

# The Worshipful Company of Basketmakers



Information for Prospective Members

and  
Application Form



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## Who are the Basketmakers?

Basketry is a very ancient craft, one of the first crafts adopted by humans. The oldest known baskets discovered so far were found at Fayum in Egypt and have been carbon dated to around 10,000BC and in the UK, fragments of basketware dating back to the Iron Age have been found near Glastonbury. However, unlike pottery, as basketware is organic it tends not to survive in the archaeological record, so it is possible that the craft was pioneered well before these dates. The Worshipful Company of Basketmakers owned an Egyptian shabti basket from 2,000 BC, which they donated in 2008 to the Economic Botany Collection in the Jodrell Laboratory at Kew Gardens for preservation.

We cannot claim quite such a long history but The Worshipful Company of Basketmakers was formally incorporated by an Order of Common Council dating back to 1569. A number of older documents mention basketmakers such as one from 1422 which referred to us as being, even at that early date, “a guild of old accustomed and still continuing” but we take 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1569 as our official beginning and mark our anniversaries from that date.

The Company was originally constituted to regulate and control the craft of basketmaking and the trade in baskets as well as to provide education and training in basketry. Some Companies have mediaeval origins solely as a “mysterie” (from Mediaeval Latin “misterium”, itself from Classical Latin “ministerium”, meaning an occupation, profession or skill). These had purely trade and regulatory duties, however we have always operated also as a “fraternity”. We have thus had a role from mediaeval times as a social organisation, which we maintain today, and our records show that we have always been inclusive. Female members are recorded from at least 1694 and there were no restrictions on grounds of class, race or religion.

We are pleased to say that this continues today and we have a reputation as a friendly and welcoming Company.



## **What do we do?**

The objectives of the Company today are: ---

- to promote fellowship among our members;
- to support the craft of basketmaking;
- to support the Lord Mayor and the City of London & preserve its heritage; and
- to promote charitable works.

### **Fellowship**

This word is widely used within Livery Companies, but what does it mean? It encompasses a number of things but includes the camaraderie, friendship, community and feeling of belonging that accompanies the meeting of a broad range of like---minded individuals, gathered together in convivial surroundings. Our motto, after all, is “Let us love one another”.

### **Craft**

Like many Livery Companies, the Basketmakers’ role as active enforcers of trading standards had been lost by late Georgian times. Unlike some Companies, which have lost their trade connection altogether or have adopted a modern alternative, we maintain a strong link with our origins by our support for basketry through prizes and awards; holding exhibitions; arranging tuition for members and their friends as well as in London schools; promoting our Yeomen Members who are all working basketmakers and through our support for the Basketmakers’ Association.

Basketry is relevant to modern life and found in many forms, ranging from hanging baskets of flowers, via the increasingly popular basketwork eco---friendly coffins, to baskets used for hot---air ballooning. Contemporary or traditional designs of basketwork, chairseating and even sculpture have boosted interest in the craft, as has a desire to avoid the litter and pollution caused by throw---away plastic bags.

### **City**

From Saxon times, London had an independent nature as it did not form part of any King’s possession and its various Royal Charters merely confirmed existing privileges, rather than granting them. The governance of the City rests with the Lord Mayor, the Sheriffs, the Court of Aldermen and the Court of Common Council and the fact that this is a unique form of local government within the UK today illustrates that the City’s independence continues. The City Corporation not only acts as the local authority for the Square Mile but also promotes the City as the world leader in international finance and business services; it provides valued services such as the Barbican Centre, the Guildhall Library & Art Gallery, the London Metropolitan Archives, Guildhall School of Music & Drama, operates Billingsgate, Smithfield and Spitalfields markets, runs the Central Criminal Court (the Old Bailey), maintains five bridges over the Thames and around 11,000 acres of open space including Hampstead Heath and Epping Forest.



It is the duty of members of Livery Companies to elect the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs at Common Hall and we actively encourage members to vote in these elections and enjoy the accompanying ceremonial. Members of the Livery are eligible to stand for election to these high offices and thus membership is essential for those wishing to play a full part in the governance of the City of London.

In accordance with long established Livery tradition dating back to the Trained Bands of 1572, the Basketmakers support the following affiliations to: ---

- HMS Richmond, a Type 23 Frigate;
- Number 5 (Army Cooperation) Squadron, Royal Air Force;
- 8th Battalion The Rifles
- 2 Company, City of London & North East Sector Army Cadet Force.

### **Charity**

In common with other Companies, the Basketmakers have always supported the needy or poor. The oldest surviving record of a charitable donation by the Company dates to 1527, before our formal incorporation, and there is a continuous vein of philanthropy throughout our history.

Our charitable activity is now organised under The Worshipful Company of Basketmakers' 2011 Charitable Trust. Its stated aims are to support charitable objectives related to the trade of basketmaking including education and welfare; charitable objectives relating to the City of London including the Lord Mayor's Appeal; the Guild Church of St Margaret Pattens; and small charities focused mainly in London.

We aim to support social and welfare type charities such as those helping with rehabilitation, assistance to the homeless, and care for the elderly, mainly in the poorer areas of London. Rather than a large number of small donations, we look to give a more meaningful amount to each recipient, and we aim to build a relationship with recipient organisations.

As one of the main motivations of joining a Livery Company is philanthropy, the desire to give something back, there is a strong expectation (though for tax reasons there is no compulsion) that all members should make regular donations to The Worshipful Company of Basketmakers' 2011 Charitable Trust. Charitable activities are these days one of the main activities of the 110 Livery Companies who in 2019-20 donated collectively £72million, so it is considered unusual to join if you do not wish to support this activity.



## **What are the benefits of membership?**

Membership allows you to take a full part in the life of the City, including gaining the Freedom of the City of London and the right to stand for election to the highest offices of Sheriff and Lord Mayor. It allows you to enjoy the unique and valued sense of fellowship for which the Livery movement is renowned and to make many new and lasting friends from all walks of life but of a kindred spirit.

Members attend our formal black-tie Livery Dinners held at Skinners' Hall and our white-tie Annual Banquet held at Mansion House, both locations of exceptional grace and appeal where access is otherwise very limited. These dinners allow members to hear a wide variety of speakers covering both serious and light-hearted topics and are an excellent way to entertain guests with food and wine in surroundings unique to the City of London.

A series of informal events are planned each year including visits to places not normally open to the public, or private out-of-hours visits to places that are normally open at other times. We often have a long weekend away, sometimes closer to home such as a visit to Somerset with its long history of connection to basketry, sometimes more exotic such as a trip to Marrakech.

Members have access to facilities reserved for Liverymen such as overnight accommodation at Vintners' Hall, which is most useful for those living outside London; a regular three-course lunch on Wednesdays at Butchers' Hall or on Mondays at Ironmongers' Hall; membership of the City Livery Club and, for sailing enthusiasts, the City Livery Yacht Club; inter-Livery competitions in such diverse fields as Bridge, Clay Shooting, Swimming while raising funds for charity in the City Dip and, on Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Races. For younger members, there are activities run by the Younger Inter-Livery Group under the auspices of the Worshipful Company of Pewterers and membership of the Society of Young Freemen.

Being the Basketmakers' Livery, there are opportunities to try basketry for yourself and to view exhibitions or buy wares from our Yeomen members, thus supporting this traditional craft in its production of useful and beautiful items.

The partners and guests of members are welcome at almost all of our events.



## **What is expected from members?**

Becoming a member of a Livery Company should be seen as a life-long commitment and along with the fellowship, activities and opportunities come responsibilities.

Members should have a genuine wish to give something back to society, through offering their time for volunteering, through offering financial support to the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers' 2011 Charitable Trust and through playing a full role in the Civic City.

Members are expected to support the Company by attending its Livery Dinners, Banquet and other events, though we realise that members will not be able to attend every event the Company organises. We would expect that each member should attend at least one of the formal Dinners or Banquet each year.

We hope that members will become involved actively in the work of the Company. Some may wish to progress within the Company and can start by becoming a Steward for a two-year period. Stewards help to plan and run our events and generally assist the Court during ceremonials. Once you have served as a Steward, you are eligible for election to the Court of Assistants (our equivalent of a Board of Directors) should a vacancy arise and from the Court, you may eventually become Prime Warden.

Opportunities are available for those wishing to contribute their time philanthropically, for example by helping in deprived areas typically to the East of the City. Via our membership of Livery Schools Link, our members have been able to be placed in local schools either on an ad hoc basis to give help with reading and arithmetic or to give CV and interview coaching, or via more lasting associations such as becoming a Governor.

As with any organisation, the more you put in, the more you will get out of your membership.



## Am I eligible to join?

Anyone over the age of eighteen who is willing to support the Company's objectives, join in its activities, become involved in the life of the City of London, who is willing to contribute to the Company's Charity and who is eligible to obtain the Freedom of the City of London is eligible to join the Company. Members are first Admitted to the Freedom of the Company, which entitles them to become a Freeman of the City of London, following which they may be Clothed in the Livery. Those aged between fourteen and twenty-one and unmarried may be "bound as an Apprentice" to a Member (termed a Master) in such Member's first or "mother" livery company, for a period which must be no less than four nor more than eight years.

Membership of the Company can be obtained in five ways, by Servitude, by Patrimony, by Patrimonial Redemption, by Family Redemption and by Redemption. Fees are defined by these categories.

- Servitude is when an Apprentice who has served a full apprenticeship can claim Admission to the Freedom by right at a much-reduced cost. This is open to any child should a member of the Company agree to take them on as an Apprentice but is an excellent way to introduce the children or grandchildren of members to the Company. Further information on Apprenticeship is available on request.
- Patrimony is the traditional route open to any child born subsequent to a parent's admission to the Freedom of the City and is cheaper than admission by Redemption. Since 1999, adopted children and children legitimated by the subsequent marriage of their parents have also been eligible for admission by Patrimony, so long as their birth date was after the City Freedom admission of their adopter or parent.
- Patrimonial Redemption, which is a modern extension to the Patrimony route, allows admission of children born prior to a parent's admission to the Freedom of the City and children of Freemen who have not been legitimated by their parent's marriage at the same rates payable to the Company as Patrimony, although the Chamberlain's Court at Guildhall, which conducts the Freedom ceremony, nevertheless classifies this as admission by Redemption.
- Family Redemption is open to spouses, Civil Partners, long-term partners (as evidenced by their mention in the Company's annual list of members), siblings, grandchildren, and cousins of existing members. This route offers a 40% discount on the normal rates for admission by Redemption but still qualifies as admission by Redemption.
- Redemption is open to applicants not eligible for one of the other routes listed above.

The scale of entry fees is set out on page 13.

The Freedom of the City is now granted to men and women of any nationality, race or religion though anyone wishing to gain the Freedom must be able to make the following declaration beforehand:





“I have not been convicted of any criminal offence, nor have I ever been adjudged bankrupt, nor made any composition with my creditors in respect of which I have not paid 100 pence in the pound.”

You must also be willing to give the following traditionally worded declaration as part of the ceremony of receiving the Freedom:

“I do solemnly swear that I will be good and true to our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth the Second; that I will be obedient to the Mayor of this City; that I will maintain the Franchises and Customs thereof, and will keep this City harmless, in that which in me is; that I will also keep the Queen’s Peace in my own person; that I will know no Gatherings nor Conspiracies made against the Queen’s Peace, but I will warn the Mayor thereof, or hinder it to my power; and that all these points and articles I will well and truly keep, according to the Laws and Customs of this City, to my power.”

Anyone who is not a British Citizen or who is a Citizen of a Commonwealth country where the Queen is not Head of State has the option to substitute “Her Majesty” for “our Sovereign Lady”.

Although the terms “Freeman” and “Liveryman” are used for historical reasons, these terms apply equally to both male and female members and there has been a long---standing record over three centuries of admitting women to the Company.

At present, roughly 27% of our members are female (a growing percentage with both individual female members and an increasing number of husband-and-wife pairs) and in 2006, we had our first lady Prime Warden. We have had several members of the Royal Family, all female, as Honorary members of the Company, namely:

- HM Queen Mary in 1937
- HRH Princess Mary, the Princess Royal in 1954; and
- Currently, HRH the Duchess of Gloucester, since 1991.

Many of our members live outside London and 5% of our members live overseas including nearby countries such as France or Switzerland or those further afield such as the USA or Singapore.

Serving officers, NCOs and men of any of our affiliated forces units who are of the rank of Colonel (or equivalent) or below are eligible for reduced Fees and Quarterage.



## **What are the costs involved?**

There are some one-off costs, traditionally called Fines or Fees, for joining the Company, an annual membership fee called Quarterage for historical reasons and then the costs of attending various events and supporting our Charity. Reduced rates are available for certain categories of members as described above and full details are on page 13.

### **Charity**

Membership of the Company implies that you are willing to donate to the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers' 2011 Charitable Trust. There is no set amount or minimum donation stipulated, nor any compulsion to donate. However, please factor in an appropriate amount for your regular donations according to your means when considering the costs of membership.

### **Events**

The cost of our events can vary but typically they are as follows:

- Annual Banquet at Mansion House                      £145
- Livery Dinners    £120
- Lunches    £100
- Informal visits or events                                      £40-60
- There are also a number of occasional low-cost, ad hoc events through the year, including on-line gatherings and talks.



## **How do I apply?**

If you would like to join, you should be nominated by an existing member of the Company using the attached Application Form. You may still apply even if you do not already know an existing member personally, please contact the Clerk who will inform you of the procedure in these circumstances.

You should normally have attended at least one Livery Dinner or our Annual Banquet at Mansion House before applying, to sample what we do and to be sure you would indeed like to become part of the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers.

You should complete the forms attached and send them together with your CV and a covering letter (which should be addressed to the Clerk) to the existing member who has agreed to nominate you. The covering letter should give some background information about yourself, your interests and activities, outline what you hope to get from your membership of the Company and how you feel you will be able to support the Company in return. Should you prefer the existing member not to see any confidential bank details, you may place the relevant forms in a sealed envelope before posting the various papers to your nominator.

The nominating existing member should then write a letter to the Clerk in support of the application, stating fully the position of the candidate both socially and professionally, the candidate's qualifications for membership, how well and the length of time for which they have known the candidate.

The nominating existing member should then put your Application Form, your CV, your covering letter and post them to the Clerk.

You will then be contacted by the Chairman of the Membership Committee to arrange a suitable time for an interview. Candidates are normally expected to have attended at least one of our events and to have at least a basic understanding of the Company, the City and the Livery in general. You will find further information on the Company at our website [www.basketmakersco.org](http://www.basketmakersco.org). The nominating existing member is encouraged to assist the candidate in acquiring this basic knowledge.

Following the interview, should all go well and both parties wish to proceed, the Membership Committee will propose your membership to the Court, and should they approve, you will be invited to attend the next Court meeting to be Admitted to the Freedom of the Company. Court meetings are usually held on the same evenings as our Livery Dinners so new members typically attend the subsequent Dinner and find this a good opportunity to bring family or friends as guests to witness the ceremony of admission and to enjoy the Dinner.



If you do not already have the Freedom of the City of London, you will then need to make an appointment with the Chamberlain's Court at Guildhall, which can be contacted by telephoning them on 020 7332 1369.

Unless you are eligible for the Freedom of the City by Patrimony or your name is on a Ward List of electors, you will need to make two visits, the first visit is to apply for the Freedom and you will need to take: ---

- A copy of your Freedom Certificate from the Basketmakers' Company
- Your full birth certificate (not the short form birth certificate)
- Proof of any subsequent change of name (e.g. marriage certificate)
- Naturalisation papers if applicable
- A cheque for the Fine.

You will then be called for your second appointment once the Court of Aldermen has considered and approved your application. At this stage, you can receive your Freedom and you are encouraged to bring family and friends to witness this ceremony. If you are eligible by Patrimony or Ward List, the first visit can be omitted.

Your nominating existing member should assist you with the process of obtaining the Freedom of the City, as will the Basketmakers' Membership Committee.

Once you have the Freedom of the Company and of the City, you are eligible to progress to be Clothed in the Livery of the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers, thus becoming a full member and entitled to vote at City elections for the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs. You should contact the Clerk to give proof that you have obtained the Freedom of the City and will then be invited to attend a Court meeting for the Livery ceremony. As for the Freedom of the Company, it is usual to attend the subsequent dinner and you are encouraged to bring guests.

For further information, please contact the Clerk.

Clerk to the Basketmakers' Company  
11 South Way  
Seaford  
East Sussex  
BN25 4JG

Telephone: 07388 638716  
E-mail: [clerk@basketmakersco.org](mailto:clerk@basketmakersco.org)  
Website: [www.basketmakersco.org](http://www.basketmakersco.org)



## Schedule of Fines, Fees and Quarterage

<b><u>FEE ON ADMISSION TO THE COMPANY</u></b>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Under 40</i>
Servitude (Apprentice)	£300	£140
Patrimony, Family & Patrimonial Redemption	£440	£240
Redemption	£650	£325
Yeoman	£50	
Forces Affiliate	£50	
<b><u>FEE ON BINDING AN APPRENTICE</u></b>	£ 60	
<b><u>QUARTERAGE</u></b> LIVERY	Standard	£405 by direct debit
	Under 30 years	£102 by direct debit
	80 – 15 Rule*	£204 by direct debit
	Overseas	£271 by direct debit
	YEOMAN	£35 by direct debit
	FREEMEN	£102 by direct debit
	FORCES AFFILIATE	£36 by direct debit
SPOUSES & PARTNERS OF DECEASED MEMBERS		£36 by direct debit

\*80-15 Rule: The Liveryman must have reached the age of 80 and been a member for 15 years.

After a **maximum** of two years, Freemen pay Quarterage at Standard Livery rates whether or not they have taken the Livery.

### **FINES ON APPOINTMENT OF WARDENS OR ELECTION OF ASSISTANTS AND STEWARDS**

Prime Warden ---£ 1,000	Upper Warden ---£ 750	Under Warden --- £ 600
Court Assistant ---£ 600	Steward ---£ 200	

#### **Explanatory Notes Fee on Admission to the Freedom of the Company**

Your Fee on admission to the Company will be a one-off sum with no further Fee upon being Clothed in the Livery, please see page 8 to find your category. Please note this Fee can be paid by four six-monthly instalments over the first two years if you wish.

#### **Quarterage**

This is the Company's annual subscription, paid by Direct Debit each 1<sup>st</sup> October. On joining the Company, a member pays a pro-rata amount in addition to the admission fee.

#### **Fines**

The other one-off fines are payable when obtaining the stated rank within the Company.



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## Application by a Candidate for the Freedom & Livery of the Company

Candidates should complete this form and send it to their Nominator, together with a CV and a covering letter outlining what they wish to get from becoming a Liveryman and how they will be able to support the Company

<b>Candidate's full name including distinctions or degrees:</b>	
<b>Date of birth:</b>	<b>Spouse/Partner's name:</b>
<b>Profession or Occupation ("Director" is not sufficient)</b>	
<b>* Name &amp; Address of firm:</b>	
	<b>Postcode:</b>
<b>Work Telephone</b>	<b>Work E-mail:</b>
<b>* Home Address:</b>	
	<b>Postcode</b>
<b>Home Telephone:</b>	<b>Home E-mail:</b>
<b>Mobile number:</b>	

(\*Tick to which address communications should be sent – where e-mail address is supplied, communication will normally be sent by e-mail unless specifically requested otherwise).

<b>Is the Candidate eligible for the Freedom of the City of London</b>	<b>Yes / No</b>
<b>Is the Candidate a Freeman of the City of London?</b>	<b>Yes / No -- If yes, then date granted</b>
<b>Does the Candidate desire to be elected to the Livery?</b>	<b>Yes / No</b>
<b>Is the Candidate a Freeman or Liveryman of other Companies or a member of other City organisations, if so which?</b>	

### Formal application by the Candidate:

I apply to be Admitted to the Freedom and to be Called upon the Livery of the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The Chamberlain of London has requested that all Candidates should be advised of the terms of a declaration that they will be required to make when applying for the City Freedom, viz.: "I have never been adjudged bankrupt, nor made any composition or arrangement with my creditors in respect of which I have not paid 100p in the £, nor ever been convicted of any criminal offence."

**Data Protection Act.** The Worshipful Company of Basketmakers is a non-profit organisation and collects your information solely for the purposes of establishing membership and support. We will not pass your information to third parties.

**Nominator:** Please countersign this application form here and send it to the Clerk together with the Candidate's CV and covering letter and your own letter supporting the Candidate's application and stating how long you have known them.

**Signature of the Nominator:** (who must be a Freeman of the Company): \_\_\_\_\_

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>For Membership Committee Only:</b>		
Signature of Court Assistant _____	Print: _____	Date: / /
Signature of Court Assistant _____	Print: _____	Date: / /



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# Worshipful Company of Basketmakers 2011 Charitable Trust

Registered Charity No. 1141986

## CHARITY DONATION & GIFT AID FORM

The Trustees of your charity rely on donors for the Charity's income and are most grateful for your support. Please complete this form and send it to the address overleaf.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Full home address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

*Please tick one of the following boxes:*

I wish my donation to be used for the general giving of the Charity

OR

I wish my donation to be treated as an expendable endowment, which is held on trust to be retained for the benefit of the Charity as a capital fund, and to be expended if, or when required, at the discretion of the Trustees

*Please tick to indicate how you wish to donate:*

Bank standing order (*Please complete the standing order form overleaf*)

Cheque

CAF / KKA vouchers

If you are a UK taxpayer, *it would be very helpful if you would Gift Aid your donations by completing the Gift Aid Declaration below.* This will enable the Charitable Trust to reclaim tax already paid, increasing your donation by 25% at no cost to you. (If you are a higher rate tax payer you may be eligible to reclaim any tax paid over 20%.)

### GIFT AID DECLARATION:

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made:

**Today / in the past 4 years / in the future** *please delete according to your wishes.*

I confirm I have paid, or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify, I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2016.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify the charity if you wish to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address or if you no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

**The Worshipful Company of Basketmakers 2011 Charitable Trust**

**STANDING ORDER FORM**

**Instructions to your bank (Please use block capitals)**

To: The Manager, \_\_\_\_\_ Bank  
PLC

Bank address:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Sort code: \_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_ Account number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please pay to: The Worshipful Company of Basketmakers 2011 Charitable Trust  
Bank: NatWest Bank PLC, PO Box 35, 10 Southwark Street, London  
SE1 1TT  
Sort code: 51 50 03  
Account number. 66025044

Please pay the sum of: £ \_\_\_\_\_ (*amount in figures*)

I confirm the amount is: \_\_\_\_\_ (*amount in words*)

on the 1st day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_ and thereafter each **month / year** \* ,

**until further notice / until** \_\_\_\_\_ **20**\_\_\* \*Please delete, complete or amend as applicable

and debit my account.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send this form and the Charity Donation and Gift Aid form to:  
Hedley French, Trustee, The Worshipful Company of Basketmakers 2011  
Charitable Trust, Westcot House, Westcot, Near Wantage, Oxfordshire OX12 9QA**

**Thank you for your generous support**



## Worshipful Company of Basketmakers

### Livery Schools Link

The Worshipful Company of Basketmakers is a member of Livery Schools Link, an organisation acting to bring Liverymen and Freemen together with London schools in a wide-ranging selection of activities.

Many of those in the Livery Companies come from a business background; they may be company directors, accountants or lawyers. Such experience is invaluable to schools in deprived areas where many if not most of the parents who would normally provide Governors for a school have no such experience. Becoming a school Governor can provide a school with much needed leadership and guidance. It can be done on a time commitment of about six to eight hours per month. There are 350,000 places for Governors in England, of which 10-12% are vacant at any one time, a problem worse in urban areas.

Those not able to give the time required to become a Governor may consider help for individual pupils by mentoring them or attending classes to help with basic reading or maths. These are skills that we take for granted but are increasingly cited as lacking in many school leavers. Just an hour or two per week or fortnight can make a difference.

Another way to help on a one-off, ad hoc basis, rather than with any continuing commitment, is to help with "Presenting Yourself Days" run by many London Boroughs. These provide coaching for interviews or job applications for school leavers who may never have gone through the process before.

If you would like to consider volunteering, please fill out the form below and return it to our representative on LSL, Stephen Bowsher, 12, Brook Road, Brentwood, Essex, CM14 4PT

---

**Name:**

---

**Address**

---

**Postcode:**

---

**Telephone:**

---

**E-mail:**

**I would like information on: --**

**Governorships**

**Mentoring (Reading/Maths)**

**One-off help**



**END**

August 2021