



THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY
OF UPHOLDERS

Upholders Charity Newsletter

Edition 1 - September 2023

Welcome to our first Charity Newsletter. These newsletters will be a regular feature to keep you up to date with the progress of your charitable donations. The charitable activities of the Company lie at the heart of the Company and the Trustees wish to share with you how your money is being spent and the difference it is making.



Christopher Hayman – Chairman Trustees

The new Upholders Charity has been established to incorporate the two existing Charitable Trusts; Peter Jackson and Neville Hayman Charitable Trusts. The objectives of our new Upholders Charity have been widened, rewritten and updated. Our new Charity Trust is called The Upholders Charity.

It is vital that we build our Charity funds over the coming years. The trustees will be writing to all Upholders to encourage you to either increase your existing donation or for those of you who do not currently donate, to start doing so. It is important that we continue to provide help and assistance where it is needed. A full review of our Charity activities during 2023 will be detailed in our next issue.

The Upholders Charity has been fortunate to receive a substantial gift from the Fowlds family which has allowed us to introduce bursaries to Upholstery Students covering up to 50% of their course fees. This has given the selected students opportunities to study upholstery that they may not have otherwise had. We continue to give support to our pensioners annually, we support Fine Cell Work and the Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund, together with a number of other causes.

The trustees are determined to grow our capital fund so that The Upholders Charity can increase our giving. The Master's and Junior Wardens Thames Walk took place in September 2023, this will help raise vital sums for our giving. Many thanks to those many Upholders who have supported this latest fundraising initiative. Some money raised from the Masters walk will go to the Fowld Bursary Fund and Fine Cell work. We will be writing about the Masters Charity Thames Walk in our next issue of the Upholders Charity newsletter.

We are always looking for innovative ideas for fundraising so please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the Trustees, who would be delighted to talk with you in more detail. Our contact details can be found in the Upholders' Livery List that is circulated each year.

I send you my very best wishes.

- Christopher Hayman

The Master –

May I welcome you all to this new Upholders Charity Newsletter. We hope this will help you understand the many charitable events we support both now and in the future.

Having been involved within the Upholders' company for over 30 years and having spent my whole career in the upholstery industry, I have had the privilege and pleasure of seeing the benefits of our sponsorship in education and training of students entering our industries, recognising outstanding achievements in craft skills and more recently offering bursaries of financial support in both training and, through the Usher Travel Bursary, for travel for the purpose of research. We should also not forget Fine Cell Work helping those to return to full-time employment and a place in society.

During the pandemic, the Upholders Company contributed towards the Livery Kitchen Initiative, providing meals and refreshments to those on the front line.

These are just a few of the many charitable activities the Company are involved in. I am sure you will read more about this here and future issues.

As for my year as Master, it gives me great pleasure to announce our new Charity initiative, The Masters' charitable event as proposed by our new Junior Warden, Roger Wates. I hope to establish this as an annual event, with each successive Master choosing his/her own project. This year, with the great assistance of Roger Wates and a team of walkers, we have completed a 132 mile sponsored walk along the banks of the Thames in the footsteps of William Morris.



*Roger Wates – Kirsty Kennedy – Master
The Metropolitan University Upholder Awards*

The walk took place during September, starting at Kelmscott Manor, Gloucestershire and finishing, some days later at Kelmscott House in Hammersmith.

We hope to raise a generous amount which will be shared between the charities of the Master's choice and the Upholders Charity. I hope you will support this event as you have done in many previous fundraising events.

May I take this opportunity to thank you all for the continuing support and ask you to continue to make an annual donation, allowing our charitable team to maintain the momentum of supporting both Individuals and organisations.

Malcolm Hopkins FAMU – Master

Jackie Williams - The Immediate Past Master

During her year as Master, Jackie supported two City fund raising charitable events; the Sheriffs' Ball and the Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch.



Jackie Williams - Past Master

The Sheriffs' Ball is held in September, every year, in the Great Hall of the Guildhall. It is hosted by the incumbent sheriffs, who on this occasion were Alderman Alison Gowman and Alderman Nicholas Lyons. All funds raised go to the Lord Mayor's Appeal which strives to find solutions to London's most pressing societal issues by supporting 4 charities, The Duke of Edinburgh's Awards, Place 2Be, OnSide and the Samaritans. The Master and her Consort Keith attended, together with the Senior Warden, Malcolm Hopkins and his Consort Jean, David Johnson and Sarah Cockbill. The evening started with a champagne reception and was followed by a delicious three course meal accompanied by complementary wines. Dinner was followed by live music and dancing. It is not yet known how much the ball raised, but it is likely to be more than £100,000.00.

In March 2023, a group of 11 Upholders, including the Master, participated in the Lord Mayors Big Curry Lunch. The proceeds of the lunch are not yet known, but in the previous year the event raised £315,000, all of which was donated to the Armed Forces charities to support the Pain Management Programme. Some 1200 people, spread over three sittings attend the lunch. The event started with a glass of fizz and was followed by lunch in the Great Hall. Lunch was a buffet with participants being served their curries of choice, all washed down with plenty of wine, beer or soft drinks. The curries were suitably spicy and delicious. A good time was had by all.

The Role Of A Trustee

I am often asked "what does a trustee do?" The short answer is that they have overall control of a Charity and are responsible for making sure it does what it was set up to do.

What the Charity does is determined by its governing document. In the case of the Upholders Charity that document is the Articles of Association. How it does it is the responsibility of the trustees. In addition to the Articles, trustees must ensure that they comply with Charity law as well as other laws that apply to the Charity.

Trustees must also ensure that they keep good records and file accounts and an annual return within statutory time limits.

So what is the purpose of the Upholders Charity? It is to support those in both the Upholstery and Funeral trades through the provision of scholarships, bursaries and prizes as well as those who find themselves in need. The Charity will also support other charitable causes with an emphasis on the City of London.

The trustees believe that no other Charity exists to specifically support the upholstery trade and that if we want to help our trade survive and thrive it needs the support of those who can do so.

The Charity does not exist in isolation, it was founded by the Worshipful Company of Upholders and all the trustees are members of the Court. Historically trustees have not been subject to time limits for their term in office. Best practice now is that time limits are appropriate, and the Upholders Charity has adopted a five-year term before re-election which may be renewed for a further term of five years after which the trustee must step down.

*Upholders Award Winners 2023 together with the Master and Rachael South, Liveryman and Course Tutor
London Metropolitan University*



One of the requirements of Charity law is that trustees shall have relevant skills and while there will still be a requirement that trustees must be members of the Company, trustees will not necessarily be members of the Court or Past Masters.

The Upholders Charity was incorporated in 2019 but its origins date back to the 1720s because it has incorporated two existing charities: The Peter Jackson Charity and the Neville Hayman Chairty. To date, much of the focus of the trustees has been spent on compliance matters relating to the transfer of assets from the existing charities to the Upholders Charity and manging the assets of the Charity to generate income.

The emphasis now is on growing the assets of the Charity by encouraging more liverymen and freemen to give to the Charity, to devise and promote events so that the wider public can give and to encourage legacy giving.

Anthony Demby – Master 2019 to 2020



Julian Squire - Past Master

Livery - a lifetime commitment - or longer!

Becoming a Liveryman is a serious commitment, at our installation we each swear a solemn oath of allegiance for life. There are few such modern equals, a Livery Company is not a social club. Membership is not transient, to come and go as takes our fancy or convenience.

The Royal Charter under which each Livery Company is founded establishes a structure of governance that offers particular long-term privileges. Traditions and historic precedents hold society together and provide a sense of continuity and stability as the world evolves at an ever increasing pace. Anyone witnessing the recent coronation will have sensed the gravitas of the ancient ritual. The fact that so many Livery Companies have endured for so long is evidence of their valued contribution over the ages, as was displayed in the anointing screen at Westminster Abbey.

But with special privileges come greater responsibilities and a heightened duty of care, not just for ourselves and today, but for others who follow us in the longer term.

The FTSE 100 index of top commercial enterprises was launched in 1984; of the 100 companies in the original list only 28 still survive as quoted businesses in any form. Compare and contrast this with Livery Companies, where 500 years plus is not an uncommon age! This stability is both remarkable and reassuring for the future, provide we recognise our ancestors selfless investment in making what we enjoy and value today.

By swearing lifetime allegiance, Liverymen commit to helping the long-term prospects of their Company - to enable it to flourish and continue to support its trade, the City and it's charitable objects. But Livery Companies endure for much longer than an individual, and any Liveryman, should they so wish, can extend their support and contribution for a longer timeframe than a single life.

The Emlyn Society offers a way for Liverymen to leave a legacy to the Company and to sustain its future work. If you would like to know more about the Society and how you could help long term then please speak to any member of the Court, or email Julian Squire, Procurator Emlyn, on juliansquire@btinternet.com.

Julian Squire – Past Master – 2010 to 2011

Master - Malcolm Hopkins FAMU - E-mail : master@upholders.co.uk

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