



Update

News from the Livery Company to the Trade

Issue 3 - February 2025



Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the latest edition of Update, created by the Trade & Education Committee of the Livery Company.

It isn't always obvious to some what a Livery Company is and does, so this issue will seek to address that and also explain the role of the Trade and Education Committee.

We will also find out about the latest awards given at the January Furniture Show and the Bob Fowlds Bursary that the Upholders award each year.

This newsletter is a way that we can inform people about the work that the Trade & Education committee does for the benefit of the trade. You might know that the Upholders also includes the profession of Funeral Directors and we hope to have more information about that side of our membership in future issues.

An exciting event is happening this October, a Festival of Upholstery, aimed at those in the upholstery trade but welcome to all. There is more information in this issue and more will follow as plans progress.

If you have any questions or a topic of interest that you think would be perfect for Update, please do get in touch with us via Rosemary our Clerk at clerk@upholders.co.uk.

Kirsty Lockwood
(the one on the right)

Editor of Update

Please pass this newsletter onto your colleagues and encourage them to sign up to the distribution list by emailing upholderstande@gmail.com

Livery Companies and the Trade & Education Committee

A livery company is a guild that originated in London during the medieval period. They are named for the distinctive clothing and regalia, or livery, that members wore to distinguish themselves from other guilds.

How they originated:

- Livery companies originated as guilds in the 14th century.
- They were responsible for apprenticeships, regulating their trades, quality of materials, wages and labour conditions.
- They were also closely associated with religious activities.

What they do today:

- Livery companies support trade, education, charity, and fellowship.
- Most livery companies continue to have a professional role within their representative trades.
- Play an important role in civic responsibilities in the City of London.
- Others have become charitable organizations.
- Collectively are the 6th largest giver to charity in the UK donating around £80m annually.

Some livery companies are only open to members of the particular trade they represent. The Worshipful Company of Upholders is an 'Open Livery' meaning that we welcome any trade or profession, and we are especially known as "The Friendly Company".

The Trade & Education Committee has 6 purposes:

- 1.To oversee and maintain links with upholstery, soft furnishings and funeral director trades.
- 2.To identify, monitor and promote standards and qualifications within those trades.
- 3.To liaise with the various trade associations and training centres in the support of existing practitioners and students of those trades.
- 4.To promote the trades within the City of London and the various Livery Companies.
- 5.To identify companies or individuals within the trade who may be interested in joining the livery.
- 6.To promote and recommend members of the trade suitable to receive prizes, bursaries or other awards offered by the Company

Master Certificate Scheme

Each year the Worshipful Company of Upholders formally acknowledges outstanding individuals who have developed their skills throughout their career, in one of three levels; Craftsman, Journeyman and Master.

The Master Certificate Scheme celebrates excellence, encourages career progression and recognises the very highest levels of skill and experience. The scheme is a partnership between City & Guilds and the participating Livery Companies and is organised by the Construction Liveries Group.



Master Certificate
Paul King
Funeral Director

Recipients of all three levels of award must go through a rigorous application process. They are nominated first, then must complete a CV, portfolio evidencing their standard of skill, references and a personal statement.

The whole of the above is assessed by a panel of professional representatives from the Worshipful Company of Upholders.

Successful applicants are notified by the Warden to the Trade.

Award certificates will be presented by the Lord Mayor at a formal ceremony at the Guildhall in March



Journeyman Certificate
Delyth Fetherston-Dilke
Upholsterer



Craftsman Certificate
Emmaline McConnell
Upholsterer

The Bob Fowlds Bursary

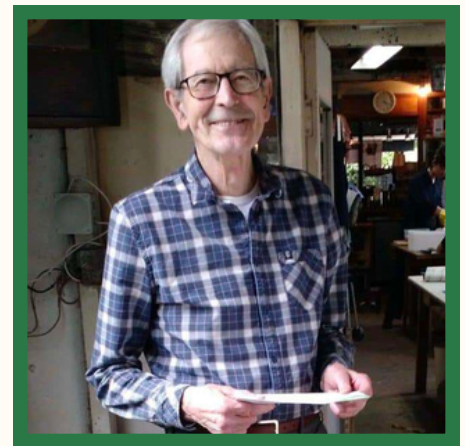
The Upholders Charity was fortunate to receive a substantial gift from the Fowlds family following the passing of Bob Fowlds, which has allowed them to award bursaries to upholstery students, covering up to 50% of their course fees. This has given the students selected opportunities to study upholstery that they may not have otherwise had.

The bursaries are for adults and students aged between 16 and 24 years in financial need who are studying for an AMUSF qualification. The bursary covers up to 50% of the cost of one stage of the AMUSF upholstery diploma qualification.

Applications for the Bob Fowlds Bursary must be received between the 1st February 2025 and 31st May 2025.

The application form and more information can be found on the [Upholders.co.uk website](https://upholders.co.uk)

You can find out more about Bob Fowlds and A. V. Fowlds & Sons at the [British and Irish Furniture Makers Online](https://www.britishtofurnituremakers.com)



If you have any questions about the scheme or the application form, please email the Clerk at clerk@upholders.co.uk.

Newsletter Content

The Trade and Education Committee are always looking for interesting content to include in our Update and newsletters. If you have a story to share please contact clerk@upholders.co.uk

The Upholders National Upholstery Awards

At the January Furniture Show NEC 19th -23rd January 2025



1st Place Amy Hales



2nd Place Karen Arnold



3rd Place Helen Walker

Last month we attended the January Furniture Show at the NEC in Birmingham. This was a great opportunity to promote the work of the Upholders Company and to showcase students' work and that of the Frederick Parker Collection.

This four day event started on Sunday with the presentation of the second annual Worshipful Company of Upholders' National Upholstery Awards. Students from the AMUSF training centres who had achieved a distinction for both their modern and traditional Stage 3 Diploma pieces were eligible.

Six training centres nominated students: British School of Upholstery, St. Albans Upholstery School, Cornhill Courses, South West Upholstery School, Traditional Upholstery Workshop and Bristol Upholstery Collective,

Their chairs were exhibited and then judged by Senior Warden Roger Wates and Past Master Malcolm Hopkins.

First prize went to Amy Hales of St. Albans Upholstery School who won £500

Second prize went to Karon Arnold of Cornhill Courses who won £300

Third Prize went to Helen Walker of South West Upholstery School who won £200

The judges were so impressed with the quality of all the work on display, but made particular mention of Amy's modern chair, which they could not fault anywhere.

The students then had the opportunity to talk to members of the Livery Company and other exhibitors about their work with many positive comments being made like "it is lovely to see work of quality amongst some of the lesser quality on display in parts of the show".

Wendy Shorter-Blake MBE. Past Master

The Upholders National Upholstery Awards At the January Furniture Show NEC 19th -23rd January 2025

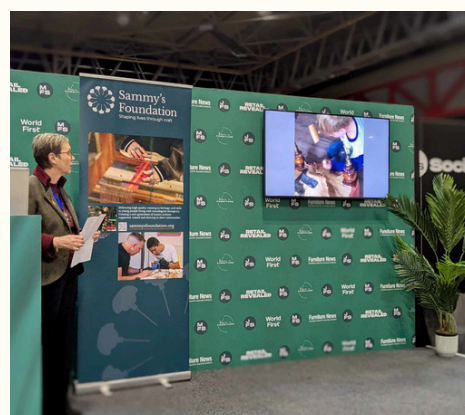


Candidates with the judges: Kate Morris, Karen Arnold, Immediate Past Master Malcom Hopkins, Amy Hales, Helen Walker, Melissa Key, Chrissie Pether, Senior Warden Roger Wates. (Ruth Moppett not present)

We also had the opportunity to promote Patricia Alban's new charity, Sammy's Foundation. The charity was set up in memory of Patricia's son, Sammy, who sadly died in 2020. Sammy found working with his hands invigorating, satisfying and calming. demonstrating a focus, dedication and expertise that was extraordinary. Sammy's Foundation is dedicated to teaching skilled, technical crafts to young adults with complex neurological conditions, giving them valuable careers and providing the interior design sector and related markets with a wider choice of artisanal craft products and specialist bespoke craft services. Following the launch of the charity just before Christmas, we raised a further £300 for this worthwhile cause.



You can find more about the charity's work
or to make a donation via the website:
<https://sammysfoundation.org/>



Wendy Shorter-Blake presenting
about Sammy's Foundation