



*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?***

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 automotive and aerospace manufacturing 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 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 20 Companies provide 855 dwellings for 1,014 elderly residents. The 108 Livery Companies support 37 primary, 16 preparatory, 54 secondary, 44 independent and 11 sixth form colleges providing education and training for 105,000 pupils. They also have 173 links to universities and of the total charitable giving per year of £41.8 million, 51% is spent on Education, 31% on welfare and relief in need, 7% on trade, 3% on environment and arts and 2% on churches, leaving 6% for a miscellany of worthy activities. There are 26,350 liverymen with affiliations to 65 churches, 216 regular and reserve units of the Armed Forces and 101 cadet units who in turn are also widely involved in education.

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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.

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

We have links with each of the three Armed Services. Liverymen have been to sea in HMS Bulwark, a Royal Navy ship with which we are affiliated. We have close associations with the RAF at Brize Norton and have enjoyed visits to the Station which from time to time have included in-flight refuelling sorties over the North Sea. Our links with the Army are through an association with the Royal Dragoon Guards and we hope to strengthen this link when their time permits. Recently visits have been made to the Aston Martin production facility, AgustaWestland's operations in the UK and Italy and Porsche in Germany where we were given unprecedented access to the company's R&D facility and a trip round the test track in the latest models. Liverymen have had the opportunity to attend events such as the Royal Windsor Horse Show, a tour of the King's Troop at the Royal Windsor Mews, the Churchill War Rooms and the Sandringham Carriage & Motor Museum. 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 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 Liverymen; is this a male only affair?***

Absolutely not; everybody is welcome to apply to become a Liveryman. Indeed 2012 was a milestone year as we were able to support our first Lady Master. Women are actively encouraged to join the Coachmakers and ultimately the Court as they make their individual way towards becoming Master.

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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 ('fine'), currently £750, plus an annual fee of £330. The fine is reduced by 50 per cent for anyone under 35 years and is reviewed annually. You will get out of it what you put into it! Some attend only one or two dinners per year, never bring guests or 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 - and many bring guests to either or both, creating an 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 which are common to all Livery companies are laid down by the City authorities. Whilst it may seem a lengthy process, 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. For more information, visit our website ([www.coachmakers.co.uk](http://www.coachmakers.co.uk)) or email The Clerk ([clerk@coachmakers.co.uk](mailto:clerk@coachmakers.co.uk)).