



The Furniture Makers' Company
the furnishing industry's charity



Mr David Woodward
Master 2020-22

David was born in Plymouth and adopted six months later by a local family.

Academia was not his strong point, he left school at the age of 15 and joined the Junior Leaders Regiment Royal Armoured Corps at Bovington camp in Dorset. Following two years of training, he was posted to the Household Cavalry Regiment as a Royal Horse Guard stationed at Knightsbridge barracks. He took part in numerous ceremonial events including the investiture of the Prince of Wales in Caernarfon and the funeral of Winston Churchill.

After seven years he left the army with no idea what to do next. He considered managing a rock band or teaching horse riding but took a temporary job as a salesman in a gentlemen's outfitters. A customer came in to purchase a tie but was persuaded by David to buy a complete outfit. As he left, he told David that he was a director of a furniture company and offered him a job as a salesman in the Oxford Street store of Waring and Gillow. That is where his lifelong love of furniture began and where he met his wife to be, Anne.

He quickly moved up the management ladder, eventually taking on responsibility for logistics and workshops. Waring and Gillow was eventually broken up and David joined Allied Carpets as group quality controller for furniture. During this time David and Anne, now married, had two daughters, Katharine and Elizabeth.

More than 30 years ago, they decided to set up their own business and founded Celtheath, a furniture restoration and logistics company. Their big break came when the Dorchester Hotel closed for a major refurbishment and they were contracted to restore and renovate all the important pieces of furniture.

Logistics developed into a home delivery service for retailers including Sofa Workshop of which David became a major shareholder.

The family business continues with daughter Lizzie and son-in-law Chris taking on more responsibility.

They live in Ealing and have a bolt hole in Cornwall, enjoying walking, gardening and adventurous holidays. David is also a liveryman of the Upholders' Company.