

This note is one of a series placed in the Almanac for the guidance of livery masters, wardens, and their clerks, especially new ones, seeking advice on a particular topic. They are not prescriptive, and how individual companies choose to conduct their affairs is, of course, entirely up to them. Most are written by a past chairman of the Livery Committee, of whom you may read more at the foot of the Contact page.

Prime Wardens, and other common confusions

These livery companies have a Prime Warden, rather than a Master:

Basketmakers' Company (58)
Blacksmiths' Company (40)
Dyers' Company (13)
Fishmongers' Company (4)
Goldsmiths' Company (5)
Saddlers' Company (25)
Shipwrights' Company (59)

The Weavers' Company (42) prefers an Upper Bailiff.

The Master Bowyer (58), uniquely, holds office for two years (from July in even numbered years).

The Apothecaries (58) are The Worshipful Society, and the Master Mariners (78) and Air Pilots (81) both style themselves The Honourable Company.

Parish Clerks and Watermen & Lightermen are both *Companies without livery*, though the former are Worshipful.

Other common confusions twixt hall names and their livery companies:

Armourers' Hall is the home of the Armourers & Brasiers' Company. ie NOT Armourers & Brasiers Hall. Similarly:

Painters' Hall is the home of Painter-Stainers' Company, and

Watermen's Hall is the home of the Watermen & Lightermen's Company.

Conversely, Barber-Surgeons' Hall is the home of the Barbers' Company. ie not the Barber-Surgeons' Company.

The Farmers' Company and the Fletchers' Company share and jointly own Farmers & Fletchers Hall.

HQS Wellington is the home of the Master Mariners' Company.

The Glaziers' Company share ownership of their hall with the Launderers' and Scientific Instrument Makers' Companies. However, only these two liveries refer to the hall by their own name.

And finally, Chartered Accountants' Hall and Insurers' Hall are not the halls of the eponymous livery companies (but of their professional institutes), though to an extent

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do base themselves there or have some of their meetings therein. [postscript – Insurers’ Hall is no longer in Aldermanbury]

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Was this note helpful? Do you have comment? Email nrpullman@btinternet.com