

An introduction to:



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THE

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WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF  
**PATTENMAKERS**

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*(With which the ancient Mystery of Galochemakers was  
incorporated in the 15th Century)*

Incorporated by Royal Charter in 1670



Royal Patron  
HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO



## A warm welcome from the Pattenmakers



May I introduce you to the Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers. One of the 110 Livery Companies of the City of London, we were awarded a Royal Charter in 1670 but are first recorded as a trade association for the makers of pattens in 1379 although the trade dates back to the 12th century or earlier.

As our original trade no longer exists, we have transformed ourselves into a Footwear-based Livery and, in more recent years, have also incorporated the Facilities Management profession. In addition to these two principal trades, our membership of over 300 people includes many working in the City, military and legal profession to name but a few. Indeed we are regarded as one of the friendliest and most go-ahead Liveries and also have a vibrant Young Pattenmakers group.

Joining a Livery Company allows you to be part of the great heritage of the City of London while also helping to support deserving charitable causes. In this booklet, we have listed some of our charitable activities and you will see that chief amongst them is the supply of hand-made orthopaedic footwear to injured service personnel based at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (formerly Headley Court.) We are also fortunate to be one of the few Liveries to be directly associated with a church, St Margaret Pattens, and this is another focus for our Charitable Foundation.

Being part of the Company permits you to participate in the democracy of the City, with its ancient traditions and customs, as well as to learn more about its fascinating history. At a social level, membership also provides great entertainment in the company of like-minded people. This includes formal dinners in many of the historic Livery Halls in the City and a range of other informal activities and events throughout the year.

I hope you enjoy reading more about our historic organisation and I look forward to welcoming you to a Pattenmakers' event.

**Dr David Best**  
*Master Pattenmaker*

## A message from the Chairman of the Membership Committee



A very warm welcome and thank you for your interest in the Pattenmakers. I hope this booklet will provide you with an informative summary of our history, what we do today and how you can apply to join us. However, before you dive in, let me start by giving you a few personal thoughts as to why I believe the Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers is a great organisation to be involved with.

Firstly, we are a fully-fledged Livery Company that actively participates in City life and traditions. Indeed, our members include Common Councillors that hold influential positions on key City committees as well as distinguished former Chief Commoners and Sheriffs.

We are a medium sized Company comprised of a stimulating mix of people from our two principal trades of Footwear and Facilities Management as well as about a third of our members coming from a range of other trades and professions.

We support our trades through a programme of trade-related events including visits and annual trade dinners, which have firmly established themselves as fixtures in their respective trade calendars and attract leading industry speakers and attendees. In addition, we provide support for training/apprenticeships together with a prestigious young practitioner awards programme.

We do not have our own livery hall, which allows the opportunity to visit a variety of other halls for our formal dinners, but we do have our own affiliated church – St Margaret Pattens – which provides our spiritual centre and home to our treasures/collections.

We put on a compelling programme of formal and informal events and activities throughout the year including, for example, the magnificent Mansion House Banquet and a popular tutored single cask Whisky tasting evening.

Our formal dinners feature a diverse range of speakers that have included Lord Mayors, Government ministers, military Generals, senior business leaders, TV celebrities and sports personalities.



There is also often after dinner musical entertainment from some of the musicians we help support as well as the upholding of unique City traditions such as the Loving cup.

We have a very strong charitable ethos and support a range of charities and good causes including the Defence Military Rehabilitation Centre, scholars from deprived backgrounds, young musicians, military regiments and, of course, our Guild church of St Margaret Pattens.

There is a vibrant Young Pattenmakers programme, allowing younger people to be part of the Company while socialising with people of their own age, which has its own centrepiece annual dinner. We also have strong links outside of the City including, for example, holding Northern dinners and the biannual visit to Zurich to take part in the Sechselauten parade by invitation of the Guild of Tanners & Shoemakers of Zurich.

The Pattenmakers have a particularly fascinating heritage. We celebrated the Tercentenary of our grant of Livery in 2017 and an update of the Company's history (with many colourful stories and a few surprises) is currently being compiled for a new book to coincide with the 350th anniversary of our first Royal Charter in 2020.

To many people, however, the most distinctive aspect of the Pattenmakers is the friendly, open and relaxed feel. It is not dominated by family dynasties nor overly tied to specific trades. Instead it is a place for like-minded people to come together and, through all we do, enjoy each other's company (and that of our guests) while providing a stimulating opportunity to interact with those one might not otherwise cross paths with.

I hope you will enjoy finding out more about our wonderful organisation and the rich community it represents and, if this appeals to you, that you will consider joining us.

**Alan Lyons**

*Chairman, Membership Committee*

## We are often asked, just exactly what is a patten?



Pattens are undershoes which were designed to be worn outdoors and to lift the wearers and their shoes above the mud and grime of early streets.

The most common pattens, made since the 12th century in London and other European centres, took the form of a shaped wooden platform with leather or cloth straps to hold shoes upon it. Early versions had wooden wedges beneath the platform but in later years these were replaced with a cast-iron ring and uprights attached to the platform above. Then, in the 18th century, pattens for ladies that matched their shoes were made incorporating fine silks and embroidery. Hence the trade grew to embrace a number of skills including carpentry, leatherwork, blacksmithing and embroidery.

Pattens were worn principally by women, giving rise to the Company's motto (shown on its arms): "Recipiunt fœminæ sustentacula nobis" meaning 'Women receive support from us' but men's and children's examples also exist.

The demand for pattens died out at the end of the 19th century, when roads and pavements were much more commonly surfaced and refuse/sewerage became better managed. Hence the Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers, having lost its trade, needed to reinvent itself. It did this by further developing its association with the shoe trade through, for example, supporting awards for young managers and grants for students learning the design and manufacturing skills required. More recently, it has found a way of combining its trade and charitable aims by supporting the production of orthopaedic shoes for those - particularly in the armed services - who have had severe leg and foot injuries.



## And what does being a Livery Company in the City mean?



The Livery Companies developed as Guilds (or Trade Associations) in medieval times and were responsible for the regulation of their trades controlling, for instance, wages and labour conditions. Some continue to have a professional role today, for example, the Goldsmiths still issue hallmarks and the Fishmongers are involved in the regulation of the fish market, while others have become purely charitable foundations.

The conditions which gave birth to the original Guilds have long since been overtaken by the development of industry and commerce, but the Livery Companies still flourish as living institutions. Their survival has been achieved by doing what they have always done: fostering their trade in a wide context, serving the community, and embracing modern skills and professions.

The term 'Livery' originated from the specific form of dress worn by retainers of a nobleman who carried his 'livery' or armorial bearings, and then by extension became applied to the special dress worn to denote the status of belonging to a trade.

As well as playing an important role as upholders of quality and price, the Guilds were instrumental in training. After serving a seven year apprenticeship, the apprentice would have to prepare a test piece. This would be presented to a 'court' of those proficient in the craft. If the apprentice was judged to have attained the required standard, he would be made 'free of his trade' and able to practice first as a Freeman, and then, possibly after a period of probation, as a full Liveryman.

After becoming a Liveryman and Freeman of the City, the now relatively senior practitioner would be able to participate in the elections of Masters of his trade, Aldermen and the Lord Mayor of the City, hence playing a part in what is the oldest continuous democracy in the world.

## Origins and governance of the Pattenmakers' company



While the 'Mystery of Patynmakers' was first recorded in the year 1379, the Company was only awarded its first Royal Charter in 1670. However, for some reason lost in the mists of time, it was not until nearly 50 years later in 1717 (during the reign of George I) that the Company actually received its Grant of Livery from the Court of Aldermen and became a Livery Company of the City of London, where it is 70th in the order of precedence.

Over the years the Pattenmakers integrated the separate trades of tassemakers, pouchemakers and galochemakers and the Company still refers to its incorporation with the "ancient Mystery of Galochemakers" in the 15th Century. However, little information is available and it is assumed that many records were lost in the Great Fire.

While today the Pattenmakers' Company does not have its own Livery Hall, it is not certain whether or not it did in the past. Over the centuries many Livery Halls have disappeared either being sold when money has been short, closed when a Company has disbanded or been absorbed into another, or been destroyed such as in the Great Fire of London in 1666 or wartime bombings.

The Master Pattenmaker is the Company's ambassador, representing it externally at City and other functions, and is assisted by the Upper and Renter Wardens. The Master and Wardens are elected by the Court, the governing body of the Livery, and hold office for one year. The Trade Warden looks after the Company's links to its principal trades of Footwear and Facilities Management and is appointed for two years.

The Court decides on all Company business and consists of the Master, who chairs it, the Upper, Renter and Trade Wardens, Past Masters and Court Assistants, who often chair the supporting management committees. The day-to-day management of the Company is provided by the Clerk supported by the Assistant Clerk.



## Royal Patronage



The Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers is extremely proud to have HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO as its Royal Patron.

The Duke is the second son of the late Duke of Gloucester and Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, is grandson of George V and a first cousin to The Queen.

He became Royal Patron of the Pattenmakers in 1982 and has generously supported the Company ever since including proposing the link with the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (formerly Headley Court) that has been a tremendous success and helped support many injured service personnel.



## Young Pattenmakers



The Pattenmakers have an enviable Young Pattenmaker programme which offers talks, a variety of social events and get togethers aimed at those with an interest in the Company who are under 40 years of age. One of the highlights in the year is the annual dinner, which is a wonderful opportunity for Young Pattenmakers to come together at a Livery Hall or other stunning venue. At this event the Young Pattenmaker Awards are also announced. This prestigious award scheme is open to young managers (aged 21-32) in both Footwear and Facilities Management with the winners receiving substantial funding for a bespoke training and development programme as well as membership of the Company.



The Young Pattenmakers are a vibrant community within the Company and warmly welcome young people keen to find out more about the fascinating world of the Livery. On becoming Friends or Freemen of the Company, Young Pattenmakers enjoy significantly discounted rates.

## Military affiliations

Since Tudor times the City has provided trained bands of soldiers for the defence of the Realm and of the City, in particular. These soldiers, mainly found from apprentices of the Livery Companies, were mustered during the threat of a Spanish invasion in the reign of Elizabeth I.

Today the Pattenmakers continue to maintain strong affiliations with each of the armed forces, with several of our members coming from the military.

### The Royal Navy

HMS Chiddingfold M37 is a mine hunting vessel entering service in 1984. The Company provides support in the form of contributions to the crew welfare fund.



### The Army

101 (City of London) Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) is descended from the London Volunteer Engineer Regiments (which pre-date the Boer War) and the London Divisional Engineers (which served with distinction in both World Wars). Last year 101 Regiment was granted privileged status in the City of London becoming the first ever Royal Engineer Regiment to receive such an honour.



### The Royal Air Force

The University of London Air Squadron (ULAS) was formed in 1935 at RAF Halton. It is headquartered at RAF Northolt with its aircraft and flight training based at RAF Wyton. It now has some 30 university cadets sponsored by the RAF as well as 75 volunteer reserve members recruited from universities in London.



### The Army Cadet Force

In line with the recent Lord Mayor's initiative seeking closer support for the Cadet Forces, the Pattenmakers Company is affiliated to Kent Army Cadet Force – the second largest Army Cadet Force in the UK.



## Trade links: Footwear



Although its original trade ceased to exist 150 years ago, the Pattenmakers' Company has transformed itself into a Livery Company associated with the Footwear trade and has a strong relationship with the British Footwear Association.

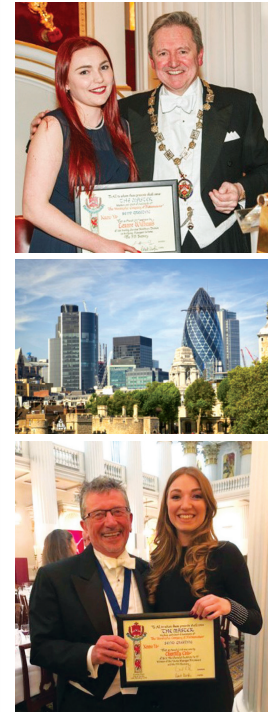
A third of Livery members are either in or have been associated with the Footwear industry and the Company plays an important role in supporting the industry's educational and apprentice programmes, including the pioneering Young Manager's Scheme. In addition, the Pattenmakers host an annual Footwear Dinner which has become a fixture in the industry's calendar.

In line with the changing nature of the industry, the Company works with internationally acclaimed design colleges, large influential companies (e.g. Clarks, Pentland, Hotter etc.), major Midlands based high-grade menswear companies as well as some quirky, ground breaking brands. Most are family owned and this gives the industry a special focus and drive. Although the British Footwear industry no longer relies on its manufacturing base for its core activity, the Pattenmakers continue to support this area, especially the bespoke part of it.

Footwear is the recipient of much of the Company's charitable giving, including bursaries at design colleges, identifying/developing young managers and sponsoring/arranging apprenticeships in the bespoke part of the trade.

Most importantly, we continue to supply hand crafted orthopaedic shoes for injured service personnel at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (formerly Headley Court), and our apprenticeships focus on the development of skilled craftsmen and women in this important area.

## Trade links: Facilities Management and Built Environment



About 20 years ago, the Master at the time introduced the Company to the then new and innovative world of Facilities Management, which did not have a natural home in the Livery movement.

Facilities Management (part of the broader Built Environment industry) is a profession that encompasses multiple disciplines to ensure the functionality of the built environment by integrating people, place, process and technology. The industry is an important part of the UK economy, worth more than £100bn and employing over 3 million people, and continues to develop rapidly as outsourcing shifts from simply looking after office services to a whole range of "non-core" built environment management functions.

The Company now has more than 50 members that come from this background who play an important role in the activities and governance of it. There is an annual Facilities Management dinner, attracting leading industry speakers' which recently included talks on the construction of the Shard and the refurbishment of the Palace of Westminster. An annual Pattenmakers' Young Manager Award supporting young Facilities professionals has also become an important date in the industry calendar.

The Company's activities have been supported by some of the UK's leading Facilities Management and Built Environment companies (e.g. Argent, Bellrock FM, ISS Facilities, Kier, Mace, OCS Group etc.) as well as many smaller independent facilities service providers.

The Pattenmakers' Company has recently entered into a special relationship with the British Institute of Facilities Management but also has members from the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and the International Facility Managers Association.

## Charitable support



The Pattenmakers have a Charitable Foundation which is entirely separate from the other parts of the Company. A proportion of each member's annual quarterage (subscription) is allocated to the Foundation as well as the receipts from fundraising activities.

In recent years, significant emphasis has been on supplying handmade, carefully crafted footwear for injured servicemen based at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (formerly Headley Court.) The original introduction was made by our Royal Patron in 2010 and since then Liveryman Bill Bird has worked with many veterans who need 'normal' looking shoes to allow them to live a more confident life.

In 2017 the Company formed an important collaboration with John Foxon to research and fund apprenticeships in bespoke footwear production. The John Foxon Pattenmakers Apprentice Scheme will help increase capability in this vital area of skills development.

The Pattenmakers Company is a member of the Livery Schools Link. This aims to promote support for schools in the Greater London area by Livery Companies of the City of London to help young people (especially those from less advantaged backgrounds) prepare for the world of work. As a result, we have developed, in partnership with



selected schools, a mentoring and support programme. Additionally the Pattenmakers' Charitable Foundation supports a student at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and a chorister at St Paul's Cathedral school.

Other beneficiaries of the Foundation include:

**De Montfort University** – bursaries and prizes for students on footwear design courses, including the Scarr-Hall bursary and the Orthopaedic Design Award

**City of London Schools for Boys and Girls** – bursaries



**Young Managers' Scheme** – Footwear and Facilities Management. A one year development programme tailored to our award winners including the Paice Memorial Prize for the footwear winner.

**HMS Chiddingfold and Kent Army Cadets**

**The Lord Mayor's Appeal**

**Our Guild Church, St Margaret Pattens** – To mark our Tercentenary in 2017, a special fund was raised towards the installation of new panels in the church recording all the Masters since 1670 (when our records began) and providing an important contribution to the restoration of the ancient and historic organ. Previously the Company contributed to the restoration of the two bells, one of which predates the Great Fire of London.

## The Guild Church of St Margaret Pattens



Although the Company does not have its own Livery Hall, it is one of the few Livery Companies to have its own church: the Guild Church of St Margaret Pattens.

This church, which is shared with the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers, was rebuilt by Christopher Wren in 1676 following the Great Fire of London and is one of the jewels in the City. It is situated in Rood Lane, which was originally the centre of pattenmaking in London.

This acts as the Company's spiritual centre with several Livery events held each year including Christmas carol and Ascension Day Services.

The Church also houses some of the Company's treasures including a collection of pattens and panels recording the names of all known Masters of the Pattenmakers.



## A calendar full of interesting events



The Company organises 3 - 4 formal Livery Dinners a year, visiting some of the most beautiful Livery Halls across the City. This culminates in a magnificent white tie Annual Banquet at the Mansion House at the end of each Master's year which is truly a remarkable experience.



There are annual dinners for both the principal trades we support – Footwear and Facilities Management. The Trade Warden also arranges a programme of visits related to these trades, often involving privileged access that is not available to the general public.



Liverymen are entitled to take part in the election of Sheriffs and the Lord Mayor in wonderful ancient ceremonies at the Guildhall. The Lord Mayor has been elected in this way for over 900 years as part of the oldest continuously functioning democracy in the world and it is a unique experience to attend Common Hall and be part of this.

There are many informal events throughout the year which include visits to gardens, historical places of interest, The Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (formerly Headley Court), the theatre etc. etc. This also includes the hugely popular wine and spirit tastings which are always hot tickets. There is also the 'Common Meal', a members-only event that dates back to 1707 where members can raise questions with the Master and Court.

A wide range of fundraising events are held each year and the Fundraising Committee is charged with finding imaginative activities that will raise much needed funds. These include Pattenmakers taking part in the London Marathon supported by other members of the Company from which we have been able to raise more than £200,000 over the last 10 years. Other recent fundraising activities have included abseiling down the 'Cheesegrater' building, open water swimming in the Serpentine, and an inter-livery pancake race. Another notable event is the annual walk to each of the City's Livery Halls by the Upper and Renter Wardens dressed in full gowns.

## Joining us



There are two tiers of membership: Freeman and Liveryman. New members start as Freeman and after one year can then apply to be considered for admission as a Liveryman.

To apply to become a Freeman of the Company you must be proposed and seconded by current Liverymen who have known you well for at least two years. (If neither is a member of the Court then the application must also be counter-signed by a Court member). You should also have attended at least one Company event as a guest, ideally more.

To cater for those that don't happen to know existing Liverymen of the Pattenmakers or who would like to find out more before committing to membership, there is a Friends scheme. This is a structured guest programme rather than a membership and operates for a fixed 2 year term permitting attendance at Company events. As such, it aims to allow Friends to find a Proposer and Secunder while learning about the Company to qualify them to then apply to become a Freeman at the end of the Friend term (although there is no obligation to do this nor any guarantee that the application will be approved).

Freemen pay a 'fine' (joining fee) together with an annual 'quarterage' (membership subscription). Friends do not pay a fine but pay a set annual fee for each of the two years. In addition, all members and Friends pay to attend events. These vary in price but formal dinners are c.£100 per person and informal events are considerably less.

Full details of the level of fees and subscriptions for different classes of membership (including overseas members) and for the Friends scheme are shown on the website or available by request. Young Pattenmakers (under 40 years of age) receive specially discounted rates.

For more information please contact:  
[clerk@pattenmakers.co.uk](mailto:clerk@pattenmakers.co.uk)



# Contact us

For more information on becoming a Friend, a Young Pattenmaker or a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers or for any other enquiry please contact the Clerk, visit our website or take a look at our social media pages

**Col R W Murfin TD DL**

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