

# Worshipful Company of Clothworkers

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Worshipful Company of Clothworkers** was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1528, formed by the amalgamation of its two predecessor Companies, the Fullers (incorporated 1480) and the Shearmen (incorporated 1508). It succeeded to the position of the Shearmen's Company and thus ranks twelfth in the order of precedence of Livery Companies of the City of London.

The original craft of the Clothworkers was the finishing of woven woollen cloth: fulling it to mat the fibres and remove the grease, drying it on tenter frames (from which derives the expression 'to be on tenterhooks'), raising the nap with teasels (*Dipsacus*) and shearing it to a uniform finish. The Ordinances of The Clothworkers' Company, first issued in 1532 and signed by Sir Thomas More, sought to regulate clothworking, to maintain standards and to protect approved practices.

From the later Middle Ages, cloth production gradually moved away from London, a situation exacerbated by the Great Fire of London and the Industrial Revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries. The charitable role of The Clothworkers' Company nevertheless continued, supported by generous gifts of money and property by members and benefactors.

Nowadays, the Company's main role is in the charitable sphere, through The Clothworkers' Foundation, an independent charity. Through its grants, the Foundation seeks to improve the quality of life, particularly for people and communities that face disadvantage.

Both the Company and the Foundation operate from Clothworkers' Hall, in Dunster Court, off Mincing Lane in the City of London. The site was conveyed to a group of Shearmen in 1456 and the present building, completed in 1958, is the sixth on the site.

Famous Clothworkers include James I of England, Samuel Pepys, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, Angela Burdett-Coutts, 1st Baroness Burdett-Coutts, George Peabody, Sydney Waterlow, Edward VII, Lord Kelvin, William Slim, 1st Viscount Slim, Robert Menzies and the Duke of Kent.

## External links

- The Clothworkers' Company (<http://www.clothworkers.co.uk/>)

Retrieved from "[http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Worshipful\\_Company\\_of\\_Clothworkers&oldid=466594484](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Worshipful_Company_of_Clothworkers&oldid=466594484)"

Categories:   Great Twelve City Livery Companies | 1528 establishments in England



The Livery Hall of the Clothworkers' Company in 1859.

- This page was last modified on 18 December 2011 at 22:35.
  - Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. See Terms of use for details.
- Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.