



## *The Worshipful Company of Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers of London*

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### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

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#### ***What does the Livery Company do now?***

The Coachmakers' Company is a charitable association which supports the heritage of coach and coach harness making and today promotes excellence in the modern aerospace, automotive and rail industries as well as the traditional crafts of coach and carriage building and harness making for equestrian use. We achieve our goals through the award of educational bursaries, the recognition of excellence and in charitable fund-raising for organisations associated with our relevant industries.

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#### ***Where do the Company's charitable donations go?***

We have modest funds available for charity, and donations are focused on training in the aerospace and automotive industries and in crafts associated with the manufacture and driving of traditional coaches. We try to make donations as substantial as possible with the aim of 'making a difference' rather than giving small amounts to many recipients.

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#### ***And the educational bursaries?***

We provide bursaries for students studying motor vehicle design at the Royal College of Art and aerospace sciences at Cranfield University. A flying scholarship is provided for an individual who, in competition, has shown aptitude and determination. We also support the Lord Mayor's Annual Appeal and make regular payments to the RAF Benevolent Fund and to the BEN fund, which helps employees in the motor and associated industries.

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#### ***Are the Coachmakers unique in this regard?***

Most Livery Companies traditionally ran almshouses. Today 41 housing schemes and 947 residents are supported in sheltered housing. The financial assistance given to these schemes in 2002 was £2.5million. Livery Companies are also widely involved in education. 124 educational establishments and schools have specific links with Livery Companies and in 2002 benefited from £5.5million of financial assistance. The total charitable giving by Livery Companies in 2002 was £42.8million.

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#### ***And on the social side?***

The City Livery Companies, of which the Coachmakers is one, offer a valuable networking opportunity and engaging social framework where congenial and like-minded people can meet, talk and socialise together at a variety of functions ranging from formal dinners to informal outings to interesting places. In the Coachmakers we have people from all walks of life, from the motor, aerospace, rail and coachbuilding industries, and bankers, solicitors, doctors, lawyers and publishers.

### ***What sort of 'interesting places'?***

We have links with each of the three services and, we regularly have the opportunity for a number of Liverymen to fly in a 10 Squadron VC10 tanker whilst it took part in an air-to-air refuelling sortie. Liverymen are able to go to sea in HMS Bulwark, a Royal Navy ship with which we are affiliated. Recently a visit was made to Porsche in Germany where we were given unprecedented access to the company's R&D facility, as well as having a factory tour and being driven on the test track in the latest models. There is a Christmas reception each year, held in such places as the Guards Museum, Royal Courts of Justice and the headquarters of the Honourable Artillery Company. There is also an annual Carol Service and we organise clay pigeon shoots, golf matches and a number of other activities enabling you to spend as much, or as little, time as you wish enjoying being a Coachmaker. You can also go to the Lord Mayor's Show each year and dream of being Dick Whittington – the first step to becoming Lord Mayor is being granted Freedom of the City, a prerequisite of becoming a Liveryman.

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### ***You keep on saying Liveryman; is this a male only affair?***

Absolutely not; everybody is welcome to apply to become a Liveryman.

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### ***Is joining the Livery similar to becoming a Freemason?***

No. Whereas Masonic lodge meetings are private and open only to members, the Livery welcomes guests and has no rituals.

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### ***Is it expensive to be a Liveryman? And what will I get out of it?***

There is an initial joining fee, currently £950 plus an annual fee of £225, reduced by 50 per cent for anyone under 35 years. You will get out of it more or less what you put into it! Some Liverymen attend only one or two dinners per year, never bring guests and never go to events; others attend everything they can and always bring guests. Most like to attend the Livery's two big dinners – the Automotive Dinner and the Aerospace Dinner. Many people bring guests to either or both, giving hosts and guests the opportunity to enjoy a convivial evening in a magnificent setting. As an itinerant company we are lucky because we dine at many different Livery Halls and that, in itself, is a reason to join – the opportunity to see some of the City of London's hidden architectural treasures come to life. As a Liveryman you will meet many people, some of whom will become friends, and you will have the opportunity to entertain family, friends and business colleagues in a way that will probably astound them.

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### ***The joining procedure seems quite complicated; is it?***

The joining procedures are laid down by the City authorities and are common to all Livery companies. While the process may seem to take a long time, it is designed to make sure that applicants are not pressured into making decisions in haste and the Livery has the time and opportunity to consider applicants fully. Details are on our website.