

Mary McNeil – Master Currier

Mary was born and raised in Hove, her father serving as Clerk to the Curriers throughout her upbringing, thus giving her an early schooling in the traditions of the Company. In 2002 she was the first woman to be clothed in the Livery of the Company and is both honoured and proud now to serve as the first female Master of the Company.

Her University studies in languages led her to live and work in North Germany in the early 1980s, first taking a gap year as an au pair in Hamburg, then working as a language assistant in Aurich, Ostfriesland.

From language studies, Mary moved into the travel industry, working with the Thomson Travel Group for 15 years. Starting with a summer season as a holiday rep in Majorca in 1987, she then moved to Thomson Holidays' head office in London in the Flight Planning department.

Reaching senior management after a few years, she became Head of Flight Planning, managing the routes, slots and scheduling for the largest fleet of charter aircraft in the UK. This expanded to include a fleet of Scandinavian aircraft after she transferred to Britannia Airways at Luton Airport and served as a key member of the Thomson Travel acquisition team through the years of big buyouts in the holiday industry.

Once Thomson itself was bought out, Mary chose to leave the travel industry and moved to Kendal, enjoying rural life in the Lake District for 6 years before returning South in 2009 to run her own small business.

She now specialises in the fast-moving field of online marketing, providing expert advice and marketing tech support for small businesses.

Mary sings with the Brighton Chamber Choir, follows Formula One and still gets a buzz from visiting airports and flying whenever she can. Mary lives in Sussex with her husband Nick and cat Jenson.