



The Worshipful Company of
FAN MAKERS

THE FAN MAKER

Issue 36

Autumn 2025



**The Signing of the Armed
Forces Covenant**



Future Events

- 16th October – Selection Court Dinner**
Saddlers’ Hall 6:30pm

31st October – Volunteering Day at City Harvest
Acton 8.20am to 4pm

8th November – The Lord Mayor’s Show
Details will follow on the Events Page

20th November – City Briefing for Liverymen and Freemen
Guildhall 5.30pm
- 1st December – Christmas Carol Service**
St Vedast Church 6pm

9th December – Mansion House Banquet
Mansion House 6.30pm

29th January – Livery Committee New Members Social
Little Ship Club 6pm

12th February – Election Court Service and Dinner
St Vedast and Saddlers’ Hall 5.30pm

PLEASE SEE THE EVENTS PAGE ON THE MEMBERS WEBSITE FOR FULL EVENT INFORMATION



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The Master – Antony Robson
Foreign Warden – Dinesh Naidu
Free Warden – Christopher Turner

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Message from the Master



This year has been marked by a continued strengthening of our core values: tradition, fellowship, and charitable giving. I was particularly proud to preside over events that not only celebrated our heritage but also looked firmly to the future. Our Company Dinners and civic engagements were wonderfully supported and served as a testament to the enduring camaraderie that defines the Fan Makers.

On the Charitable front, we continue to expand our impact, supporting both longstanding causes and some new initiatives aligned with our values. I would like to thank the Poor Fund Charity Committee for their tireless work in ensuring our giving, makes such a meaningful difference.

Some particular highlights for me thus far, have been:

- The establishment of Rowing/Skerry and Angling Societies to add to the existing Shooting and Golfing Societies.
- Completion of the Company's Biodiversity Report, submitted 43rd out of 113 Livery Companies.
- Signing the Armed Services Covenant, 28th out of 113 Livery Companies.

- Establishing a new relationship with the King's Foundation, resulting in a very successful weekend workshop event at Highgrove, for attendees to partake in "A Beginners Course in the Art of Fan Making".
- Attending the naming Ceremony of HMS Glasgow, first of the First City Class Type 26 Frigates, under construction in Glasgow, by her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales accompanied by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

In my 2nd half year, I hope we will be able to present the Coronation Fan to Her Majesty The Queen.

My key areas of focus have been 'FANS':

F for FELLOWSHIP

- To meet many of you and your guests at our events during the year.
- Maintain the trust and visibility of the Fan Makers within the City by attending key events and receiving visiting Masters at our dinners.
- To assist our fellow members as they progress through the Livery.

A For ARTS

- As a Trustee of the Fan Makers' Poor Fund (Charity) assisting with the Heritage Craft Project, committed to developing the fan makers of the future. As a result of asking Kasia Howard to speak at the April Dinner, we have an exciting new relationship with Highgrove Traditional Crafts delivering courses through the King's Foundation.

N for NEW MEMBERS

- To welcome your guests, and at every opportunity encourage them to join our friendly and inclusive Livery.
- To ensure we have a broad range of activities ensuring there is something to interest everyone.

S for SUPPORT

- Continuing to support the Poor Fund and the 30 Charities it supports. Attending as many charity visits as I am able.
- Working collaboratively with the Court and Committees to support the excellent work they do.

I must extend my sincere thanks to the Wardens, whom I have endeavoured to pass on guidance for their approaching year as Master, the invaluable services and protocol advice from the Clerk, and the Court for their counsel and commitment, and to all members for their warm support.

Finally, please let us know if you would be interested in getting more involved with the Company. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved in its activities within the four key portfolios (Membership, Events, Communications, Retention and Progression), Carole Plant currently chairs the Livery Committee and would be happy to hear from you. We are especially looking for assistance with communications.

Antony Robson FRICS



The Clerk's Corner

The office has had a further facelift over the summer and we have more pictures and fans on the walls and the library books are back on display. The library book list is on the members section of the website under resources; if you would like to borrow a book or just come and visit the office, please let me know.

Members' Directory

If you need any help updating your details, adding a photograph, or sharing your contact details internally only with other Fan Makers, please let me know.



WhatsApp Group

Please join the WhatsApp group and encourage your partners to sign up too. This is not a general chat site, but a place to keep up to date with Company events.

Online Resources

Would you like to propose a new member, find out more about our committees, how we choose new Court Assistants or who you sat next to at the last dinner? This and more is all available within the members section of the website, under resources. Seating plans are usually uploaded by lunchtime on the day of dinners if you want a sneak preview.

Volunteers needed

I need your help to help keep the office looking neat and tidy. Can you spare a couple of hours to give the table and chairs a polish, dust surfaces and push the vacuum cleaner round? The day before dinners we prepare the place cards and menu booklets, for which help is always appreciated. On the day of dinners, it is very helpful to have someone who is able to arrive at the venue mid-afternoon to help check the room and meet and greet new members. Please let me know if you can assist with any of these tasks. Tea and biscuits are provided!

Claire Chitty

Meet Assistant HH Nick Cooke KC

I became a Fan Maker by an unusual route. When I transferred from my role as Recorder of Cardiff to the Old Bailey, I was advised that it was customary for a judge to join one of the City Livery Companies. I had no significant connection with any of them, and only a limited understanding of their purpose. That changed after a lunch with Past Master John Hughes. A dinner invitation followed—and I quickly realised the Fan Makers' Company was the perfect fit: ancient and traditional, yet friendly and never stuffy.



The strong R.A.F. association resonated deeply. My grandfather served with the Royal Flying Corps, and my father and three brothers with the R.A.F. during the Second World War. I only managed the R.A.F. section of the Combined Cadet Force, but even so, I felt a connection.

The Huguenot origins of the craft appealed to my sympathy for persecuted refugees—I am a trustee of a small charity that supports them. The Company's welcome of lawyers over the years was another draw. I've always been fascinated by historical links, and the father-and-son judges Sir Thomas and Sir Alfred Bucknill were likely both members. Sir Thomas served as Foreign and Free Warden in 1904–05 and remains famous for trying the Seddon poisoning case. Sir Alfred presided over inquiries into the losses of H.M.S. Thetis, Repulse, and Prince of Wales, as well as the 'Channel Dash'. With such a legacy, how could I choose elsewhere?

Judicial life can be lonely, and my time in London involved weekly commuting. I remain grateful for the companionship the Company offered. I do not join organisations I cannot support wholeheartedly, and I am delighted to have the opportunity to serve on the Court.

HH Nick Cooke KC
Autumn 2025

Fan Makers' Court



The Court is where the business of the company is governed, in a similar way to a Board, chaired by the Master and assisted by the Wardens, Assistants and Past Masters. It is formal but not stuffy and at times can be quite lively.

There are four Court meetings each year including a Selection Court in October to decide the next Master and other appointments, and an Election Court in February to elect those selected.

Most appointments are re-elected each year including The Beadle and Clerk. All Past Masters can also attend Court meetings but only the most recent seven have a right to vote. The Court is not usually open to Liverymen to attend.

As we replace the Master each year, there becomes a vacancy for a new Assistant from the Livery. Assistants undertake various committee roles and take around 13 years to reach the Chair.

The Court appoints Chairs of various committees who report at meetings for approvals by the Court. This makes business conduct at Court very efficient. It's a great place to see and hear what is going on, ask questions and suggest ideas.

Probably key is the General Purpose & Finance Committee which effectively manages day to day operations and makes recommendations to the Court. The Court appoints a Comptroller to oversee finances and audits, and a Curator for the Treasures: our fan collection, cloaks, tableware. We listen to reports about our Military affiliations, Livery Committee endeavours, sports and City functions.

New Liverymen are all declared in front of the Master and the Court and other official appointments. Clothing new Liverymen has to take place in the City, although we obtained dispensation from the Court of Aldermen to clothe HM The Queen at Clarence House last year.

Peter Dove

Fan of the Issue: Companions in the Countryside



A fan painted with an idyllic country scene might prolong the Summer. This fan is French and dates to the 1750s. It has carved ivory sticks with the lower section, known as the gorge, designed with garden implements and a musette, a type of bagpipe used in the 18th Century, and is painted in gilt at the front and in sky blue and gilt on the reverse. The leaf is painted with a suitor playing a lute for his charmed lover whose companion's attention is being diverted by another suitor: the left reserve is painted with a well-dressed young man offering an apple to a young woman, who seems to wonder if she should accept it, and the right reserve displays pastoral images such as sheep, a boy daydreaming, a boat on a lake and a peasant girl. The reverse painting is of a suitor entreating a rather unsure young woman with her companion in the countryside.

For most of the second half of the 18th Century there was a school of thought advocating going back to nature and the 'simple life'. Images and items influenced by this thinking appeared though out the Arts and the subject painted and carved on this fan is one of them.

Anne-Marie Benson
Autumn 2025

Inaugural Highgrove Fan Making Workshop 10th and 11th May 2025



Heritage Craft Committee

with

The King's Foundation



Background

In the summer of 2024 the then Free Warden Antony Robson, the incumbent Master for 2025, had the idea of approaching The King's Foundation with a view to establishing a class, or series of classes in fan making.

Founded in 1990 by His Majesty The King when he was Prince of Wales, The King's Foundation promotes and teaches amongst other things traditional arts and crafts. The Foundation teaches a variety of subjects across five sites in the UK.

In February 2025, the Master launched his inaugural fan making class to be held at the Highgrove Workshops of the Foundation over the weekend of the 10th and 11th May.

The Master's idea was to expand the remit of the established Heritage Craft Committee's work to date.



The Course

The fan making course was advertised on the King's Foundation website and called for 6-8 students to learn the basic techniques of fan making. The objective of the course was to have each student complete a working fan to their own design.

The course was led by Sophia Mace who was assisted by Liveryman Tom Saunders.

The students were provided with all materials that included:

- Pre-cut fan shapes in 110g fine art paper. Treated to accept paint.
- Plain timber sticks
- Sketch books for ideas/pre work
- Acrylic paint
- Paint brushes and pallets
- Glue sticks to stick the leaves to the sticks
- Gilding foil for additional decoration.



Inaugural Highgrove Fan Making Workshop

10th and 11th May 2025

There were eight students from all parts of the UK, ranging from Southend to Leicester to Litchfield, and locally. The students were introduced to the Livery Companies of London and the Worshipful Company of Fan Makers. Sophia Mace and Tom Saunders were introduced to the students.

It was explained to the students that they would learn how to design and make a fan and were shown examples of old fans, but it was stressed that the design of the fan should reflect the students' own personality.

The students drew ideas into their notebooks for the first hour, some went into the garden and others came with preconceived design ideas.

The next stage was for the students to transfer their designs onto the leaves. See all of the photographs for the amazing design created.

Once the designs were fixed the students were each given a fan leaf mould and taught how to pleat. The results were amazing and the students were blown away with how their designs were transformed by pleating.

In the last stage the students were taught to stick their pleated fan leaves to the timber sticks supplied. Some students decided to decorate their guard sticks.

Individual photographs were taken of each fan and then a group shot with the Master and Mistress Fan Maker. All students were blown away by the course and all said



Legacy

The reaction of the first eight students to the impact of the course was outstanding. The quality/level of competency of these eight students was also outstanding, proof of which was in the quality of the fan designs that they produced.

The remarkable thing was that students came from different corners of the UK and not just locally, as we had assumed. There would be an opportunity down the line perhaps to convert some of these students (after a few more classes) into ambassadors and teachers and spread the skill nationwide.

In the meantime, The King's Foundation have invited the Company to set up another course this year!



Fan Makers' Charity News

Charity is at the heart of the Worshipful Company of Fan Makers and in 2024 grants totalling £60,000 were donated to 20 London based charities from the Fan Makers Charity (Poor Fund). The Charity Committee would like to encourage all Fan Makers to support its work by volunteering or joining one of our visits.

The Soup Kitchen off Tottenham Court Road (one of our long-term charities) provides hot meals and snacks to 150 – 200 needy guests a day. In January 2024, our Company made a commitment to provide 2 volunteers on the second Monday every month. Starting with 3 Fan Makers, we now have 21 Fan Makers involved, all of whom have found the experience rewarding. We now provide a team of 4 Fan Makers per session. This is a great way to meet other Fan Makers as well as contributing to our charitable commitment. For more details, please email Gail Sharp on gail.sharp@btinternet.com.



Sally Wylie recently joined the Charity Committee as Grant Secretary for the Arts and has visited LSO Create and World Heart Beat as well as other charities that have applied for grants in 2025. LSO Create provides music education for the disabled and neurodiverse. World Heart Beat provides musical scholarships to children who do not have access to musical training. Sally has found it fascinating to see how the children blossom with specialist support. Both musical charities put on some fabulous concerts and details are publicized on their websites.

Buildup, for example, provides opportunities to disadvantaged young people from the Hackney area to learn practical construction skills. An amazing transformation of a derelict site in Canning town into a community garden was designed, planned and constructed entirely by young people in four design workshops and build sessions during school holidays. Details of some of the other Charities that Fan Makers' donations support are to be found on the web site.



These are just a few examples of the exceptional work that Fan Maker's donations help to support. Please consider joining us for a visit or participating in our voluntary work. For further information about joining our visits, please email me geoffrey.cannell@outlook.com.

Geoff Cannell

Fan Makers' Charity News

Young people of Hackney need YOU

Hackney Quest is one of the good causes in London that receives financial support from the charitable funds of the Fan Makers. One of Hackney Quest's programmes, under the title Employability – New Futures HQ, provides young people aged 14-25+ with the space and support to gain skills and opportunities that will help them in their employability.



If your place of work is in London, this is where you can get involved. Hackney Quest works with volunteers and companies to introduce young people to the world of adult work, show them the huge variety of roles and opportunities that exist in London and how to access those opportunities. You cannot be what you do not see; Employability – New Futures HQ supports young people to imagine beyond their immediate experience, while giving them tangible opportunities too.

Every enterprise is different but, for example, you and your place of work could provide tours and workshops; or 1:1 mentoring; or a few days or weeks of work experience, developing skills. See www.newfutureshq.org.uk for further information on ways to get involved.

This is an opportunity for you and your place of work to make an impact; to become involved, please contact Liveryman Jeremy Bray bray@highbeeves.com who is the Grant Secretary for Hackney Quest; he will introduce you to the lead person at Hackney Quest for its Employability programme.

Jeremy Bray

Fan Makers' Prizes



Ahmad Idris won the Fan Makers Award to the Best Student on the Environmental Engineering MSc. School of Water, Energy and Environment, Cranfield University

Liveryman Robert Jack presenting certificates at Cranfield University to **Hasitha Duarte** and **Andres Oostra-Guerrero** for outstanding achievement in Aerodynamics and Fluid Engineering.



Fan Makers' Military Affiliations

The Armed Forces Covenant

My undoubted highlight of recent months in relation to military matters was the signing after the April Court meeting of the Armed Forces Covenant. This is a very important moment in the life of the Company and especially so when we live in a dangerous and uncertain time.

The first principle of the Covenant is: Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. The second principle of the Covenant is: Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.

The Court has been very keen for some time to enter into the Covenant and we were honoured that on 24 April 2025, we were able to be joined by the Lady Mayoress, Lance Bombardier Florence King, who herself serves in the Territorial Army, for the signing ceremony. The event also highlighted our close links with our military affiliates. In addition to the Master signing on behalf of the Company, the Covenant was signed by Commander Phil Burgess, CO of HMS Glasgow, Major Tom Flight CO of 217 Squadron and Flying Officer Fernanda Lewis, OC for 33F Squadron. It was a great pleasure to be able to host them and some of their colleagues.

The Covenant is not just symbolic, reminding members of the Company of our important links with the military, but is a tangible step in strengthening our ties with members of the armed services. That means that in the future we hope that members of the Livery will be able to provide mentoring and guidance, work experience and interview practice for members of our affiliates. This, of course, is together with developing the bonds of friendship and solidarity with those who provide such important service to our country. I look forward to seeing the fruits of this Covenant in the future.

Gary Blaker



The Naming of HMS Glasgow

The Worshipful Company of Fan Makers have for many years had affiliations with the British Armed Forces. Until she was decommissioned in 2024, HMS Westminster, a Type 23 frigate, was the Company's naval affiliation.

Through the auspices of Past Master Rear Admiral Paul Hoddinott, it was arranged that the Royal Navy's newest ship, a Type 26 frigate, would become the Company's naval affiliate.

The new ship, which is currently in the throes of being fitted-out, was going to be named HMS Glasgow. This is particularly poignant to Paul Hoddinott, as he commanded the previous HMS Glasgow; the ship was severely damaged during the Falklands War in May 1982 and was then decommissioned in 2009.



Fan Makers' Military Affiliations

The Naming of HMS Glasgow cont.

On the 22nd May 2025, the Master, Antony Robson, accompanied by the Free Warden, Dinesh Naidu, and Past Master Paul Hoddinott were invited to attend the ship's naming ceremony at the BAE Scotstoun facility on the Clyde in Glasgow.

The ship was formally named by her patron, Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales, using a bottle of whisky from Clydeside Distillery.

In conjunction with the Worshipful Company of Merchant Taylors, the Fan Makers presented the princess with a brooch. The Company was delighted that The Princess chose to wear the brooch at the naming ceremony.

The group representing the Fan Makers were subsequently introduced to The Princess together with The Prince of Wales, who was accompanying her at the event.

Later that same day the Fan Makers attended a civic reception as guests of the Royal Navy and the City of Glasgow.

Dinesh Naidu



Fan Makers' Military Awards



Sapper of the Year (217 Field Squadron) awarded to **LCpl Joe Bond**, photographed with the CO Major Tom Flight



The Inaugural Fan Makers Sailor of the Year Award awarded to: **LET(WE) Frazer Dempsey**, photographed with the CO Phil Burgess



London Area Sea Cadet Corps Unit Commanding Officer of the Year who has done most for their unit in challenging circumstances awarded to: **WO2 (SCC) David Lewis RNR** Enfield Sea Cadets, photographed with Past Master Rear Admiral Paul Hoddinott



Middlesex & NW London Army Cadets Fan Makers Cadet of the year awarded to **Robyn of 23F Detachment** August 2025. The Master was accompanied by Liveryman Col. Angela Richardson, formerly Colonel Commandant for the Middlesex & NW London Army Cadets.

Social Events and Outings

Summer Social

On the somewhat tropical night of Thursday, 17th July, we enjoyed a Rum Masterclass in the delightful courtyard of St Vedas-Alias-Foster, our Livery Church. On arrival Fan Makers, and their guests, were greeted with a delicious Mojito before the Little Gin and Rum Company guided us through a curated tasting of three very different rums. The choice to sample the rums straight or with a mixer (coca cola or ginger ale) was left to personal taste and we were reassured there is no right or wrong answer to that decision. The rum flowed liberally, as did the conversation, and a selection of nibbles was generously provided by Liveryman Kuljit Bawa who also led the organisation of this truly enjoyable evening. The Livery Committee plans to do similar, less formal, events in the future and hope to see as many Fan Makers at those as possible. Please keep an eye out for more news on the events page within the Members area.

Mark Jukes



Visit to The Great Gatsby at the London Coliseum

On May Day a happy band of Fan Makers, including the Master, Wardens and the Clerk visited the London Coliseum for a private tour of the theatre before seeing the fabulous production of The Great Gatsby. We started in the foyer, where we learned that the theatre was built by the architect Frank Matcham, who intended it to be one of London's largest and most luxurious "family" variety theatres; he built it for the theatrical impresario Sir Oswald Stoll, and it opened on 24th December 1904. It has had mixed fortunes in the intervening decades, hosting several very different events including a cricket match and 651 performances of the operetta "White Horse Inn". Sadler's Wells Opera Company moved there in 1968 and in 1974 the company changed its name to become the English National Opera.

We visited the three-tier auditorium, described originally as having "a wealth of eclectic classical detail of Byzantine opulence" and saw the amazing music and lighting control platform used for the show. We visited the bar, and our guide told us that families were encouraged to come all day, with gentlemen spending time there on business !! After the tour we had drinks and excellent bowl food in a private room before the performance. Some of us knew the story having perhaps seen the original film with Mia Farrow and Robert Redford or read the book by F. Scott Fitzgerald; the plot seemed to follow this quite well. The costumes and stage sets were quite fantastic and very memorable – although my own opinion was that the music was less so! All in all a very enjoyable and unique evening – thanks to Assistant Mark Jukes and the Events Team for arranging!



Carole Plant

The Angling Society

Let me introduce the Angling Society to you as the newest of the Company's sporting Societies – joining Golf, Shooting and Rowing.

Angling has a long tradition and a rich diverse history, its roots stretching back many thousands of years. Its early days were about food for survival and over time evolved from the procurement of food for sustenance to the largest participative sport in the UK. Providing recreation, release, and the opportunity to enjoy the natural environment.



Scan to join the
WhatsApp group

This new venture for the Company is an exciting opportunity for all to join in the pleasures of angling, whether you have previous experience or are a novice, the Angling Society will welcome you to fishing days now being organised. These events will look at all three forms of angling, sea fishing, course fishing, and game fishing. Initial events will start in the autumn when we will have sea and game fishing, details to follow.

You may ask what do you need to do? You can:

- Register on the WhatsApp group to stay up to date.
- Attend an Angling Society events
- Support growing the Society by joining a small organising group



Anyone interested in joining the organisation team please contact Paul Eslinger (paul@eslinger.com). We will keep you up to date with more information as this becomes available and look forward to seeing many of you on the banks. Till then tight lines!

Paul Eslinger

The Golfing Society

The Golfing Society has entered teams in six events in 2025. The first was the Prince Arthur Cup at Walton Heath, a competition in which we have taken part for many years. It remains a prestigious 36-hole event, played in the morning and the afternoon. Our team of Alan Willis, Erick Davis, Gail Sharp and David Moroney played extremely well and secured the Fan Makers' place in the 2026 Prince Arthur.

The second event, also in May, was the Carmens' Annual Golf Tournament, held at the delightful Cuddington Golf Course. This incorporates the Fan Makers' Inter-Livery Cup Challenge, which the Carmen again won. Our team of four played well but came home without any prizes.

We played again in the Information Technologists Golf Day at Porters Park Golf Club, along with twelve other teams of four. Apart from the enjoyment of playing on a charming and challenging golf course, the day raised a very healthy amount for the WCIT Charity. Our team of Antony Robson, Andrew Collins, Alan Willis and Mark Savill were only just off the podium - a very impressive performance inspired by our Master!

Our Annual Golf Day in June, at Swinley Forest, was again a very enjoyable event for Fan Makers and guests. It is a venue that is very special. We were delighted that Bob Morgan joined the Golfing Society this year, and he was one of the prize winners. The other winners were Mark Cardiff, Alan Willis, Keith Baker, Gail Sharp, and Antony Robson achieved first place. Our Master played another exceptionally good 18 holes!

We have two events in October: the Dowgate Hill Challenge at Worplesdon, and the Distillers Golf Day at Tandridge.

The Golfing Society now has 17 members, but we would welcome more golfers. If you are interested, please contact me on kengburrage@gmail.com.

Please also note that Keith Baker has masterminded the Square Mile Golfing Society, which provides access to other Livery Companies' Golf Days. Its website is <https://squaremilegolf.co.uk>

Ken Burrage

The Shooting Society

As is tradition, the summer months have been a quieter period for the Fan Makers' Shooting Society, with the only organised event being the annual Inter-Livery Clay Shoot. We were proud to enter two teams this year (pictured), including Dereck, our gracious host from the Farley Estate, whose support continues to be invaluable.



With the new game season now underway, we're excited to share that a series of shoot days have been planned. The season kicked off in style with an outstanding first day at Iford, setting the tone for what promises to be a memorable few months ahead.



Looking ahead, there is just one peg remaining for the season — a pheasant day on 15th November. If you're interested in joining us for this final opportunity, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

If you would like to get in contact with the Shooting Society, please email shooting@fanmakers.com. Wishing all our members a safe and successful season!

Richard Lovell



Obituaries

Philip Keats Taylor 1938 - 2025

Philip Keats Taylor, who passed away peacefully on 4th May, 2025, at the age of 86, was a distinguished accountant and pioneering software developer whose professional achievements were matched only by his zest for life and devotion to family.

Born in Doncaster in 1938, Philip built a remarkable career that spanned traditional accounting and the emerging world of technology. After working at prestigious companies including Rolls Royce, he demonstrated his entrepreneurial spirit by establishing two successful companies specialising in accounting software.

Philip sold the latter of these businesses, Squaresum in 2005, and at this point embraced membership of many clubs and societies as well as spending more time walking and skiing with family and friends.

As well as being a very proud member of this Company he was a member of the Reform Club, a Liverymen at The Chartered Accountants' Company and the treasurer of countless Masonic lodges. He was drawn to the values and traditions these institutions upheld and embraced them wholeheartedly encouraging anyone he met to join their ranks.



Philip took up skiing in his early thirties, a long time before it was mainstream, and pursued this passion throughout his life. He was a member of the DHO and the Ski Club of Great Britain, making many friends from their ranks. He was still skiing last year - a testament to his enduring vitality and love of skiing.

Though Philip never married, family formed the cornerstone of his life. He leaves behind many relatives and loved ones who will forever cherish memories of his calm and steady presence – qualities that provided comfort and guidance throughout their lives.

Philip's legacy endures through his professional contributions, his adventurous spirit, and the countless lives he touched with his quiet strength and unwavering support.

Alistair Callander



We bid a hearty welcome to these Freeman who have now become Liverymen

Simon Cole, Kathryn Porter, James Elcocke-Harris, Jane Horton, Robert Shephard

We also bid a hearty welcome to the following new members of the Company

Liveryman Sally Wyllie Sally had always wanted to join a Livery Company but never realised it was possible until she saw the press coverage of the clothing of HM The Queen. Sally first moved to the City of London as a student at City University almost 50 years ago. Even though work took her away from London she always maintained connections through her love of the Barbican. Her degree was Sociology and her career was spent in HR. She was with Marks and Spencer for 10 years, eventually responsible for a £40million budget, members of staff and 19 members of management.



Freeman Helen Persson Helen was the Curator / Keeper of the Fans at the Fan Museum from October 2024 – September 2025 and has more than 25 years' experience in fashion and textiles. More recently she has been the curator at the Mercers' Company and also worked with the Cordwainers' Company curating a shoe exhibition at the V & A. She has numerous publications to her name and has undertaken various press and media work including advising 'Flog it' on the BBC and work for Vogue magazine. She enjoys most outdoor pursuits including skiing, skating and cycling.



Freeman Elizabeth (Lisa) O'Neill Lisa grew up in Ireland, her first love was always painting and arts. She studied Law at Trinity College Dublin graduating in 1981. Subsequently she trained as a Chartered Accountant with Coopers & Lybrand (now PWC) going on to become their national training manager. After a career break bringing up four children, she re-trained as an executive PA and worked for the Head at Tonbridge School. Retirement and a move to Monmouthshire allowed her to finally focus on her real love of art and painting. She curates art exhibitions locally and enjoys baking, crafting, needlework and knitting when not painting. Her husband was Master Skinner last year and as Mistress Skinner enjoyed her year participating fully in Livery life.



Liveryman Robert Shephard Robert is an engineer, who started as an indentured Apprentice Tool Maker in 1974 at the age of 16, qualifying as a Master Tool Maker in 1978. His whole career has been in engineering specialising in 'rotating equipment'. He is a member of the Institution of Engineering & Technology (MIET) and the Engineering Council (IEng). Rob is married to Christine and they have five grown up children. His interests include heritage and genealogy, indoor bowls, golf, sea and course fishing and mudlarking. He is on the National Council for metal detecting. He is a Londoner who has recently moved from Epsom in Surrey to Cooden, East Sussex.





**Final Photograph from the Fan Making Course at
Highgrove
May 2025**



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