

## **Granting Freedom of the Company to Award/Bursary Winners**

All Needlemakers Liverymen are also Freeman of our Company (as well as the City of London). A number of other Livery Companies extend the privilege of Freedom to those not in position to become full Liverymen: often for people involved in the Company's trade.

At the initiative of the Master, the Fellowship Committee have put forward proposals to extend the use of Freedom of the Needlemakers Company to deserving prize winners. This was unanimously approved at the September Court meeting.

The idea is to attract new members of the Company who may not be willing to commit to the full cost and time commitment of being a Liverymen yet, particularly those who are younger.

The Court approved that Needlemakers Prize Winners (including bursary winners and apprentices) can be appointed as Freeman of the Company, by invitation only. The Membership Committee will consult with the Charity and Industry Committee to identify suitable prize winners to approach. The appointment of new Freeman will be approved by the Court annually.

The new Freeman will pay a lower Fine and Tallage, the amount depending on age. A Liverymen will be nominated to keep touch with each new Freeman. All Freeman will be invited to meet the Master and selected Members of the Court once per annum at an event. Freeman will be able to attend Company functions on a paying basis, with a subsidy towards the cost of one event per annum.

The Freeman will be appointed for a period of 5 years, at the end of each annual period they can apply to become a Liveryman. In exceptional circumstances the 5 year period may be extended.

The Freedom may be extended to others in future but that will be a separate decision by the Court. An example might be the children of Liverymen up to a certain age.