

Sandra Raine

I joined the Worshipful Company of Plumbers in 2008, having attended events as a guest since 1994, and am currently the Senior Court Assistant.

I was introduced to the Company, whilst employed as CEO of the Institution of Gas Engineers, by the CEO of the then Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering (IPHE), with whom I had working contact. Our friendship grew, enhanced by attendance at Plumbers' Company events. Eventually, this led to me helping to formulate the IPHE's initial Royal Charter documentation, and I went on to become the CIPHE's first Independent Board Member.

I am neither a plumber nor an engineer. As a Chartered Governance Professional, my career was wide-ranging, and included working for three other professional bodies, and several senior positions in charities, housing, local government, and the private sector.

For 10 years, I lived and worked overseas, and membership of the Plumbers' Company helped me to stay in touch with the professional scene in the UK. My husband, Ian, is also a member of the Company. He was introduced through his own work contacts; such is the range and influence of the Plumbers Company in the City and beyond.

Networking with a variety of people, from different professional backgrounds, has greatly assisted my career development which, as a woman, is of huge value in breaking the glass ceiling. Socialising and having fun in unique venues such as historic Livery Halls, private tours of venues, and lectures, make for a rich blend of experiences and develops bonding.

My membership has led me to undertake all kinds of activities that I never imagined I would be involved with. I sit on various committees, and I am a Trustee of the Plumbing Museum and Workshop Trust.

#PMWT

I also established and manage a group called Women in the Livery (WIL). WIL are lively and pragmatic. We have run organised talks and tours, and made a short video to encourage a more diverse membership. WIL encourages women to support one another, and promotes them to progress within the Company, thus enhancing their personal development. Our primary focus is to encourage more women to come forward and enjoy the benefits of membership. We encourage more diversity in applications to join the Company.