



Scite, Cito, Certe

Skilfully, Swiftly, Surely

Further information on the Carmen's Company, opportunities for admission and membership procedures, may be obtained by contacting:

The Clerk

The Worshipful Company of Carmen

Five Kings House

1 Queen Street Place

London EC4R 1QS

Telephone: 020 7489 8287 (Clerk)

020 7489 8289 (Office)

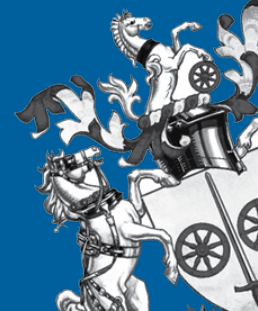
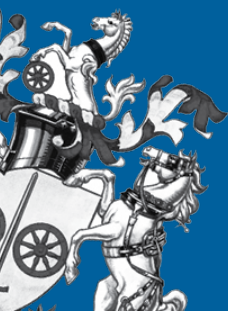
Fax: 020 7236 3313

Website: www.thecarmen.co.uk

Email: carmencompany@btconnect.com

The Worshipful Company of Carmen

A Livery Company of the City of London



Carman: *A man who drives a car
(a wheeled vehicle); a carter, carrier*

(The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary)

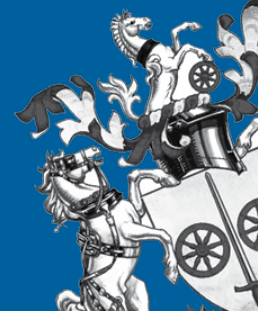
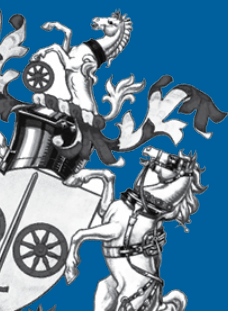


Since medieval times, Livery companies have represented and regulated trades and professions, advancing standards and promoting fellowship. Once common throughout Europe, a greater number survive today in the City of London (over 100) than anywhere else in the world.

Members who have been clothed with the Livery are entitled to wear the special uniform (gown and insignia) by which their Livery company is distinguished on formal occasions. They have first been made Freemen of the Company and of the City of London – an honour which in earlier times conferred special rights and privileges. Liverymen are entitled to vote annually in the elections for the Sheriffs and Lord Mayor of London.

The Worshipful Company of Carmen is the seventy-seventh City of London Livery company in the order of precedence and the last of the old companies. Its origins lie in the ancient trade of carting. It is the only Company to have been granted livery during the reign of Queen Victoria, in September 1848.

In modern times, the Company has extended its links to other transport modes, to passenger as well as freight transport and to those connected with the transport world in diverse ways, whether through business relationships or simply through personal fellowship. The Company now has nearly 700 members, including some 500 Liverymen, 150 Freemen and 40 Apprentices. It is one of the largest Livery companies of the City of London.

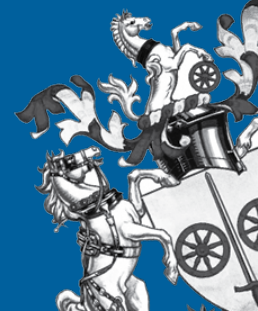


The Carmen's Aims

Today's Carmen are bound together by fellowship, by charitable giving and by service to their trade, to the City of London and to the wider community. The Company's principal aims are:

- to promote fellowship among those engaged in the trade of transport and their wider circle, which embraces many professional disciplines and walks of life;
- to fund acts of charity, particularly to individuals and organisations where a little means a lot: to assist those in need, relieve suffering and fund access to education;
- to recognise and promote achievement and the advancement of knowledge in the transport profession, through awards, lectures and other outreach activities;
- to recognise and support the selfless dedication of our armed forces personnel, through links with the three services which focus particularly on logistics and support units and by making awards to outstanding soldiers, sailors and airmen and
- to support the governance and civic life of the City of London Corporation, together with other livery companies.





A Carman's Year

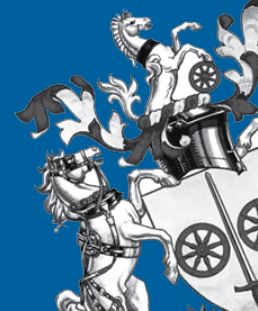
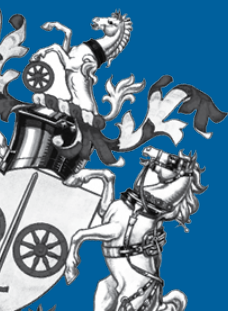


For Liverymen, Freemen and Apprentices, the Carman's year is marked by a succession of formal and informal events. It begins in October with the installation of a new Master and the cart hiring ceremony, calling to mind the Company's ancient trade. A January luncheon supports the Master's nominated charity, while the Carmen may banquet in the magnificent surroundings of the Mansion

House in March, by kind permission of the Lord Mayor. An April Joint Services Dinner celebrates the Company's military links. Not being tied to one Livery hall, Carmen are able to experience many of the hidden splendours of the world's greatest city.

Another highlight of the Company's calendar is the annual cart marking ceremony. This commemorates the ancient practice of licensing carts to ply for hire in the City. Commercial vehicles of every age and description, from hand carts to horse-drawn wagons, from the steam era to the early days of the internal combustion engine and right up to modern times, follow in procession into Guildhall yard. The Keeper of Guildhall, assisted by the Master Carman and the Lord Mayor, emboss the mark of the year onto a wooden board displayed by each vehicle, using a red-hot iron. The conclusion of cart marking is celebrated with a reception and lunch in the historic and awe-inspiring Great Hall.

Each year brings a diverse and exciting programme of visits to military bases and facilities, with the opportunity to experience something of the life of the armed services at first hand. Masters also customarily organise special events during their year of office to expand horizons and enthrall. There are a golf society and a club for classic car enthusiasts. The Company affords activities and opportunities to interest all, year round.



Company Governance

The governing body of the Worshipful Company of Carmen is known as the Court. It comprises Assistants who have not yet held high office, Junior and Senior Wardens, the Master (each serving in that office for a year) and Past Masters of the Company.

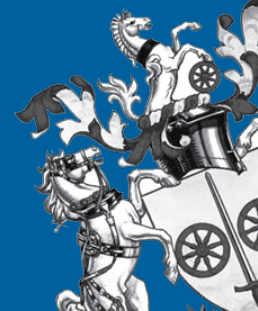
The Company is democratic in intent and practice. Appointment to the Court is by election, in which all Liverymen and Freemen of the Company are entitled to vote (in person). Progression to Junior Warden and beyond is also by election, within the Court. The opportunity to serve as Master is the highest honour the Company can bestow. The Master's chain of office symbolises service, not supremacy.

The Court is supported by committees which focus on particular aspects of the Company's activities, on which Liverymen as well as Court members are encouraged to serve. The Company's charitable activities are conducted through the Benevolent Trust.

Distinguished Carmen

Over the years, there have been many distinguished members of the Carmen's Company. Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal is a Past Master Carman. Past Masters during the twentieth century have included eight Lord Mayors of the City of London and in recent times, three lay Sheriffs, several Aldermen and a Chief Commoner have been Carmen. The Carmen's fellowship embraces many leading figures in the transport world and beyond, reflecting the Company's ever-developing links to its profession and society at large.



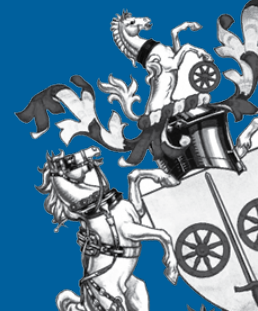
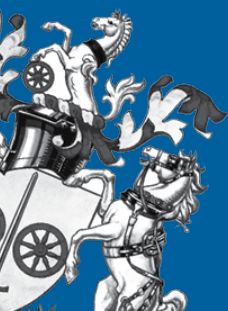


The Carmen's Heritage

The Company's origins go back to the middle ages, when the Crown sought to compel Carmen to carry Royal chattels. As the pay was derisory, bribes were paid so that Carmen could be excused – an early form of draft-dodging. The City of London Corporation intervened and in 1272 passed a bye-law controlling carters, which obliged them to accept both Royal and Civic service.



In the early 16th century the Carmen organised, with a view to regulating their trade interests. On 19th March 1517, during the reign of King Henry VIII, they formed the Fraternity of Saint Catherine the Virgin and Martyr of Carters. Catherine of Alexandria was adopted as the Carmen's patron saint because by legend she had met her end being broken on the wheel. The cartwheel then became her symbol. Foundation day is remembered each year in a special Company service of re-dedication.

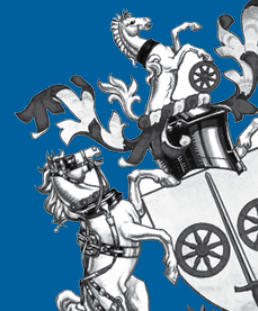
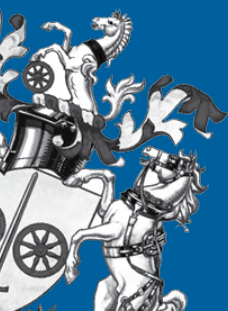


The 17th century saw continuing rivalry between the Carmen and the Woodmongers, the latter often in the ascendant. Their dispute had its origins in the overlap between general cartage and the thriving trade in fuel. Nonetheless, by the turn of the 18th century, the Carmen's fellowship had formally been authorised. The carting trade's fortunes waxed and waned through the centuries that followed, but the Carmen survived,

receiving a grant of arms in 1929 and a new Royal Charter in 1946 – the dawn of the modern era.

In today's economy, where mobility is universal and goods and services are supplied worldwide, the Carmen's trade is larger, more diverse, more sophisticated and more vital than ever. It is as old as civilisation and will endure as long as civilisation lasts. Five centuries after the foundation of the Fraternity of Saint Catherine, the Worshipful Company of Carmen is the oldest transport organisation in the world.





Becoming a Carman

Each year the Carman's Company admits a small number of new Liverymen, Freemen and Apprentices.

Apprentices, aged between 14 and 21, are sponsored by Freemen or Liverymen Apprentice Masters. They are apprenticed for at least four years, after which they may be admitted to the Freedom of the Company by servitude.

Freemen of the Company also become Freemen of the City of London. Freemen may seek to progress to the Livery. Other than through apprenticeship, candidates may be admitted by patrimony, if they are born sons or daughters of Freemen or Liverymen, or by redemption (on recommendation of existing Carman, after payment of an entry 'fine').

The Company's renowned welcome and fellowship extends equally to all, regardless of nationality, gender, ethnicity, religious beliefs or other extraneous factors, although Carman retain their historic formal affiliation to the Christian faith.

Liverymen and Freemen of the Company experience lifelong fellowship, are generous in charitable giving, participate enthusiastically in the life of the Livery, welcome the opportunity to serve the City of London Corporation and the wider community and enjoy the privilege of association with those who serve Queen and country.

