



THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF
GLASS SELLERS OF LONDON
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION PACK

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OUR HERITAGE & PURPOSE



KING CHARLES II CHARTER RECEIVED 1664
200+ MEMBERS
71ST LIVERY COMPANY IN THE CITY

The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London received its Royal Charter from King Charles II in 1664 and has played a role in the life of the City of London ever since. Founded to uphold standards within the glass trade, the Company today continues to promote the values of fellowship, charity, education, and service.

While deeply rooted in tradition, the Company embraces the modern world of glass — from art and craftsmanship to science and technology — bringing together members who share an interest in glass, the City of London, charity and the enduring spirit of the Livery movement.



OUR ROLE TODAY



- Promote fellowship within the Company and the City of London
- Championing the ubiquity of glass around the world
- Support charitable and educational initiatives
- Preserve the traditions and values of the Livery movement
- Provide support and companionship to members
- Support the Lord Mayor and the Corporation of the City of London

“To foster its
profession,
trade or craft”

The Court of Alderman





CHARITABLE IMPACT



Charity has been at the heart of the Glass Sellers since our foundation in 1664. Today, we continue our founders' mission by supporting the Lord Mayor's charitable work, maintaining industry standards, and promoting the remarkable material of glass through education.

All members are encouraged to support the Charity Fund according to their means.

Through the Charity Fund, the Company supports:

- The wider glass industry
- Education and emerging talent
- City of London charitable appeals
- Communities and individuals in need

Our charitable activities include:

- Art, science, and technology awards
- Educational scholarships and bursaries
- Glass in Society projects with schools across the UK
- Support for special appeals, including the Lord Mayor's charities



BINOCULAR FUNDING SCIENCE IN SCHOOLS
LONDON ARMY CADETS MANSION HOUSE
MAGICAL TAXI TOUR TO DISNEYLAND



FELLOWSHIP

We promote life long fellowship, participation, and professional connection within the Company and the wider glass community, encouraging members to play an active role through committees, events, and Company activities.

Committee / Group

Purpose

Finance & General Purposes Committee

Oversees the Company's finances, governance, and general management on behalf of the Court.

Membership Committee

Supports recruitment, member engagement, and understanding of the Company and the City of London.

Charity Fund Trustees

Manage the Company's Charity Fund and oversee charitable giving and initiatives.

Succession & Appointments Committee

Supports succession planning for senior roles and key appointments within the Company.

Glass Committee

Strengthens links with the wider glass industry and promotes awareness of the Company.

Sporting Teams

Organise social and competitive sporting activities with other Livery Companies.





GLASS IN THE MODERN WORLD

Glass is one of the world's most versatile and sustainable materials, shaping modern life across art, architecture, science, technology, consumer goods and industry.

- Used in everything from touchscreens and wineglasses to satellites, mirrors and fibre optic communications
- Essential to industries including shipping, aerospace, biomedical engineering, automotive, and design
- Celebrated in both contemporary forms of craftsmanship and historic glass artistry and drinking vessels
- Made from natural materials and endlessly recyclable forever without any loss of quality

The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London proudly promotes the use, appreciation, and future development of glass in all its forms, while supporting the people and organisations connected to the global industry.





HOW WE ARE GOVERNED

The Company is governed by a Court, chaired by the **Master** and supported by the **Prime Warden** and **Renter Warden**, who traditionally progress to become Master in turn. These appointments are made annually. The Company Clerk attends all Court meetings and records proceedings, with other Officers attending when required.

Assistants to the Court are regularly appointed to support the future leadership of the Company. Together with the current Master, Wardens and the seven most recent Past Masters, they form the Court's voting body. While many decisions are reached through discussion and shared agreement, formal voting takes place on significant matters when needed.

All Past Masters remain life members of the Court. Although voting rights cease seven years after leaving office, their wisdom, experience and respect for tradition continue to play an important role in guiding the long term health of the Company and its members.





THE COMMITMENT OF MEMBERSHIP

Joining a City Livery Company is a **lifelong commitment** rooted in service, tradition and civic contribution. Membership begins as a Freeman and may later progress to the Livery, reflecting the historic journey from skilled craftsman to business owner.

Members support the traditions and customs of the City of London and, as Liverymen, take part in the election of the Sheriffs and Lord Mayor. Members are encouraged to contribute to the Company's Charity Fund according to their means.

As with all Livery Companies, certain City traditions and ceremonies form part of Company life, including formal dinners, toasts and the passing of the Loving Cup. Members are encouraged to play an active role in the Company's activities, while recognising that personal and professional commitments will naturally vary over time.

All members are expected to demonstrate:

- An appreciation of City traditions and heritage
- A desire to contribute to civic society
- A willingness to give time, talent and support
- A collaborative and collegiate spirit





THE JOURNEY OF MEMBERSHIP

New members join initially as **Freemen**, typically for up to three years. During this time, they are expected to attend formal and informal Company events, alongside briefing sessions about the City, the Company and its traditions.

Freemen are also encouraged to apply for the **Freedom of the City** of London through the Company. Following this, members may apply to be Clothed in Livery, which includes a one-off Fine, annual Quarterage and ongoing support of the Charity Fund. Regular attendance at Company events and City elections is also encouraged.

While the Company maintains a strong connection to the City of London, many members live across the UK and overseas, united by shared values, fellowship and service.



FREEDOM OF THE
CITY CEREMONY





BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP



- Build lasting relationships with like-minded professionals and peers
- Support education, industry, the arts and charitable initiatives
- Help young people fulfil their full potential
- Contribute to the future development of the wider glass industry
- Annual 'Master's Jolly' weekend trip
- Take part in the Company's charitable and civic activities
- Attend formal dinners, social and City events, including Mansion House
- Social activities across Livery companies
- Inclusive religious and ceremonial services dating back to the Magna Carta
- Access to affordable accommodation in the City for members travelling from outside London

Membership of the Company offers a unique opportunity to be part of the rich heritage, fellowship and civic life of the City of London, while contributing to causes that make a meaningful difference.





JOINING OUR COMMUNITY

Historically rooted in the glass trade within the City of London, the Company today welcomes members across the world from a wide range of professional and personal backgrounds. We are an 'open Livery' that maintains strong links to the glass industry and related sectors.

Our members include those working in glass manufacturing, telecommunications and glass composites, alongside individuals with interests in art, heritage and civic life.

The Company is a welcoming and diverse community, united by fellowship, the traditions of the City of London, charitable giving and a shared commitment to the future of the Company.

1. INITIAL INTRODUCTION
2. ATTEND COMPANY EVENTS
3. APPLICATION & SPONSORSHIP
4. COURT APPROVAL
5. ADMISSION AS FREEMAN

OVER TIME...

6. FREEDOM OF THE CITY
7. PROGRESSION TO LIVERY





APPLICATION & APPROVAL

APPLICATION

Applicants for the Freedom of the Company require two sponsors:

- One Liveryman
- One member of the Court

Sponsors act as proposer and seconder and support the application process. If you do not yet know members within the Company, the Clerk will be happy to guide you.

INTERVIEW & APPROVAL

Applicants are invited to attend an interview in person or online with representatives of the Company, typically including the Chairman of the Membership Committee, the Clerk and a Past Master.

Before interview, applicants are usually expected to:

- Attend at least one Company event
- Have a basic understanding of the Company, the City and the Livery movement

Following a successful interview and Court approval, applicants are admitted as Freemen of the Company, with the opportunity to obtain a Freedom of The City and progress to the full Livery.





PROGRESSION TO THE LIVERY

The process from application to becoming a Freeman usually takes no more than six months. Freeman are encouraged to progress to the Livery within three years, subject to availability. Before being clothed in the Livery, Freeman are normally expected to attend:

- Two dinners or banquets
- A Company briefing
- A City briefing

Those progressing within 12 months are also expected to attend at least one formal Court Dinner.

COSTS & CONTRIBUTIONS

MEMBERSHIP COSTS

Artisan Freeman

- One-off 'Fine': £150
- Annual Quarterage: £150

Artisan Freeman are typically active in Glass Art and do not usually progress to the Livery.

Freeman

- One-off 'Fine': £150
- Annual Quarterage: £240

Liveryman

On election to the Livery:

- One-off 'Fine': £650
- Annual Quarterage: £450

Annual Quarterage supports the running costs of the Company and may be paid annually, quarterly or monthly by direct debit.



Typical Event Costs

- Members' Evenings: £50 per person
- Dinners: £145 per person
- Lunches: £50–£100 per person
- Annual Banquet: £175 per person

All prices include VAT. Guests and partners attending events are charged at the same rate.

Active participation in Company events and activities is encouraged, helping members build friendships and enjoy the full experience of Livery life within the City of London.

A FINAL WORD

We warmly welcome those considering joining the Company and hope this information has given you a flavour of the unique experience and opportunity membership offers.

Becoming part of the Company is a long-term commitment, bringing opportunities to contribute to charitable, civic and industry life through both time and support. In return, members enjoy lasting friendships, shared traditions and access to a rich calendar of ceremonial, social and City events for both members and their partners.

As custodians of centuries of City of London heritage and tradition, we are proud to combine history, fellowship and service in a vibrant modern community.

To find out more or request an application form, please contact the Clerk:



Email: clerk@glass-sellers.co.uk



Tel: 07596 418127



Website: <https://glass-sellers.co.uk>





“Our annual programme of events is vast and diverse. It ranges from the Rt Hon Lord Mayor functions and quarterly Court Dinners to charity days, educational events on glass, an array of civic duties, social get-togethers, and much more...” **Ed Adshead-Grant**

“During my almost 20 years as a Glass Seller, I have always met with the utmost friendliness from my fellow members. I look forward to dinners and events, knowing that I shall have fun and interesting conversations. Undoubtedly much of my pleasure comes from the fact that I have put time into the company having been fortunate to be on several of the committees”. **Caroline Whiteman**

“The membership of any Livery Company allows you to embrace the extraordinary history and traditions of arguably one of the world’s greatest cities. The fulfilment of giving something back to the wider glass community, and to help to inspire students to consider a career in the glass industry still motivates me today over two decades on from joining the Livery family”. **Leigh Baildham**

