

The Newsletter of



The Worshipful
Company of Upholders

Upbraid Update

Issue 18—Spring 2014

From The Editor:

Welcome to this Spring edition of Upbraid Update which contains interviews with the New Master and his Wardens. Plus details of the events Master Derek Thornton has planned for his year.

63rd Master Derek Thornton

You have worked in the City in Insurance for most of your working life. Would you like to tell the Livery a little about your career?

Having come down from University, like many people in insurance, initially, I did rather fall into the business by default. However, once I became involved with the types and size of insurance and reinsurance transacted in and around Lloyd's I made a positive decision to stay in the industry and took the professional examinations. My entire career has been spent with City based International Lloyd's Brokers however I was seconded overseas and travelled extensively, first around Europe and then North America with occasional visits to Canada and Venezuela. For over three years I spent a month every other month in the USA with some very pleasant stop overs in captive insurance company havens such as Bermuda and the Curacao. As mentioned earlier I became involved with the Chartered Insurance Institute early in my career and that involvement led on to membership and then Chairmanship of a number of Committees, to membership of Council and ultimately to be President of the Insurance Institute of London; with a membership of over fifteen thousand there was always lots to do. Immediately following my year as President I was asked by the Chartered body to found and Chair a new Faculty for London Market practitioners. Later I was asked to take over the Chairmanship of the British Insurance Brokers Association and with over two thousand five hundred member firms it was a busy two and a half years travelling and speaking around the UK.

Why did you decide to join the Livery?

I reached a stage in my career when the business travel had reduced and more and more of my time was spent in the office, feeling more isolated as I took on increasingly senior Board level roles and as my responsibilities grew, I began to wish for good company where the conversation was not always about reinsurance, with people from different backgrounds and professions, with a variety of interests and with whom I could relax in an atmosphere of fellowship. When I was introduced to the Upholders I felt immediately at home.

How did you come to be an Upholder?

A very good friend, a fellow Yorkshire man, a very successful insurance broker/loss adjuster/soldier and a larger than life character John Hollinrake, an Upholder and Court Assistant with whom I would regularly wine and dine started to tell me more about how the City worked. I knew a certain amount about how the Corporation operated through my membership of Tower Ward Club but with John's guidance and support I began the journey from becoming a Freeman of the City, to a

member of the Guild of Freemen and eventually to becoming a Liveryman of our Worshipful Company. Sadly John died suddenly at the age of 62, a great loss, he would have been a wonderful Master.

How do you think the connection between business and the Livery movement in the City has changed in the last 30 years?

From my perspective the biggest change in the last 30 years has been and will continue to be the advent of the "Modern" Livery Companies. These Companies have



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attracted much of the City's financial services talent which would otherwise have been spread around the older Livery Companies and with membership restricted to the profession, members have been able to make a strong case for employer support both directly and indirectly. In a hundred years time much of the influence currently exerted by the Great Twelve may well have moved to a group of these financial services focussed "Modern" Liveries.

What are you most looking forward to during the next year?

Ever since becoming a Liveryman I have exercised my right each year to elect the Sheriffs and the Lord Mayor, even when the choice was "somewhat limited!" I believe it is important that such ancient historic practices are continued and that the best way to ensure their survival is to participate and make use of the privilege. As Master I will have the opportunity to represent our Company at many more events which are part of the fabric as well as the tradition of the City – they need to be "Upheld" - and I am really looking forward to playing my part.

What legacy would you like from your year as Master?

I am delighted that thanks to the Warden

to the Trade, his Committee and other key individuals our links to the craft continue to broaden and deepen and I am very encouraged by the progress being made with the Apprenticeship Scheme Proposal. However, as an open Livery we also have very many members who are in the broadest sense financial services professionals and I hope my legacy will be that in parallel to our support for our traditional craft we can find more ways to assist our Lord Mayor as the UK's Financial Services Ambassador, the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee and his team, UKTI and The CityUK in their efforts to promote the City's Financial Services.

Our Livery provides an excellent springboard into the wider City and a good first step is to encourage our members to join a Ward Club. If this led to more of our members becoming Common Councilmen and then following further in the footsteps of such illustrious recent past members as Jonathan Charkham and Robin Eve that would be brilliant.

You have held office in other organisations in the City - what makes the Livery movement and the Upholders in particular distinctive?

All my other roles, even those within wholly voluntary bodies, have been work

related and as such I found that almost everyone was still participating with one eye on business or promotion or both, as a consequence they felt like just an extension work with all that entails. The Upholders Livery is a complete contrast, there is a great feeling of openness, camaraderie and fellowship; it is no wonder that we have such a well deserved reputation as a very friendly Company.

You seem to have planned your year thoroughly. What would you like to tell the Livery of your plans for the first half of your year?

With our Mansion House date having been pushed forward even earlier than usual to Friday the 10th October (please note the date), the Court have agreed that our September event should be a Luncheon at the Cutlers Hall and as early in the month as possible so please put Friday 5th Sept in your diaries as well. Prior to that my Master's Summer Event will be at the Girdlers' Hall on Thursday the 26th June, the Girdlers do not usually make their Hall available so to have a reception in their prize winning garden and lunch in the Hall is a very rare privilege. With a Past Master Girdler and their Beadle to tell us about their garden and the Company's treasures it should be quite a special treat.

Senior Warden Wynne Gilham

You have worked in the Soft furnishings craft for most of your working life. Would you like to tell the Livery a little about your career? I learnt my sewing skill first from my mother and then at school. Michael (My husband) studied for 9 years in retail and practical workroom skills in soft furnishing. Michael taught me the elements of curtain making and soft furnishing, which led to us starting our own business in 1969, we are now semi-retired but still carrying out work for many of our valued Clients.

How do you think the connection between the craft and the Livery movement has changed in the last 30 years? I believe that during the past 30 years the craft side of our Livery has come to the fore, with the setting up of The Warden to Trade Committee and the intake of more trade related Members.

Why did you become a Liveryman of the Upholders? I attended functions as Michaels' wife, and the camaraderie and friendliness of the Company made me feel I wanted to have a deeper involvement.

Do you think being in the Upholstery & soft furnishing business brings you a particular edge? I would like to think that I have a deep understanding of the original concept of the 'Upholders' trade.

As the wife of a previous Master you know the Livery and the role well. What insights do you think this gives you into the role of the Master? As a previous Mistress I understand the importance of being an ambassador for our Company, within the City and beyond.



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Since it is likely you will be the first lady to be Master Upholder does this bring any extra pressure to your planning? Yes I do believe it brings extra pressure, for being the first lady to be invited to hold the office of Master brings very special responsibilities. But you can be assured I will do my very best in representing our Company.

What are you most looking forward to during the next year? I look forward to supporting the new Master during his year and making plans for the year ahead should I be elected.

What themes would you like to develop during your year? With the Company now embarking on developing the new Apprenticeship Scheme in conjunction with the AMU&SF I have for some time been concerned with the lack of craft education in

our schools, therefore I whole heartedly support this incentive and will do my utmost to make sure it is a continuing success.

What legacy would you like from your year as Master? To have continued and expanded the Company's reputation and be remembered for a successful year as the Company's first lady Master.

You have held office in other charity organisations. What makes the Livery movement and the Upholders in particular distinctive? My love of being involved with our ancient craft and the Livery movement in general with its deep connections with the Civic City is very special to me, particularly with reference to the overall amount raised for charity during each year.

Junior Warden Graham White

You have worked in the City for most of your working life. Please would you tell the Livery a little about yourself and your career?

I have been at Lloyd's since I came down from Cambridge. My father was a Lloyd's broker for 45 years, but I did not go into his firm. I joined Willis Faber, where I stayed until 1983, becoming Group Company Secretary. I then left to take over the ailing PCW syndicate, which had been the subject of a fraud. Although we got some way to sorting things out, the job had to be completed by Lloyd's itself, in what was very much the paradigm of the eventual R and R /Equitas reconstruction of Lloyd's.

I subsequently joined Jardine's insurance brooking operation, where I worked until 1996, becoming chairman of the Lloyd's underwriting agency business. I have had that role in a number of companies since, and am currently Chairman of Argenta Private Capital Ltd.

I am also Chairman of Marine Aviation & General (London) Ltd, a small Lloyd's broker.

I am a member of Lloyd's ruling Council, and have just stood down as Deputy Chairman of Lloyd's after seven years, the longest serving Deputy Chairman I believe.

You are Deputy Chairman of Lloyd's, the world's leading insurance market. What are the challenges to maintaining its position against increased



international competition? The challenge for the Lloyd's Market is to maintain its reputation for innovation whilst at the same time keeping underwriting discipline and a respect for proportionate and appropriate regulation, and keeping control of its cost structure.

Why did you become a Liveryman of the Upholders? I became a liveryman of the Upholders because I wanted to get closer to the real City of London, but not necessarily immediately through the livery associated with my own trade.

How do you think the connection between City business and the Livery movement has changed over the last 30 years? I think that the liveries have a greater role to play in delivering professional training and in supporting the initiatives to clean up standards of corporate governance.

You have been involved in other organisations in the City. What makes the Livery movement and the Upholders in particular distinctive?

I think what makes the livery companies unique in the City is the genuine concern for the trade, in our case upholstery, and genuine friendship and camaraderie in the livery.

When you are not working, how do you enjoy spending your time? Is there anything else you would like to tell the Livery about yourself?

When I am not working my prime interest is my family. I am married to Rosemary Hadow, a parliamentary researcher for The Rt. Hon. Sir Tony Baldry. I have four daughters, a stepson and three grandchildren. I play a bit of very undistinguished golf, I love reading, and I love the theatre. I also love music, particularly opera, and I am a director of The City of London Festival.

What do you see as the key themes the Upholders should focus on developing? For me the key themes are the protection of our core values and developing our younger colleagues in a world which is much tougher than our generation probably had it, and also having interesting fun.

What are you most looking forward to during your year as Junior Warden? I am most looking forward to getting to know all my fellow liverymen better, and also getting to know the upholstery trade better.



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For your Diary

Date	Event	Attendance
Thursday 10 April 2014	Installation Banquet Vintners' Hall	Liverymen, Freeman & Guests
Wednesday 11 June 2014	Audit Court & Dinner Aldermen's Court	Court only
Thursday 12 June 2014	Awards & Prize Giving London Metropolitan University	Liverymen & Freeman
Tuesday 24 June 2014	Election of Sheriffs Guildhall + Lunch at Painters' Hall	Liverymen only
Thursday 26 June 2014	Master's Summer Event Reception + Luncheon Girdlers' Hall	Liverymen & Guests
Friday 5 September 2014	September Court Meeting + Lunch Cutlers' Hall	Liverymen, Freeman & Guests
Monday 29 September 2014	Election of Lord Mayor Guildhall + Lunch at Painters' Hall	Liverymen only
Friday 10 October 2014	Upholders' Banquet Mansion House	Liverymen, Freeman & Guests
Saturday 8 November 2014	Lord Mayor's Show	Public event with ticketed stands (forms available from Clerk)
Thursday 15 January 2015	January Court Meeting & Luncheon Innholders' Hall	Liverymen, Freeman & Guests
Tuesday 10 February 2015	Annual Church Service St Michael's Cornhill + Dinner at Armourers' Hall	Liverymen, Freeman & Guests
Friday 20 March 2015	United Guilds Service St Paul's Cathedral + Lunch at Painters' Hall	Liverymen & Guests