive representative for Propertymark, the property industry's governing body. Commentating and providing material for mainstream media on property matters. Also, spokesman on council related matters representing local businesses.

Sam loves sport. He played rugby, football, and boxing at amateur and semi-professional level. Now plays 7 a-side football for fun and enjoys golf.

Introduced to The Upholders by Steve and Mauricia Gardner, and seconded by René De Silva JP, Sam says 'Membership of this Livery Company provides me with opportunities to contribute to the wider community, attend formal events similar to those experienced serving the navy. I have met some fabulous people in my short time as a Freeman'. Sam lives with his wife, daughter, niece and dogs in the village of Bexley, Kent.

Thank You from the Lord Mayor

5th December 2022

Dear Master,

Donation to The Lord Mayor's Appeal 2022

Thank you so much for the kind donation of £1,050 towards The Lord Mayor's Appeal 2022. I recognise that the Livery provide great support for The Lord Mayor and their Appeal year on year and your donation to our Appeal is very much appreciated.

The Lord Mayor's Appeal's strategic aim is to create A Better City for All that is inclusive, healthy, skilled, and fair. We deliver an impact in the City that transforms lives.

Our four flagship thought leadership initiatives have continued to offer excellent learning, development and engagement opportunities for employees across the Square Mile. The Power of Inclusion series breaks down societal and workplace barriers, This is Me is a pioneering mental health initiative, We Can Be empowers young women to see the City as a viable career option and City Giving Day is the one day in the year which enables businesses and employees to come together to celebrate and showcase their charitable and volunteering achievements.

In 2023 The Lord Mayor's Appeal renews its rolling programme of support for charities and from this year, as well as continuing support for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award and National Numeracy, we welcome on board our new charity partner MQ Mental Health Research. All three fantastic charities are experts at addressing the social issues we are striving to tackle across our pillars and together, we will deliver pioneering programmes for change.

In the UK, mental ill-health is the leading cause of sickness absence, costing employers approximately £2.4 billion each year with 70 million workdays lost. MQ Mental Health Research is the only UK charity that exclusively invests in mental health research. Their vision is for a world where mental health conditions are understood, effectively treated and, one day, prevented. With The Lord Mayor's Appeal funding they will initially build a research project around the emerging cost of living crisis and how we can combat its impact on mental health.

The Appeal will continue to be ambitious with the transformational impact we want to make in 2023 and beyond, continuing to strive for 'A Better City for All'.

With many thanks again.

Nicholas

Alderman Nicholas Lyons
The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor of the City of London

A Rare Find!

Honorary Assistant, J F Houston wrote the following to Past Master Michael Gilham some twelve years ago and since Michael has now discovered the print's origin he thought it time to put pen to paper.

Past Master Michael Gilham was fortunate indeed to acquire this historic print. It shows the full arms of the City of London along with the arms in simple form of some 92 Companies. They are shown in alphabetical order with the Great Twelve being numbered in the order of precedence.



Most of the company arms are quite beautifully coloured but perhaps eight or nine are either monochrome or only partly coloured. In some cases the arms shown are technically incorrect or different from the form used today. With the Upholders', the shield shows the usual three spervers but also shows a chevron containing three Tudor roses. In each case, the Company arms are illustrated without supporters, crest or motto.

Above each shield is shown the Company name and the monarch who granted their first charter: for the Upholders' it is Charles I. In a few cases, like the Woolmen, the words "by ancient Right" appear, and the Needlemakers have the appellation, one would hesitate to say distinction, of "O. Cromwell". The Porters and the Carmen are shown as deriving their authority from Common Council, the Barbers and

the Surgeons are shown as separate companies and the Glass-sellers appear as Glassmakers. The short address of the Hall is given beneath the shield as appropriate.

It is sobering to observe that eleven Companies, namely the Combmakers, Fishermen, Hatband Makers, Longbow Stringers, Pinmakers, Porters, Soap Makers, Starch Masters, Silkmen, Silk Throwers, and Wood Mongers have since either become extinct or merged so losing their distinct identities.

In looking at the 92 Companies, they appear to fall into five broad groups:-

- With hall and livery
 - With livery but without hall
 - Non-livery companies, such as the Parish Clerks
 - Without hall or livery
 - Those doomed to extinction or merger
- With group e) being a sub-set of group d).

The print has been shown to those rather more expert in these matters and they date approximately to the mid-1700s. It is engraved and the colouring has been done by hand. Originally, it could certainly have formed part of a book, the title and author, as yet, unknown, as is the name of the engraver.

John F Houston, Past Honorary Archivist.



Since John wrote this article, I have discovered that the two panels come from the sides of an 18th century print of the County of Middlesex, showing the coats of arms of the existing Livery Companies of the City of London. The fact that number 24 is printed in the corner, suggests that it came from a large book of maps.

Recently, on visiting the Wax Chandlers' Hall, hung in their ground floor reception room, I came across a framed print of the same issue map complete with its side panels showing it as page number 24, as does mine. Beneath the map section is stated:-

“Printed for John Bowles, Cornhill and Carrington Bowles of St Paul’s Churchyard by Robert Sayer of Fleet Street.”

Wikipedia states:-

“Robert Sayer (1725-1794) was a leading publisher and seller of prints, maps and maritime charts in Georgian Britain, he was based near the Golden Buck on 53 Fleet Street.”

Past Master Michael Gilham

The History Society’s Church Crawl

After meeting at the plaque which commemorates where the Upholders’ livery hall stood before its destruction by the Great Fire, 25 stalwart Upholders and guests enjoyed more of a stroll than a crawl around five Wren churches, a tower, and a church site. The event was led by Fr Luke Miller, Archdeacon of London, whose encyclopaedic knowledge of the City and its churches is only matched by his enthusiasm and his ability to make the past come to life.

After viewing the outside of the tower which is all that remains of St Mary Somerset, we were taken around the inside of St James Garlickhythe and St Michael Paternoster Royal. A short detour via the London Stone to the site of the church of St Swithin, which is now a very pleasant garden, was followed by a longer visit to St Mary Aldermary. At this point, the stroll devolved into more of a crawl as we approached St Benet’s Welsh Church. Sadly the vicar was unavailable at the last moment, so we took the opportunity to stop and apply liberal quantities of joint salve and foot powder before the last stage of our journey to St Martin’s Ludgate. From there it was (literally) downhill all the way to the rectory next to St Andrews-by-the-Wardrobe.



The Tower of St Mary Somerset

Fr Luke and his wife Jacqui laid on a veritable banquet of food and drink, enough for even the trenchermen of the Worshipful Company of Upholders to cry “enough!” We are very grateful to Luke and Jacqui for their outstanding hospitality and for making this event one of the most memorable and enjoyable of the History Society’s calendar.



St James Garlickhythe

Report by Steve Gardner

The History Society's Visit to the Fan Museum

On a cold and wet November afternoon, thirteen hardy Upholders defied the elements to assemble for a guided tour of the Fan Museum in Greenwich. On entry, our coats were whisked away to drip discreetly somewhere, while H       Alexander gave us an informative introduction to the museum she started over thirty years ago.

Then it was over to Mary for a guided tour of the downstairs exhibits. We were introduced to a selection of fans, from Elizabethan times, through 18th century Chinese fans to more modern novelty fans. It was fascinating to learn of how the purpose of fans has changed over the years, from message carrying to ceremonial, from creating a breeze to advertising, all reflecting changing social conditions.

The highlight of the tour was the display of fans in the upstairs exhibition area. Here, Ailsa the curator showed us stunningly beautiful examples of the fan-makers' art, using materials such as ivory – prepared until it was virtually transparent – and mother-of-pearl. This writer cannot remember before having seen a group of Upholders at a loss for words, the tour was worth it just for that.

Then, being Upholders, it was time for food, so we repaired to the in-house tea room for a most excellent repast. The suggestion however from one member that the food should be labelled “fan fare” received a mixed reception. Oh, well, so it goes.

All in the group agreed that the Fan Museum is really special and worthy of future visits.



Selection of fans given to dignitaries



Fans made from ivory



The group studies modern day fans



Pretty fans!

Report by Steve Gardner

Upholders Abroad

One of the advantages of being a Upholders liveryman is making lifelong friends. Gilly and I visited Past Master Peter Lawton (2007/2008) and his lovely wife Vera on Saturday 17th March 2023. Peter and Vera moved to Spain ten years ago and live in the hills above Marbella.

Their home has wonderful views down to the sea. We have been friends for 30 years and this has expanded as we both share common interests, including our love of Spain. This was our first visit to their luxurious home in Spain and we immediately understood the attraction of ... Life in the Sun. Not having the pressures of work makes lifestyle decisions so much easier. Peter plays a part in his local community as well as his Guadalmina Golf Club which has become the focal point for their friendships and sporting activities.

Here we are in March enjoying four days of blue sky and temperatures of 23 degrees centigrade, an attractive proposition.



Thank you, Peter and Vera, for your wonderful hospitality. *Tim and Gilly Solway, Past Master 2018/9*

With grateful thanks to all who contributed to this issue.

Photo credits this issue:- Marcus Jamieson-Pond Photography, Southwark Cathedral, Rob Ward, Christopher Hayman, Michael Gilham, Steve Gardner and Tim Solway.



The Worshipful Company of Upholders Events Calendar 2023-24

Thursday 20 April	Installation Dinner, Saddlers' Hall
Wednesday 28 June	Audit Court & Dinner, Guildhall
Thursday 6 July	Summer Event
Wednesday 20 September	September Court & Dinner, Haberdashers' Hall
Wednesday 18 October	Mansion House Banquet
Thursday 18 January	January Court & Dinner, Butchers' Hall
Wednesday 21 February	Church Service & Dinner, Armourers' Hall
Wednesday 20 March	Master's Court Dinner, Brewers' Hall