



The Worshipful Company of Upholders

Corporate
Membership





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About the Upholders

The Upholders' Company is one of the ancient Livery Companies of the City of London.

The Company was formed on 1st March 1360 and incorporated by a Royal Charter granted by King Charles I in 1626. The milestone of this 400th anniversary is being celebrated with an ambitious Circle of Life art textile project.

The term "Upholder" is an ancient word for "upholsterer" and was commonly used until the 19th Century. Historically, Upholders carried out the manufacture and sale of upholstered goods and were also soft furnishers, cabinet makers, auctioneers and undertakers.

We are an "open" Company, which means that membership is not restricted to those from our trades. Many of our members are from differing professions which adds to the variety and interest of our Livery. All members, potential members and their guests are always made to feel welcome, valued and included.



Front Cover: Egg chair upholstered by Sophie Mursellhead

- 1 Mansion House Banquet
- 2 Driving sheep over Southwark Bridge at the Livery Wool Fair
- 3 Past Lord Mayor Michael Mainelli at the Livery Wool Fair
- 4 Jean Hopkins, Roger Wates, Nina Walker, Stephen Tanner and Rob Ward at Festival of Upholstery at Sandhurst

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What the Upholders do: Trade & Education

As the Company has done over the centuries, The Worshipful Company of Upholders continues to promote the trades of upholstery, soft furnishings and funeral directing through training and education by granting numerous awards, certificates of excellence, prizes and bursaries that are given to encourage and foster the highest standards within our trades. We work with the leading trade bodies such as the Guild of Traditional Upholsterers and the National Association of Funeral Directors and support the Association of Master Upholsterers and Soft Furnishers Diploma Course, the new T Level Upholstery qualification and where possible apprenticeship opportunities.

In many cases these awards have been made possible by bequests including The Usher Travel Bursary designed to enable a once in a lifetime research opportunity for those in upholstery or funeral directing and more recently The Bob Fowlds Memorial Bursary that provides support for talented upholstery students experiencing financial challenges to enable their studies to continue.

- 1 Amy Hales 1st Prize at Upholders' National Upholstery Awards
- 2 Upholders fundraising event at Kelmscott Manor
- 3 Jeremy Field receives Master Certificate and Master Jackie Williams
- 4 Grace Ajifoh receives upholstery award from Warden to the Trade Kirsty Lockwood
- 5 Fundraising Abseil down the Lloyds of London Building*
- 6 The Abseiling Team*







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The Upholders' Charity

We support the Lord Mayor's Charity Appeal, the Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund, our Military Affiliates, and we subscribe to the Armed Forces Covenant. In addition, the Upholders are supportive of a number of charities including Fine Cell Work. We have given them over £12,000 since 2023 to support their rehabilitation work that enables prisoners to build fulfilling and crime free lives. Prisoners are trained in high quality skilled stitching work whilst in prison to improve mental health, hope and self-discipline. We also support Sammy's Foundation, a Charity delivering high quality training in heritage craft skills to young people living with neurological divergence.

We also support our pensioners and make awards from our Charity should our craftsmen or Liverymen be in financial distress.

Collectively the City of London Livery Companies give over £81 million to charitable causes.

- 1 Festival of Upholstery prize winner Katie Matthews receives Adjustable Bench from Barry & James Townsend (Townsend Systems)
- 2 Golden carriage at Lady Mayor's Show
- 3 Installation Dinner at Cutlers' Hall
- 4 Derek Austin Prize winners Michael Sentence and Melina Kachrimani at West Dean College with Master Roger Wates
- 5 Lunch in The Great Steward's Dining Room, Dumfries House during the Master's Summer Outing

* Photos by Niki Gorick photography Ltd.





Why join the Upholders' Company as a Corporate Member?

Membership will generate increased visibility for your company through Upholders' publications including social media, website presence and with the introduction of sponsoring opportunities.

Networking with likeminded people and companies.

As part of your company's charitable giving or social governance we provide compelling opportunities to support those in need often allied with our professions.

You will be invited to several dinners each year. These take place in some of the most spectacular and historic Livery Halls within the City of London. It is a privilege to dine in these fabulous venues and you will be able to treat some of your top team, important clients or close business colleagues and personal friends to these rare and special opportunities.

Each year you can join the Master's summer outing and several visits organised by our History Society to fascinating places.

Being an Upholder is great fun and offers an opportunity to give back to society and our associated communities.

The honour of being involved in a prestigious and historic Livery Company.

The more you learn about The City of London and London Livery Companies the more exciting and fulfilling Corporate Membership becomes.





Corporate Membership options

Full Corporate Membership

- ◆ Companies with a turnover exceeding £500,000
- ◆ Annual fee £3,000+VAT
- ◆ Plus £1,000 charitable donation

Benefits

- ◆ Three nominated representatives to be known as Corporate Freemen
- ◆ Six tickets to company events of your choice to be used by nominated persons
- ◆ Framed membership certificates
- ◆ Corporate Freemen badges

Term: Three years with a requirement for one year's notice

Affiliated Corporate Membership

- ◆ Companies with a turnover below £500,000
- ◆ Annual fee £1,000+VAT
- ◆ Plus £500 charitable donation

Benefits

- ◆ One nominated representative to be known as a Corporate Freeman
- ◆ Two tickets to company events of your choice to be used by nominated persons
- ◆ Framed membership certificate
- ◆ Corporate Freeman badge

Term: Three years with a requirement for one year's notice

Application and Admission Process

We hope that we have piqued your interest in joining our Company.

In the first instance please contact our Clerk Rosemary Selfe at: clerk@upholders.co.uk with your company name, address and contact details together with a named representative.

You can also call the Clerk on **01737 553962**.

Our admission process includes an interview with a member of the Court. The interview provides an opportunity to explain the aims of our Livery and to answer any questions that you may have.

Following this interview and at the next available Court Meeting the new Corporate Freemen will be presented to the Court.

A declaration will be read to them by the Clerk, the lead Corporate Freeman will be asked to confirm their Company's desire to become Corporate Members and they will be invited to sign the declaration. Badges and certificates will be presented by The Master, and they will be invited to attend the Court Dinner as guests of the Worshipful Company of Upholders.