

THE AIMS AND COMPOSITION OF THE COMPANY

CHARITY

To raise funds and be involved in charitable and educational work by:

- All members contributing to the Charitable and Educational Trust
- Providing bursaries and awards to support and encourage excellence in plumbing standards, education and technical development
- Providing donations to City, water and plumbing related charities
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CRAFT

To encourage excellence in plumbing by:

- Supporting and promoting the history of the craft
- Supporting and recognising individuals, organisations and institutions who achieve excellence in plumbing standards, education and technical development
- Influencing and raising the profile of key future plumbing developments relating to: Safety; Public health; Sustainability and Water conservation.
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CITY

To support the City of London and the Mayoralty by:

- Supporting the City and Livery functions
- Encouraging liverymen to actively participate in City elections Raising funds for Lord Mayor's charities.
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FRIENDSHIP

To generate friendship in the Company by:

- Providing an active social calendar for like-minded people
- Organising high quality Company events which maintain the standards and traditions of the livery
- Utilising the latest communication and publishing methods.

Today there are some 350 members. About 70% are connected with the Plumbing craft and allied disciplines. The remaining members cover a wide spectrum of interests and professions with architects, builders, lawyers, accountants and many others. We have 26 lady Liverymen. Although the Company is a City of London Livery Company and the majority of the Livery come from London and the Home Counties, one quarter live more than 100 miles from London.

Like most Livery Companies the Plumbers Company consists of:

- Freemen
- Liverymen including Honorary Liverymen
- Court of Assistants
- Officers of the Company: Master, Upper Warden, Renter Warden and Stewards
- Court Committees
- Company Trustees
- Administration Staff - Clerks and Beadle

The Court of Assistants is drawn from within the Livery and reflects in its membership, those disciplines which are needed for the Court to advise and help the Officers of the Company to run the affairs of the Company. The Master and Wardens are installed annually in October and serve for one year. Stewards serve for seven years, organise and run the social visits programme and assist generally at functions in the Livery Year.

There are six major committees: Freedom and Livery, Finance, Technical, Education, Membership and Social. All Chairmen are members of the Court. Members of the Livery can be co-opted to serve on committees. In addition, a special committee guards the interest of the Company in our Museum at Amberley.

As a Liveryman and, therefore, a Freeman of the City of London you are permitted and encouraged to exercise your rights to elect the Sheriffs of The City of London and the Lord Mayor. In addition, there are certain Company formal functions during the year which it is hoped that you can attend. The year breaks-up therefore into:

- October - Installation of Master and Wardens, Installation Service at our Livery Church St Magnus the Martyr, followed by buffet luncheon.
- November - Ladle Dinner where Liverymen gather to entertain the Immediate Past Master.
- January/February/March - Company Lecture, open to Liverymen, guests and the general public.
- March/April/May - Annual Mansion House Banquet for Liverymen and their guests.
- June - Election of Sheriffs. All Liverymen are encouraged to vote.
- July - Summer Festival Dinner when Liverymen and their Partners dine together.
- September - Election of Lord Mayor. All Liverymen are encouraged to vote.

In addition, a wide range of activities and visits are arranged throughout the year for members of the Company their partners and their guests. A person wishing to join the Company is invited to complete a proforma and obtain a proposer and seconder, both of whom must be in the Livery. For details apply to the Clerk. Admittance can be under any one of four headings.

- a) By Redemption: The payment of the Admission Fee.
- b) By Patrimony: A son or daughter can claim to enter if his Father was a Freeman of the Company at the time of the applicant's birth.
- c) By Servitude: When an apprenticeship has been satisfactorily completed to a member of the Company
- d) Young Entry Scheme (YES)

In 2013 the Court approved the following additional membership categories to encourage membership of the Company.

- Freeman: for those unable to make a full commitment to become a Liveryman on joining.
- International: for members who live permanently overseas. This carries similar entitlements to Freemen.
- Family: for the immediate family of members, including spouses and partners of deceased members.

A Corporate membership category was also introduced for a limited number of qualifying companies and organisations.

The Dues payable by a candidate when applying to join the Company are reviewed annually. On admission, Liverymen and Freemen will be expected to make monthly voluntary donations to the Company Charity by standing order and Gift Aid (if applicable).

An annual levy of Quarterage (so called when the amount was paid quarterly) is also paid. It is payable by Direct Debit on 1st October annually.

The length of time it takes for a candidate to be admitted varies but can be between 3 and 12 months depending on category, sittings of the Court, candidate's availability and for prospective Liverymen their availability to receive the Freedom of the City of London.

As a Liveryman of this Company you are expected to:

- a) Appreciate that you are a Freeman for life.
- b) Vote in the annual Election for the Sheriffs and Lord Mayor.
- c) Use your professional expertise to help those endeavours where the Company is involved.
- d) Support the Social activities of the Company.
- e) Represent the Company when invited.
- f) Serve, in due course, on committees.
- g) Contribute to the Company's Charitable and Educational Trust Fund (for those wishing to make a legacy to the Company or its Charitable Trust, then the Clerk can help provide suitable wording).
- h) Meet your Financial commitment to the Company for life