

CV of Frances Blois - Honorary Alderman, FBCS, CEng

Master Firefighter 2019 - 2020

I am often asked how my connection came about with the Worshipful Company. As a Westminster City Councillor, I was the Borough Representative on the LFCDA from 1994 to 2000.

As Lord Mayor of Westminster, I was honoured to be granted the Freedom of the City of London by the Lord Mayor Gavyn Arthur, as Citizen and Firefighter in 2003.

On standing down as a Councillor I was made an Honorary Alderman of Westminster.

As a mathematician I worked for BP in a variety of roles from Operational Research to Exploration and was one of the few women in the mid 80's to have visited an offshore drilling rig, quite an experience.

I was made redundant in 1991 and, on becoming a pensioner, became a BP Pensioner Liaison Officer contacting 1,000 pensioners annually, and am a Trustee of the BP Benevolent Fund.

I joined the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (Princess Royal's Volunteer Corps) in 1979 and I am still a member and a Callout Operator, on call to the City of London Police 24/7.

Sadly, we have been called out to the Casualty Bureau on several occasions, including Grenfell Tower.

In addition, I am Chairman of the Local Safer Neighbourhood Panel, I work inspecting the managed rented flats for a local Estate Agent in Pimlico.

In 1977 I had a near miss riding accident and fractured two vertebrae and, as a result, became a Trustee of the Spinal Research Trust, at some stage the breakthrough will be achieved.

I have been a longstanding Governor of St Peter's Eaton Square Primary School. Many may recall the catastrophic fire in 1987 when the church was burnt down, from the exterior today it looks no different but reconfigured inside.

I am an Honorary Steward at Westminster Abbey which is a great honour and also a member of the Valuation Tribunal, so see Business Rate cases as well as the complications of houses in multiple occupation.

When I have time, I am a self-employed dressmaker.