



THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FAN MAKERS

A TO Z GUIDE

2026

Admissions Panel

The admissions panel consists of the Master, Wardens, and the Clerk. They interview prospective candidates who have expressed an interest in joining the Company.

Almoner

Past Master John Hughes is the Almoner. His role is to keep in contact and support members of the Company particularly when specific needs arise.

Apprentice

Apprentices can join the Company from the age of 16 and they have to serve a minimum period of 4 years as an apprentice before they can become a Freeman of the Company. An apprenticeship should be registered with the Chamberlain's Court and when completed can lead to the apprentice being admitted to the Freedom of the Fan Makers and the City of London by servitude.

Archivist

The archivists look after the minutes of the meetings, photographs of each Master along with archival material and items of ephemera.

Assistant

An assistant is a member of the Court, who has not yet become a Warden or Master. An assistant will usually become the Master of the Company in due course, although there are Assistants Honoris Causa who will not proceed to become Master.

Banquet

The Company holds a Banquet each year at the Mansion House. This is normally held on the second or sometimes third Thursday of December. It is usually attended by the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs and is a particular highlight of the Livery year. Dress for the evening is white tie for men (tail coat, white waistcoat, white bowtie). The dinner is accompanied by music and the Company of Pikemen and Musketeers usually attend.

Beadle

The Beadle is Rod Brafield who conducts the ceremonial role at official Company events such as Court meetings and dinners.

Cadets

The Company has links with Air, Army and Sea Cadets. Prizes are awarded each year to Cadets. A military liaison team looks after the affiliations supported by the Military Liaison Officer Assistant Gary Blaker.

Carol Service

The Carol Service is held in early December at St. Vedast-alias-Foster. It is followed by a reception of mulled wine and mince pies.

Chaplain

Reverend Paul Kennedy, Rector of our Livery Church St Vedast is the Company Chaplain.

Charities Committee

The Chairman is Past Master Colin Bramall, the CEO is Richard King.

Trustees are the Master, the Free Warden and the Foreign Warden plus the Chairman and CEO who meet two or three times a year.

This Committee decides and delivers on the charitable donations of the Company for the year following recommendations from Grant Secretaries who are members of the Livery who look at particular sectors including charities to relieve poverty, dealing with children, health, and the arts.

In the past year the Company has made donations of approximately £90,000.

CIBSE

CIBSE is the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers. The Company has strong links with CIBSE and the air-conditioning and ventilation industry. Past Master John Naylor is the Company's link to this organisation. The CEO of CIBSE Ruth Carter is a Liveryman of the Company. A Bursary is provided for a student of building service engineering at London South Bank University and an additional award is made in the name of late Liveryman Dr Brian Moss to someone making a significant contribution to the sector.

City of London Academy (Southwark)

There are a variety of Fan Makers' Company prizes awarded to students at the end of each academic year.

Clerk

Claire Chitty is the Learned Clerk of the Company. She is the first point of contact for any member of the Company and therefore is responsible for running the day-to-day activities of the Company. Examples include dealing with Livery dinners and arranging the Court meetings and attending events with the Master.

Comptroller

Assistant Judith Mosely is the Comptroller and her role is to look after the Company's finances and accounts. The deputy Comptroller is Assistant Jackie Riley.

Court

The Court of Assistants is the wider management committee of the Company. It meets four times a year, in February, April, July and October. It consists of the Assistants, Wardens, Master, and Past Masters. It is Chaired by the Master and also attended by the Clerk. The 13 Assistants, Master, Wardens and 7 Past Masters are entitled to vote at Court meetings.

Court Dinners

The Court Dinners follow a Court meeting and take place four times a year in February, April, July and October. The July Dinner is for Court members only. The February and October Dinners are usually held at Saddlers' Hall and are open to all Liverymen, Freemen, Apprentices and their guests to attend. The April dinner may be in a smaller Livery Hall and priority is given to Liverymen.

Dress code is black tie (dinner suit and black bow tie)

In 2026, one of the dinners will be replaced by a lunch and the dress code will be lounge suit.

Court Selection Committee

This Committee consists of Past Masters John Hayes, Peter Dove and Marshall Blaker, the Master and the Free Warden. They meet twice a year and they select who should be recommended to join the Court as an Assistant and they monitor progression through to becoming Warden and then Master.

Cranfield University

The Company has strong links with Cranfield University and the wider aerospace and aviation industry. The contact for this is Liveryman Robert Jack. A bursary and up to 4 prizes are awarded to students each year.

Curator of the Treasures

Past Master John Hayes is the Curator and he looks after the Company's gowns, robes, silver, fan collection and other treasures.

Election Court Service

The Election Court Service is held between the February Court Meeting and Dinner. From 2022 it has been held at St. Vedast alias Foster. In the past the service was usually held at St James Garlickhythe but has also been held at Bevis Marks Synagogue.

Election of the Sheriffs

The Livery assemble in Common Hall to elect two Sheriffs each Midsummer Day at Guildhall. Normally, only one of the Sheriffs is an Alderman, who will hope to go on to become the Lord Mayor of London; and the other, is sometimes referred to as the non-Aldermanic or Lay Sheriff. Only Liverymen who have been clothed for over one year are eligible to attend and vote. The new Sheriffs start their roles in early November the day before the new Lord Mayor. It is followed by a lunch in one of the Livery Halls. Dress code is smart day dress (suit and tie with morning suit optional, dress and jacket/smart trouser suit with hat optional).

Election of the Lord Mayor

The Livery assemble in Common Hall to elect the Lord Mayor each Michaelmas Day at Guildhall. Only Liverymen who have been clothed for over one year are eligible to attend and vote. The new Lord Mayor is sworn in at the Silent Ceremony at Guildhall the day before the Lord Mayor's Show. The Election is followed by a lunch in one of the Livery Halls. Dress code is smart day dress (suit and tie with morning suit optional, dress and jacket/smart trouser suit with hat optional).

Fan Circle International

The Company has links with Fan Circle International which is an international organisation that promotes research and interest in ancient and contemporary fans. Amongst its patrons are Hon Liveryman Helene Alexander MBE, and within its Officers are Liveryman Valerie Wilson (Chairman), Liveryman Mary Kitson (Secretary) and Liveryman Dr. Helen Marr (Treasurer). The Master Fan Maker is an ex-officio Patron for his or her year in office.

Fan Museum

The Company has strong links with the Fan Museum in Greenwich which was founded by Hon Liveryman Helene Alexander MBE in 1991. Guided tours of the museum are offered when new exhibitions are launched and at other times

Foreign Warden

The Foreign Warden is the junior of the two Wardens. The Fan Makers is the only Livery Company with a Foreign Warden. This dates back to our foundation when it was necessary to protect against foreign imported fans. The Foreign Warden makes the speech to the guests at the Banquet. The current Foreign Warden is Richard Jeffery.

Freeman of the Company

A Freeman is a Member of the Company. It is the first stage of membership offering the holder to attend most of the dinners and events organised by the Company.

Free Warden

The Free Warden is the senior of the two Wardens and will become the Master the following year. The Free Warden is Chris Turner.

Heritage Craft Group

This group is tasked with reviving the art of fan making in the UK. It has established a partnership with UAL Chelsea college of arts and West Dean College near Chichester. UAL Chelsea has incorporated fan making with

product design degrees and some of the best students are then sent to West Dean on a residential fan making course. The group is headed by Assistant Helen Marr. This group reports to the Fan Makers Charity "Poor Fund".

Golfing Society

The Club Captain is Liveryman Ken Burrage. New members are always welcomed.

There are about nine events held in the year and the highlight is a match played at Swinley Forest in June. They also play in an Inter-Livery cup match.

GP&FC

General Purposes and Finances Committee. This Committee is made up of the Master, Wardens, two senior Assistants, the immediate Past Master, two additional Past Masters, the Comptroller, the Curator of the Treasures and the Chair of the Membership Committee.

It meets four times a year in January, March, May, and September and makes decisions about the overall governance and direction of the Company. It makes recommendations to the Court.

The 2026/7 Committee members are:

Master Dinesh Naidu, Free Warden Christopher Turner, Foreign Warden Richard Jeffery, Curator of the Treasures Past Master John Hayes, Past Master Jonathan Bewes, Past Master Peter Dove, Immediate Past Master Antony Robson, Senior Assistant Gary Blaker, Assistant Nick Cooke and the Comptroller Assistant Judith Mosely. The Chairman of the Livery Committee and the Clerk are in attendance.

Immediate Past Master

The Master after relinquishing his or her role as Master, becomes the Immediate Past Master for that year. The Immediate Past Master is Antony Robson.

Keeper of the Fan Collection

Assistant Anne-Marie Benson (Honoris Causa) is the Keeper of the Fan Collection. Items from the collection are shown at receptions and meetings but generally are kept in secure conditions and are not on public display. In the event of an enquiry please contact the Keeper.

Lansbury Lawrence Primary School

This is a Primary School in Poplar which the Company has supported both financially and through being on the Governing Body for many years. At present The Master Antony Robson is a Governor of the school.

Librarian

The Librarian is Liveryman Elizabeth Hayes. The Library contains books about Fans and the City more generally. If you have an enquiry about using the library please speak to the Clerk or the Librarian. The list of books is available to view on the website.

Liveryman of the Company

A Freeman of the Company who has been admitted to the Freedom of the City is entitled to be admitted to the Livery of the Company in a ceremony conducted before the Court of the Company. Once admitted Liverymen have the right to vote for Sheriffs and the Lord Mayor. They can participate in all the Company's activities and they can also be considered for membership of the Court.

Livery Committee

The Livery Committee has 4 work streams; Communications; Membership; Recruitment & Progression and Events. The Chairman is Assistant Carole Plant.

The main functions of the Committee are to put on events outside the more formal Livery calendar, to work on recruitment and retention and be a link between the Livery Company and its membership.

Lord Mayor's Show

The Lord Mayor's Show takes place on the Saturday nearest Remembrance Sunday each year. The Master and other members of the Company usually parade with other Senior Livery Companies.

Master of the Company

The Master presides at Committee meetings such as the Court and the GP&FC. The Master also presides at Court dinners and banquets. Usually they serve for one year from the Election Court in February. The current Master is Dinesh Naidu.

Military Affiliations

The Company has long standing links to the Army, Airforce and Navy. Members of our military affiliations are invited to dinners and from time to time, visits are made to their own home bases. Our affiliation with the Royal Navy are 846 Naval Air Squadron and HMS Glasgow. Our Army affiliation is with 217 Field Squadron Royal Engineers, Our Royal Air Force affiliation is with RAF 2 Squadron(AC) at Lossiemouth. For Cadets see 'C' above.

Newsletter

In usual times the newsletter is published twice a year. The current editors are Liveryman Elizabeth Hayes and Freeman Emily Bray. This year they plan to publish several shorter editions instead of two long editions.

Senior Assistant

The Senior Assistant is the most senior of the Assistants on the Court. They serve in this role for one year, prior to becoming the Foreign Warden. This year it is Assistant Gary Blaker.

Senior Past Master

The Senior Past Master is the Master who served in that role the longest ago. The Senior Past Master wears a distinctive black robe with a dark fur lining. In practice this is worn by the most Senior Past Master Present.

Shooting Society

The Secretary is Richard Lovell.

There are about six events held throughout the year with an Inter Livery shoot in May.

The Society is open to all Liveryman and their guests, the only requirement is that they have a shotgun certificate, a legal requirement.

Summer Livery Dinner

The Summer Dinner is usually held in early June. It is open to Liverymen, Freemen, Apprentices and their guests. There is usually drinks held outside before the dinner and some musical entertainment held during the course of the evening.

United Guilds Service

This service is held at St Paul's Cathedral on a Friday 2-3 weeks before Good Friday. It is open to all members of Livery Companies and their guests. Each Company has a row of seats and an allocation of places in other parts of the Cathedral. It is followed by a lunch in one of the Livery Halls. Dress code is smart day dress (suit and tie with morning suit optional, dress and jacket/smart trouser suit with hat optional).

Assistant Gary Blaker & Liveryman Tim Page
Updated by Clerk Claire Chitty
February 2026