

JACKIE WILLIAMS, MASTER 2022-23

An extraordinary and unforgettable year!

When I was installed as Master in April, I could never have envisaged what lay before me. The hope was that Covid was finally under control and that after two long years we would return to our normal lives. The gods had other plans!

My term as Master started as expected, with my Installation at the Court meeting at Vintners' Hall in April. Afterwards, with no Covid restrictions in place, we were able to gather to enjoy a delicious meal. The entertainment was provided by Lizzie Holmes and Kieran Rayner who entertained us with Gilbert and Sullivan songs.



The Master at her Installation Dinner accompanied by her consort and son

Unfortunately, I was struck down with Covid four days later, a present from the Installation dinner but I recovered in time to attend a wonderful concert of Indian music at Mercers Hall.

May brought the Masters' Summer event, the tour of Spencer House followed by lunch at Mark Masons' Hall. In June, Keith and I attended the Masters' weekend hosted by the Cutlers' of

Hallamshire in Sheffield. This provided a chance to visit the sights and to mix with the Masters of the other Livery Companies as well as the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs . A little later that month, on what was probably the hottest day of the year, I attended the play written especially for the Beckett Pageant, and visited the Upholders' Stall in Guildhall Yard. July brought a wonderful concert in the Guildhall, entitled "The Queen and the Commonwealth" which celebrated the Queen's role as head of the Commonwealth. I also had the privilege of presenting the Upholders' awards to the students of London Met.

Never could I have imagined that in September the Queen would pass away. It was a time of great sadness, and the nation mourned a remarkable woman who had shown us the true meaning of Service. As a sign of respect to the Queen, the decision was taken to delay the September dinner to October, although the Court meeting went ahead as planned. The election of the Lord Mayor, which I attended, carried on as scheduled later in the month, as did the Sheriffs' Ball which a number of Upholders attended.



Sheep Drive, Southwark Bridge - September 2022

Having, rather disappointingly, been supplanted by a Government dinner at the Mansion House, a new location was found at Merchant Taylors' Hall for the annual Banquet, thanks to our Clerk, Rosemary. It was a wonderful evening with almost as much pomp and circumstance as we would have had at the Mansion House.



The Sheriffs' Ball, Guildhall - September 2022

As always in the Livery world, November was a busy month. My consort, Keith, attended the Lady Mayoress's Coffee Morning, and I represented the Upholders at the Garden of Remembrance service in St.Paul's Churchyard and at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Lord Mayor and his role

with the City Livery Company, held at St.Stephen, Walbrook. There was also the Service of Remembrance at St.Paul's on Remembrance Sunday. The second half of the month brought the Installation of the new Lord Mayor, Alderman Nicholas Lyons. I was privileged to be invited to the Silent Ceremony and to be part of the Honour Guard which forms for the Lord Mayor's return to the Mansion House after the Lord Mayor's Show . In December, Keith and I attended the Castle Baynard Ward Club carol service and we finally had our September Court dinner, having been rescheduled twice.

January brought the New Year Remembrance Service at St.Michael, Cornhill where the choir were magnificent. History was made at the January Court meeting when I had the pleasure of clothing three liverymen, Ridade Stardust, Rachael South, and Natalie McCurry. It was the first time that three women had been clothed at a Court meeting. What is even more extraordinary is that every new liveryman from January 2021 has been female.

In February, I attended lectures organised by the Worshipful Company of Educators and the Worshipful Company of Horners and we had our annual church service at St.Michael, Cornhill followed by dinner at Armourers' Hall. In March, Keith and I attended the Lord Mayor's dinner at the Mansion House where all Masters and their consorts were invited to participate, and the United Guilds' Service at St.Paul's Cathedral. I also attended the Master Certificate Awards at the Mansion House where Jeremy Field OBE and Gareth Rees were presented with their Master Certificates which recognise their outstanding contribution to their relative fields. My final event was lunch with Sheriff Andrew Marsden and the judges at the Old Bailey.

In addition to the formal Company events, we had four lunches at Ironmongers' Hall for Upholders and an evening with Hugh Bonneville at Cadogan Hall . A small group of Upholders also attended the St.Ceciliatide Concert at Stationers' Hall, and the Big Curry Lunch.



The Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch, March 2023

During the year, we continued to push forward with the Funeral Directors' Initiative which I initiated before becoming Master, with the aim of attracting more funeral directors to the Company. It is now beginning to bear fruit and will continue for the foreseeable future.

What were the highlights of my term? It is hard to choose but I particularly enjoyed processing for the election of the Sheriffs and Lord Mayor at the Guildhall, the wonderful church services and the Upholders' Banquet in October.

I am extremely grateful for the support I received during my term, from our Clerk Rosemary, our livery in general, our anonymous donors, and from my consort Keith. It was an unforgettable year.

I now look forward to continuing to support the Company as it moves onwards and upwards.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the 25th Edition of Upbraid.

Our last edition reflected on the Immediate Past Master's term from 2020-22, with her predecessor also serving for an extended 'year' between 2019-20. We now celebrate what was much more of a 'business as usual' year for Jackie Williams, our 638th Master. This included a calendar of events with many highlights recalled in these pages. We also mourned the passing of Liverymen - and welcomed newer Liverymen to the Upholders family.

We hope you enjoy looking back with Jackie at her busy and rewarding year, also taking a glimpse at the year ahead for Malcolm Hopkins.

As ever, thank you to those who contributed to this Upbraid. If you have articles or ideas for our next edition then please send these to simon.thorp@simonthorp.co.uk. We will assume you give permission for your item to be edited and published unless you indicate otherwise.

Upbraid 25 will be published in digital format on our website, www.upholders.co.uk.

Simon Thorp, Editor of Upbraid and Webmaster

THE HONORARY CHAPLAIN

"A cold coming we had of it..." The opening words of T S Eliot's beautiful poem, The Journey of the Magi, in which he imagines the journey taken by the 'wise men from the east' about whom Matthew writes in his version of the birth story of Jesus. The church traditionally remembers that event on January 6th, 'Twelfth Night', as the Feast of the Epiphany. Part of its significance for us is the recognition that the birth of Jesus was for all people, not just the people of Israel.

Matthew continues the story by telling us that the holy family had to flee Bethlehem to escape the arrival of the soldiers sent by King Herod to kill all the children there and the surrounding area who were 2 years old or under. Herod had been visited by the wise men as they came looking for 'he that is born king of the Jews', and he wanted to ensure this child did not grow up to threaten his or his sons' hold on power.

This year the annual remembrance of the horror of that massacre had the poignancy of the current-day murders of Jewish children by Hamas in October, and of the death of so many Palestinian children in Gaza since then. The celebration of Christmas 2023 in Bethlehem was a very subdued festival, and for many of us the darkness of the conflict in the middle east, and the ongoing war in Ukraine, casts a dark shadow over the start of this new year.

Last year in Upbraid I quoted from the opening Prologue of John's Gospel, that 'the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.' That sentence is the one in the Bible that always gives me hope. John's Gospel doesn't tell a nativity story like Matthew or Luke – he writes

about the Word that God spoke in creation, bringing life and light – the light that cannot be overcome by darkness – the Word that ‘became flesh and lived among us’. However devastating the news may be, there is always light – it can be seen in the acts of kindness between individuals, and by organised aid agencies, and in generosity by those of us who can contribute to the charities that provide support in places of conflict, poverty and hunger.

The light shines, too, in the darkness of prisons where the charities our Livery has supported (The Clink and Fine Cell Work) do such good work. May we all, with God’s help, do what we can to keep the light shining in dark places throughout this year.

Canon Caroline Clarke
Hon Chaplain

CLERK’S CHATTER

This was a year unlike any other. In September 2022, the nation mourned the death of a monarch, Elizabeth II, who had reigned for over seventy years, and prepared for the crowning of a new King, Charles III, in May 2023. Neither of which the Master was expecting.

Much has been written about the Queen’s Life of Service, and to live a life for others, giving so much to so many has been truly remarkable. There are many similarities between the monarchy and the Livery Companies. Both go back hundreds of years, both are steeped in tradition, and both give a huge amount to charitable causes and education. The Upholders have continued with this tradition by donating to The Lord Mayor’s Charity, the Red Cross Ukraine Appeal, the London Air Ambulance and many others during the year and awarding seven Fowlds bursaries to AMUSF upholstery students and financially rewarding intermediate and advanced upholstery students at London Metropolitan University.

The Master’s Year has been both full and enjoyable. As we saw things slowly get back to some sort of normality following the Covid 19 pandemic, I have enjoyed accompanying the Master to a number of Livery dinners and events and I am privileged to have had access to so many beautiful and ancient buildings. The year was not without its disruptions however largely due to the many train strikes that played havoc with several events.

The Master’s initiative to host small intimate lunches at Ironmongers’ Hall was a great success with many being over-subscribed. These lunches offer the perfect opportunity for Members to get to know other Members a little better than at the more formal dinners.

There are several Liverymen that I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting and I sincerely hope that this will change over the coming year, and I much look forward to meeting you over the coming months. To those whom I have met, thank you for your continued guidance and support.

Rosemary Selfe
Clerk to the Worshipful Company of Upholders

THE IMMEDIATE PAST MASTER

During my term as Master, it was to be expected that my events would be disrupted by Covid, but no one could have foreseen the disruption that the train strikes and the cancellation of the banquet at Mansion House would cause to Jackie's events.

However, despite this, Jackie Williams has steered us through the challenges.

She continued to support and consolidate the existing governance of the Company. She has continued to improve and strengthen our links with the funeral directors and continues to lead the Membership Committee in recruiting more Liverymen to the Company. She supported our traditional trades by attending our demonstration stands at the Becket Pageant and the Wool Fair. She also continues to support and organise the various events for the History Society forging even greater links with our members and their guests.

All of this has seen our Company prosper during these difficult times.

Wendy Shorter-Blake MBE, Master 2020-22

THE MASTER ELECT

As I look forward to my year as Master, what an exciting prospect lies ahead with a full Livery programme back up to speed after Covid 19, and the biggest event in seventy years - the Coronation.

It is my aim to raise the profile of the Upholders' Company when attending Livery and non-Livery events, for example at training centres, to take away the many misconceptions of the Livery, by promoting our many activities in education, training and charitable involvements across a wide spectrum. I am in the process of organising the Master's Summer Event, a trip on a pleasure boat down the Thames, and the Upholders will once again be attending and demonstrating at the Wool Fair. We will also be supporting the Lord Mayor's Red Cross Christmas Fair in November.

As I look back over the last two years that Jackie and I have worked together as Junior Warden and later as her Senior Warden, it has given me much pleasure, from the outset, to work with Jackie, each having admiration and respect for our individual skill sets, helping each other during her year as Master and in preparation for my own.

I hope to follow in her footsteps once I myself become Master. Throughout her year Jackie has passed on her experience, relevant information and guidance needed for my year ahead. I am extremely grateful to her.

I look forward to seeing you all with your guests at the Upholders' dinners and future social events.

Malcolm Hopkins FAMU, Master Elect

THE MASTER'S SUMMER EVENT - SPENCER HOUSE AND LUNCH



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

It was 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 by 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.

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.

Rob Ward

HISTORY SOCIETY - 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 Aldermay. 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, Ludgate. From there it was (literally) downhill all the way to the rectory next to St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe. 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.

Steve Gardner

THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE

In March, a group of 14 Upholders and guests had a tour of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane led by two actors from the theatre. It was both interesting and entertaining. The site has been in constant use as a playhouse since 1663. The current theatre was built in 1812. It is here, in the 17th century, where Nell Gwynne first caught the eye of Charles II. In the 20th century the theatre hosted a number of iconic premieres, including *My Fair Lady* and *Cavalcade*. During the tour we learned about the history of the theatre, scandal and the stars who have performed there.

The tour was followed by lunch at The Wellington pub on the Strand, with the event making a small profit.

THE FAN MUSEUM - 'UPHOLDERS' FAN CLUB'



Fans made from ivory

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 Hélène 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.



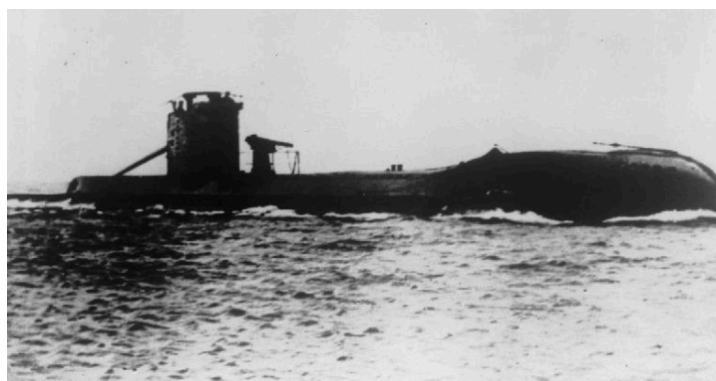
The highlight of the tour was the display of fans in the upstairs exhibition area. Here, Ailsa the curator showed us stunningly beautiful examples of the fan-makers' art, using materials such as ivory – prepared until it was virtually transparent – and mother-of-pearl. This writer cannot remember before 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.

Steve Gardner

NAVAL LINKS - FROM THE ARCHIVES - HMS UPHOLDER



HMS Upholder was the most successful British submarine of the Second World War.

Launched in July 1940 she spent her entire career in the Mediterranean, based in Malta from where she completed twenty-four patrols during which she sank fourteen, mainly Italian, ships totalling some 97,000 tons.

Throughout her career she was commanded by Lieutenant-Commander David Wanklyn who was awarded the Victoria Cross while commanding her on a patrol in May 1941.

She left Malta for her final patrol on 6th April 1942, following which she was due to return to England. However, this was a patrol from which she did not return. The reason for her demise, with the loss of all her crew, is not known, nor where she was sunk, but it is now thought that she was blown up by a mine.

In August 1942 the Admiralty paid tribute to Upholder and her crew in a communique which stated "Such was the standard of skill and daring set by Lt.Cdr. Wanklyn and the officers and men under him that they and their ship became an inspiration not only to their own flotilla, but to the Fleet of which it was a part and to Malta, where for so long HMS Upholder was based".

Dr Keith C Williams
BSc(Econ) MA PhD DipM CDipAF

WELCOME TO NEWER LIVERYMEN



Sarah Cockbill

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

I am 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.

I have 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. I prepare Expert Witness medico-legal reports when requested to do so by relevant solicitors.

I was Master of the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales between October 2015 and March 2017 and am now a member of the Phoenix Group of Past Masters as well as a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Upholders



Ridade Stardust

I am Ridade Al-Daghestani, commonly known as Ridade Stardust. I originate from Circassia, known to its people as Adyghey. It is located in the North-West Caucasus region. Circassians aren't Russians, Slavic or Eastern European. They have their own unique culture, dating back more than 10,000 years.

Born in Jordan, I am an artist. I studied different branches of art, in several different countries, before completing my BA(Hons.) and MA in the United Kingdom. I am married to Peter Rees, a Liveryman and Swordbearer of the Worshipful Company of Marketors. I was given the Freedom of the City in December 2022. I wore my Circassian national dress and hat, which I designed. My sponsors were Steve Gardner and Past Master of the Upholders Jackie Williams. I became a Liveryman earlier this year.

I take great interest in British history, culture and way of life. I greatly enjoy being a member of the Upholders. I am continually learning about the traditions of the Livery and the City of London.



Rachael South

I have worked in various roles within the furniture and textile industry for 25 years. My father ran an upholstery business and my grandfather was a chair caner. This background and my design training have enabled me to set up a thriving upholstery business offering clients a professional and personal approach.

As well as modern and traditional upholstery I also specialise in seat weaving. I use traditional techniques and materials (cane, rush and Danish cord) for restoration work. I also use non-traditional materials such as leather and wire on antique and new hand built frames. I have produced these pieces for exhibitions, commissions and collaborations with other designers and larger companies. I am a member of The Basket Makers Association and Heritage Crafts Association and my work is currently on display at The William Morris Gallery and the Museum of London. I have also appeared on BBC 1 "The Repair Shop".

I began teaching Upholstery at London Metropolitan University when Franco Marinelli was Course Leader, three years ago he passed the position on to me and I hope to continue to offer the high standard of Upholstery training which the University is known for. Thank you to my sponsors Steve Gardner and Malcolm Hopkins and for sponsoring me to become a member of the Worshipful Company of Upholders. It's a great honour to join you!



Natalie McCurry

Hi, I am Natalie McCurry and I have just become a Liveryman. 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.

I started my career in Upholstery after having my children. This came about with a friend giving me Wendy Shorter-Blake's business card and saying, "why don't you try this as you like sewing". In 2009 I enrolled at Wendy's training centre to embark upon the Upholstery qualification. After finishing both level 2 & 3, Wendy asked if I would like to teach an evening leisure class, which was great fun and I learnt a lot guiding students through the art of Upholstery as well as the moans of hands hurting with all the regulating. In 2015 I embarked on the Soft Furnishing course. This was such a joy going back to my sewing roots which I have always loved, and under the tutoring of Trish, it all became a lot clearer.

I am full time at my own business, Butterfly Upholstery, and enjoy using my skills to restore furniture to its former glory and dressing windows with curtains and blinds.

OBITUARIES

Joseph Charles Felix B Byllam-Barnes

Joe was our Company Treasurer from 1985 for twenty-five years. He was Chairman of both the Finance Committee and the Past Master's Committee and he set up the Warden to the Trade Committee. He was installed as Master in April 1993 at Goldsmiths' Hall.

He was introduced and proposed by the late Past Master, Neville Hayman and Past Master Hugh Taylor was his seconder. Hugh always recalls the occasion he first met Joe – Joe enquired about the tie that Hugh was wearing. An Upholder tie that started a new chapter in Joe's life!

Joe was a highly respected character in the City becoming a Common Councillor, a member of The Castle Baynard Ward Club, The Farringdon Ward Club, The Ward of Cheap Club, The Guild of Freemen, The Royal Society of St George and The City Livery Club. He was also a member of the Fletchers' Company and the International Bankers'. Joe made sure the Upholders were well represented in the City and we pulled above our weight at City events. Joe also had a close relationship with the City of London School in Ashted. He expanded the number of Upholder prizes and gave an award of his own.

He was a great stalwart of the Company. His advice to the Court, both as a long serving Treasurer and Member of the Court, was always very wise and his words always carefully listened to. He was very much a City traditionalist and exhibited a strong sense of history of both the Company and the City.

Joe enjoyed a distinguished City career with Barclays Bank, which he joined in 1945, eventually rising to the position of Head Office Inspector. The Upholders' Dinner following the Church Service was, for many years, held at Joe's Bank's banqueting facilities before moving to the Armourers' and Brasiers' Hall.

Following retirement, Joe spent his time reading and studying theology, walking and sitting on a committee reconstructing the Brighton Atlantic Beach Head Locomotive in Sheffield Park, Sussex. He also had a great love for music and opera, current affairs and travel. He was Oblate of Quarr Abbey on the Isle of Wight.

Joe died on 6 th April 2022. The Company has much to be grateful to Joe for and he is much missed by many of us. The Master and a number of Upholders attended his funeral which was well attended by family and friends. His wife, Maureen, was a marvellous support to Joe throughout the years and contributed greatly to the Company. Our thoughts and prayers are with Maureen.

This eulogy was given by Past Master Christopher Hayman at the Court Meeting held on 29 June 2022. Following this, Past Master Jim Kelly recounted some amusing anecdotes into Joe's life. Jim shared many happy memories of a life well lived.

Past Master Christopher Hayman

Alan Robert Aldous

Sadly Alan Robert Aldous, one of our retired Court Members and creator of our website in the early 1990s, passed away peacefully at his home on 23rd June 2022.

Alan was born on 25th August 1939, he was married to Patricia, known to most as Penny. For many years he lived in Beckenham Place Park and was a friend of John Darby and Derek Austin. He was Chairman of Aldous & Stamp Ltd, a water treatment consultancy and chemicals supplier. He was admitted to the Livery 28/1/1987 and joined the Court on 25/9/97, however he chose not to progress to Master, becoming an Honorary Assistant. He was one of the intrepid Liverymen who participated in the Kent Safari Supper of 1997.

Richard Nevard recalls: Alan wrote the whole of our original website by hand in HTML and included Featherbedds and Flockbedds. It must have been a mammoth task, a labour of love and made the Upholders one of the first Liveries to have our own website. I recall his huge personal ownership of our website which he reluctantly passed on in the early days of WYSIWYG. I think he rather thought it was cheating. These days WordPress does all the programming for us so it is a simple drag and drop. For those interested in programming his version of F&F still exists behind our website however the original HTML is not compatible with our current website. He encouraged Simon Potts, his nephew, to join the company.

His passing was marked at the beginning of the Audit Court meeting in June, Christopher Hayman commented "Sad news, Alan was a very keen tennis player".

John Quentin Eyre (Jack) Springman

Jack graduated from Exeter University in 1984, worked in London and Hong Kong before going to INSEAD in 1988. He worked as a management consultant and published articles and books up until he died. Jack became a Liveryman in April 1985. He is survived by his wife Philippa, their son Oliver and their daughter Clara.

Nico Springman

Geoffrey Savage

Geoffrey was married to Lesley and they both lived in the Barbican - he lived in London for most of his life. An intelligent, thoughtful and kind man. He was a Chartered Accountant, His first post was working for HMRC. It is from there he moved to Courage Brewers and following their takeover spent the rest of his career working close to where he lived - for Whitbread Brewing in Chiswell Street.

Geoffrey's retirement gave him the opportunity to further extend his interest in the City of London. Geoffrey had been a member of the Cripplegate Ward Club for many years and served as their Master during the year of 2019. He met a number of Upholders at the Cripplegate Ward Club and this led him to our Worshipful Company. He first attended the Upholders for the installation of Judy Tayler-Smith in April 2017.

I had the pleasure of meeting Geoffrey for the first time with Stephen Tanner on 21 June 2017 as he wanted to know more about our Company. Stephen and I went on to become Geoffrey's sponsors. He became a full Liveryman on 18 January 2018 at the January Court Dinner held at Brewers Hall - Judy Tayler-Smith was Master at the time.

Geoffrey and Lesley were enthusiastic supporters of our Company and he will be sadly missed by us all.

Past Master Tim Solway

Derek David Torr

Derek became a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries in 1963 and was Chief Actuary for the Ecclesiastical and the Save & Prosper insurance offices. In his later career he became an actuarial consultant and also lectured in actuarial science at York University.

He enjoyed sailing, walking, cycling and property renovation; he had two daughters and a son, six grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Due to ill health and distance from London he was sorry not to have taken a more active part in the Livery in later life but had always considered it an honour to have been an Upholder.

He died on 23 October 2021.

Clive Brian Roffe

Clive Roffe was born in 1935 in Harley St. He has sadly died in Norwich aged 87.

His parents were Nettie Roffe (ne Levy) and Phillip Roffe . Clive had an older brother, Malcolm. Clive grew up in Brighton. He had a clear memory of watching bombs fall from German aircraft onto the town as a small boy although earlier he had been evacuated to Salisbury.

Clive was clever but not a natural academic. His beloved brother Malcolm went to Oxford and then law but Clive was set for a commercial and business career. With a modest sum to start out before long Clive was prospering in the cloth and fabric trade. CBR Fabrics, Shanklin Dying with factories in Brighton, Bradford and London. When he was 30 he launched a public company called Jersey Mills.

He was an interesting man with many interests. He played table tennis to international standards, he was a long serving Lavender Hill magistrate and had an amazing breadth of life experience. He led a dazzling life in London and would be seen at Ascot and Henley. He met Princess Diana and was invited to the palace. He had a flat in New York on Park Ave in the same building as Woody Allen. He became a Lloyds Underwriter and in 1999 he was installed as Master of the Worshipful Company of Upholders in the City of London at the Bevis Marks Synagogue. Clive brought values of dignity and integrity to all of his roles,

Old photographs show what an elegant couple he and his first wife Jackie made. They had two daughters Danielle and Natasha of whom he was immensely proud. Danielle, a theatrical voice coach, is married to Yair and lives in Australia. Clive was also proud of their sons, Gem 12 and Zen 10. His younger daughter Natasha, is a therapist who works with children, lives in London and has a lovely partner Tim. There were many dogs and many parties and lovely holidays and always yachts and boats in a family that loved sailing. Family seders with invitations to all are a fond memory for Danielle and Natasha. Clive was a great driving enthusiast and usually had a Bentley or a Range Rover and the girls recall many long drives to ski resorts all over Europe with great fondness. In Norwich he would be seen driving his old Mercedes all over the place until only a few weeks ago although it became increasingly difficult to actually see him as he had shrunk below the dashboard and it looked as if the old car was driving itself. It has outlived him as he predicted it would.

Clive had a life of mixed fortune and at times his life certainly took surprising turns. He had a commercial property business which he was running right up until his final illness with an office in Beccles. There were adventures in Russia where he went to buy a gold mine and he travelled to the Arctic circle and Uzbekistan. He was a strong supporter of the State of Israel and the Labour friends of Israel. He travelled to Israel shortly after the 6 day war and family legend is that Clive was a Mossad agent. Undoubtedly he had something of a James Bond like character even in old age with his sharp wit and delightful dress sense.

In Norwich Clive was married for a second time to Michelle and a step father to Kate and to Matthew and they lived in a gorgeous house in Reedham in the Norfolk Broads. He served as

President of the Norwich Hebrew Congregation and was elected Representative to the Board of Deputies. His 70th birthday party was certainly memorable when the waiters turned out to be operatic singers in disguise who suddenly burst into song. Then to the lovely old house in the Cathedral Close where they had many friends and parties. When this marriage came to an end Clive relocated to a smaller house round the corner in the Close and continued to enjoy the company of his friends and neighbours and the Strangers Club and The Norwich Club embracing a simpler spiritual humanist way of life that allowed him to live with gratitude and grace a' day at a time ' as he would say. He understood faith and the importance of interfaith and he will be missed by his friends not only at the Norwich Synagogue, where he was the last Honorary Officer to possess a top hat, but also in the Cathedral Community.

Many will know of the story of the Norwich medieval bones found in a well during the construction of a shopping centre first revealed to the world in a BBC documentary. It was Clive who was to meet the county archaeologists and it was Clive who realised the great significance of this discovery and who was so dogged in his intention to have the bones reburied in the Norwich Jewish Cemetery. The bones were subsequently the subject of further analysis published in 2022 and Clive was so delighted just a few weeks before he died to find how DNA science had proved what he had always believed, and which was such a vindication for his determination to give the remains a Jewish burial.

Clive, a good and kind man, died at the end of Hanukkah when we lit all of the candles. Clive was a light unto the lives of all who knew him.

William Edward (Bill) Fry 8 September 1947 - 13 January 2023

I knew Bill for about 40 years. His family company, Clarke and Strong, Coventry, have manufactured all kinds of items that are required for the funeral profession from coffin linings to coffin handles since 1839. They have supplied my firm, Leverton & Sons Funeral Directors, for many, many years.

Bill also had a great passion for motorcycling and in his youth won the under 21 European Motocross Championship whilst riding for the factory Husqvarna team and then carried on within motorcycling for many years at national level and then continued to sponsor up and coming racers until such time that his son, Darren, carried on in his motorcycling footsteps and also joined in the family business.

His father, Bill Fry Senior, led the recovery and identification team of many of the poor children in the Aberfan disaster. His Grandfather, Gilbert Fry, saw action in the First World War with the Warwickshire Regiment and during the battle for Serre on the Somme was left for dead for six days until rescued. Gilbert was one of very few to survive the battle. Subsequently, Bill took a keen interest in the war and became an official guide. He was planning a trip for the Upholders to the Somme when he was taken ill in France and unfortunately, never fully recovered.

Because of the link between the Funeral Profession and the Company I was very pleased to sponsor Bill and he was elected on 15th January 2013. He attended many functions and took over from me as Almoner in September 2019.

He had a wicked sense of humour and was a most interesting and generous gentleman. He had a great love for his dogs and his family, and he will be greatly missed. Our thoughts are with his wife, Chris, his daughter Jane and his sons, Darren, and Mark as well as his wider family.

Liveryman Clive Leverton

UPHOLDING OUR TRADE

Annual Master Certificate Award Scheme, Monday 27 March 2023

In March 2023 upholsterer, Gareth Rees and funeral director, Jeremy Field OBE, were awarded a Master Certificate at Mansion House. The Master Certificate Scheme celebrates excellence, encourages career progression and recognises the very highest levels of skill and experience. It is a partnership between City & Guilds and participating Livery Companies. Award certificates are presented by the Lord Mayor at a formal annual ceremony at Mansion House. Gareth was nominated by Liveryman Kirsty Lockwood and Jeremy by Court Assistant Paul King.

Gareth Rees had worked and trained in various workshops in England and Wales before setting up his own company in 2005. Experienced in all aspects of upholstery, from commercial production to high end traditional restoration, Gareth worked predominantly for the trade for dealers, interior designers, collectors, private clients, embassies and museums.

Gareth is a member of the Association of Master Upholsterers and Soft Furnishers and the Guild of traditional upholsterers. He is also the Vice Chairman of the Guild.

Gareth was interviewed about his award shortly after the presentation ceremony (the full interview can be found on the Worshipful Company of Upholders website), and said "Being acknowledged by a group of my peers, having them recognise the value of my work and its impact on others, brings me immense joy. They believed I was deserving of this recognition, and that means a lot".

Jeremy Field joined the family company of Funeral Directors CPJ Field in 2005. In 2008 he completed the NAFD Diploma and became Managing Director. He helped expand the company from 25 to 40 Funeral Homes growing the family's reputation for excellence. Elected to the Executive of the NAFD in 2010 representing member companies at meetings with Government Ministers and the All Party Parliamentary Group on Funerals and Bereavement.

President of the NAFD in 2016/17 and throughout the COVID pandemic worked closely across Government departments to keep funerals happening in a sympathetic and safe way for the benefit of grieving people and public health. Received an OBE in 2020 for services to the funeral industry.



Annual Livery Fair, Southwark Bridge, Sunday 25 September 2022

The annual Sheep Drive & Livery Fair is a long-established charity event, celebrating a Freeman's ancient "right" to bring sheep to market over the Thames, toll free. The event raises funds for The Woolmen Charity and The Lord Mayor's Appeal. In 2022 it was held on Sunday 25th September on historic Southwark Bridge, with various Livery companies and specialist wool companies setting up stalls on either side of the bridge.

The Worshipful Company of Upholders were situated on the North side of the river among other Livery companies. This was our first display properly showing the Funeral Profession as Liveryman Marian Sinclair displayed a fabulous model of a Motorcycle Hearse with Sidecar which attracted much attention and

quizzical enquiries. 'Perfect for a sheep' was heard more than once! Together with superb examples of traditional upholstery materials and stitching provided by Liveryman Kirsty Lockwood, and Roy's famous Upholder's leather covered studded board we had everything to entertain and educate.

Kate Humble was the celebrity guest who joined the Lord Mayor of London, The Right Honourable Vincent Keaveney in leading the herding of the sheep across the bridge.



The footfall through the fair in 2022 was significant, at times forcing a retreat into the gazebo to allow people to pass. There was much interest in the stall from all ages including the young. There was also interest from people looking for an upholsterer, allowing us to point them to their closest professional using the AMUSF directory.

The Becket Pageant, Friday 17 June and Saturday 18 June 2022

A wondrous display of pageantry and theatre took place in the City of London on Friday 17th and Saturday 18th of June.

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 took place at Guildhall Yard in the middle of June 2022. Two members of the Worshipful Company of Upholders, Past Master Wendy Shorter-Blake and new liveryman Lizette May volunteered to join the Becket Costume Group of keen sewing bees to create some of the colourful array of costumes that were worn by 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 a 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 has 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 were transformed into a mesmerising 12th century world in the streets of the City for the Becket Pageant.



The Pageant was a tremendous success and well supported by Liverymen. Liveryman Greg Cupitt-Jones and Freeman Hannah Weston-Smith both demonstrated our trade in upholstery and many spectators gathered to see the craft of the upholsterer.

Awards transform Careers

Presenting awards is a joyful task and 'saying a few words' can enhance a positive celebratory evening. The evening of July 13th 2022 was no exception where at the London Met University our Master Upholder Jackie Williams presented six prizes for the intermediate and advanced students and David Johnson presented three to the first year students. These awards of up to £500 are for excellence within the year group of students who are undertaking the 3 year AMSUF Diploma course. Awards are also given by commercial sponsors Heico and Hille.

Here is some feedback from award winners which demonstrates the value of being recognised for their wonderful work and how the award money makes such a difference to their potential careers:

'I can't thank them enough to be honest, it was a real honour to be selected for second prize, and has given me a confidence boost for moving forward with my upholstery after finishing the course' Kate Egan

'.....Thank you for the generous prize money, which I am going to use to buy an industrial sewing machine.' Kirsty Kennedy
'Your recognition of my work has given me the confidence to continue my studies and I am also hoping to set up my own upholstery business. The biggest barrier to setting up a business is being able to buy the equipment needed to work for yourself and your help in this regard is invaluable. Thank you' Helen Sheran

A short summary of the few words given by our Warden to the Trade:

- Aim High: Obtain proper experience outside of the training centre by working for professional upholstery companies who are often short staffed and have plentiful work.
- Join the AMUSF and enjoy their many trade benefits and support the organisation that has provided their course.
- Become familiar with the Upholders' Livery and join up when you can. It is great to be in the City of London Livery which has embraced upholsterers going back to 1360. The Livery supports the Master Certificate Scheme which acknowledges excellence at all levels.
- Don't give up. A fulfilling career awaits you which embraces practical skills, the history and development of furniture, artistic flair and the fabulous sense of fulfilment experienced when clients are truly satisfied with your work.

The evening finished with a drinks reception and the opportunity to mingle all the students, discuss their course and their futures. Thanks as always to Liveryman Rachael South who is course leader and organises the two days of inspection undertaken by Senior Warden Malcolm Hopkins and Warden to the Trade Roger Wates and the excellent Awards Evening.



Left to right: Advance Level Stage 3 Kate Egan receives her award from the Master; Margaret Johnson Award Stage 1 Helen Sheran & Laura McIntosh receive their award from David Johnson; Intermediate Stage 2 Winners Helen Sheran, Kirsty Kennedy & Anna Yates; Advance Level Stage 3 Winners Sophie Howlett, Kate Egan and Dunia Tigris Gensler.

Contributors: Roger Wates, Warden to the Trade, Kirsty Lockwood, Lizette May.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS 2022-23

Master - Mrs Jackie Williams
Senior Warden - Malcolm Hopkins FAMU
Junior Warden - Rob Ward
Warden to the Trade - Roger Wates

Clerk - Mrs Rosemary Selfe

Father of the Company - G Trevor
Almoner - R Theobald FAMU
Chaplain - Rev'd Canon Caroline Clarke

Committees and Chairs 2022-23

Charity - C Hayman
Finance - Hon Treasurer - M Tang
History Society - Mrs J Williams
Investment - A Lofts
Marketing and Communication - R Ward
Master and Wardens - Master
Membership - S Gardner
Past Masters - C Hayman
Trade and Education - Warden to the Trade - R Wates

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MASTER AND COURT 2023-24



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023-24

Date	Event	Attendance
Thursday 20 April 2023	Installation Banquet Saddlers' Hall	Liverymen, Freemen & Guests
Tuesday 16 May 2023	History Society Guided Walk	Liverymen, Freemen & Yeomen
Monday 26 June 2023	Election of Sheriffs Guildhall followed by lunch	Liverymen only to vote, Liverymen & Guests lunch
Wednesday 28 June 2023	Audit Court & Dinner Guildhall	Court only
Wednesday 5 July 2023	Livery Prize Presentation London Metropolitan University	Liverymen, & Freemen please support this event
Thursday 6 July 2023	Master's Summer Event	Liverymen, Freemen, Yeomen & Guests

Date	Event	Attendance
Monday 11 September 2023	New Members' Evening East India Club	New Liverymen & Freemen please support this event
Wednesday 20 September 2023	September Court & Dinner Haberdashers' Hall	Liverymen, Freemen & Guests
Sunday 24 September 2023	Sheep Drive & Livery Fair Southwark Bridge	Public Event
Friday 29 September 2023	Election of Lord Mayor Guildhall Followed by lunch	Liverymen only to vote, Liverymen & Guests lunch
Wednesday 18 October 2023	Upholders' Banquet Mansion House	Liverymen & Guests, Freemen

Date	Event	Attendance
Saturday 11 November 2023	Lord Mayor's Show	Public event with ticketed stands
Thursday 18 January 2024	January Court, Common Hall & Lunch Butchers' Hall	Liverymen, Freemen & Guests
Wednesday 21 February 2024	Church Service St Michael's, Cornhill, Dinner at Armourers' Hall	Liverymen, Freemen & Guests
Friday 15 March 2024	United Guilds' Service St Paul's followed by lunch	Liverymen & Guests
Wednesday 20 March 2024	Master's Court Dinner Brewers' Hall	Court & Partners/ Consorts only
Wednesday 17 April 2024	Installation Banquet Apothecaries' Hall	Liverymen, Freemen & Guests

The Upholders' Company Events 2024/25

Date	Event	Attendance
Wednesday 17 April 24	Installation Banquet, Apothecaries' Hall	Liverymen, Freemen & Guests
Wednesday 15 May 24	History Society Visit to Hatfield House	Liverymen, Freemen & Yeomen
Wednesday 26 June 24	Audit Court, Guildhall	Court Only
Thursday 11 July 24	The Master's Summer Event, The Globe Theatre	Liverymen, Freemen, Yeomen & Guests
Wednesday 18 September 24	September Court & Dinner, Barber Surgeons' Hall	Liverymen, Freemen & Guests
Wednesday 25 September 24	History Society Visit to the Brand Museum	Liverymen, Freemen & Yeomen
Tuesday 22 October 24	Upholders' Banquet, Mansion House	Liverymen, Freemen & Guests
Thursday 16 January 25	January Court & Dinner, Watermen's Hall	Liverymen, Freemen & Guests
Wednesday 19 February 25	Church Service & Dinner, St Michael's Cornhill and Armourers' Hall	Liverymen, Freemen & Guests
Wednesday 19 March 25	Master's Court Dinner, The Oriental Club	Court Only