

## MRS ANNABELLE BAIRD

### Master Skinner

Born in Surrey into a medical family, Annabelle was educated in Gloucestershire at Westonbirt School, where she acquired a lifelong interest in French and Spanish language and culture, as well as in the arts. She went on to read law at Newnham College, Cambridge, and then to qualify as a solicitor with corporate law firm Clifford-Turner in Blackfriars, London in 1984, where she applied because of its extensive overseas network.

Training included time in the Madrid office and getting to grips with the Spanish Civil Code. She moved to Freshfields in 1987, and continued working in company law, with a further period of secondment spent in Madrid.

After marriage to fellow lawyer James in 1989, Annabelle left the law to concentrate on family life, and was lucky enough to return to art school as a mature student. She took an art Foundation course at Kingston University and a degree in theatre design at Wimbledon School of Art in 1995, leading to a short period of freelance design for small productions. Children followed and have been her main focus since their arrival, as hands-on parenting proved absorbing and rewarding.

Apprenticed as a Skinner at 14, and joining the Livery in 1996, Annabelle has taken part in many Skinners activities, in particular serving as a governor at the Judd School in Kent. She is currently chair of the governors of the new and growing Skinners Kent Academy Primary School.

Annabelle lives with James, and children Angus and Jessica, now at university and in the final year of school, dividing their time between Hammersmith and less frequently, Dorset. She enjoys tennis, skiing, yoga, a little messing around on the water in boats, theatre and playing the piano, the latter despite the objections of her family.