

THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF WEAVERS



RICHARD JOHN HUMPHRIES MBE UPPER BAILIFF 20016/17

Richard Humphries is a practicing weaver having spent the last 50 years' in the silk manufacturing industry.

After being taken on as an apprentice designer at the established firm of Warner & Sons Ltd in Braintree Essex, Richard, aged just 20, began his own business following redundancy when the firm closed down the mill.

In 1971 he began to weave custom fabrics to order and specialised in historic reproduction of furnishings using his old firm's discarded looms.

His efforts were recognised in 1985 when he received the MBE for his services to the textile industry, and in the following year received the Weavers Company Silver Medal and prize for his craft skill. In the fires which devastated both Hampton Court and Windsor Castle, Richard was able to rebuild ancient looms to recreate silks for the sumptuous interiors, returning them to their former glory. Since then he has woven silk for many of the Royal Collection State Rooms.

In 1988 he joined the Weavers Company and has served on the Textile Committee since 1991, and was elected to Court in 2006.

Richard is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. In addition to his involvement with the Weavers' Company, he is a member of the council for the Silk Association of Great Britain since the 1970s and has chaired his local Scout group for a decade, and is a strong believer in the benefits of scouting for youngsters.

Richard is married to Michelle, herself a practicing weaver who is a carriage lace specialist. Over the past 39 years they have worked in the specialist textile fields but also have had six children, creating a wonderful chaotic lifestyle at home on the Essex Suffolk border. Richard is totally immersed in all things woven and is building a new touch-screen handloom for student and studio use for the new generation of weave designers. At leisure Richard still plays guitar and attempts to perfect the playing of the five string banjo whilst the family pet "Calypso" a nine year old Giant Schnauzer looks woefully on!