



THE COMPANY  
*of* ENTREPRENEURS

# Membership Information

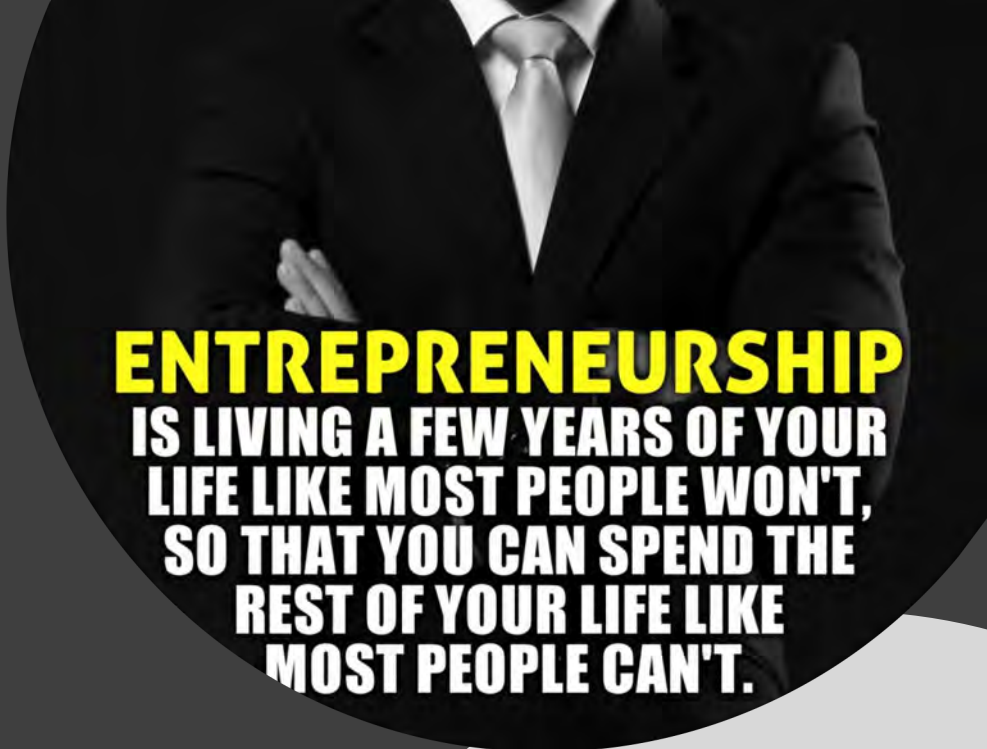


# What is Entrepreneurship?

Entrepreneurship is the process of designing, launching and running a new business.

Entrepreneurship has been described as the "capacity and willingness to develop, organise and manage a business venture, along with any of its risks in order to make a profit".

The Company embraces this ethos with the following definition of what it believes makes an Entrepreneur...



**ENTREPRENEURSHIP**  
IS LIVING A FEW YEARS OF YOUR  
LIFE LIKE MOST PEOPLE WON'T,  
SO THAT YOU CAN SPEND THE  
REST OF YOUR LIFE LIKE  
MOST PEOPLE CAN'T.



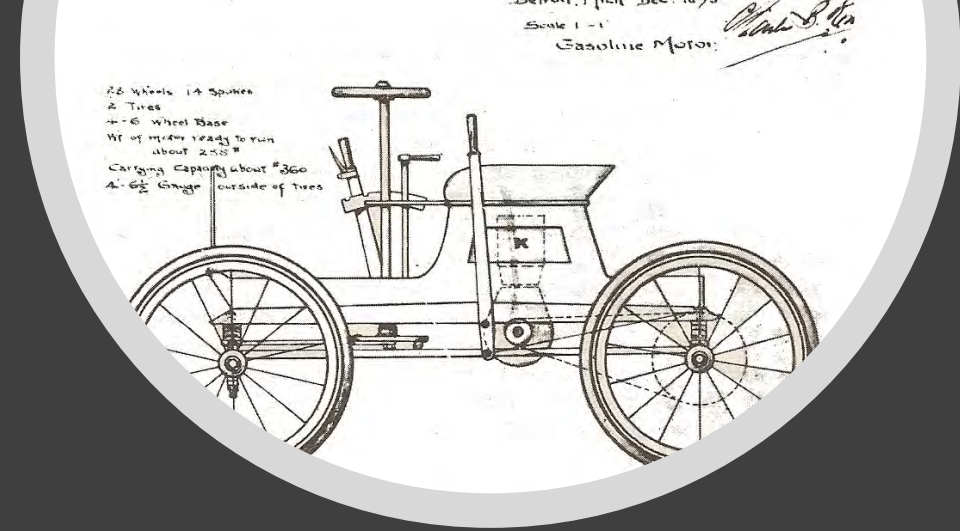
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# What is an Entrepreneur?

*"The horse is here to stay, but the automobile is only a novelty, a fad."*

President of the Michigan Savings Bank advising Horace Rackham (Henry Ford's lawyer) not to invest in the Ford Motor Company in 1903.

*Today the technology may be a lot different but the sentiment remains!*



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# Our Definition

We define an Entrepreneur as...

*A person who has started, invested significant finance and time in and led one or more successful businesses. He or she will have identified new market opportunities, sourced and organised the required people and resources, experiencing both risks and rewards associated with the venture(s).*



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# The City of London

The City of London is a special place with many ancient customs, officers and ceremonies that are not found in other cities in the United Kingdom or elsewhere. The City has a unique relationship with both the Crown and Parliament, and can rightly claim to have the oldest extant and continuous democratic government in the world. The City is also the world's leading centre for financial services and has been a major centre for trade since Roman times.

# The City of London Guilds & Livery Companies

The Livery Companies are the descendents of the Guilds that existing in almost every City and town in Europe. Many towns in England have as their seat of local government a building named The Guildhall, evidence that the trade, craft of profession guilds had a role in the civic of the town as well as the commercial life.

In London the Guilds grew in stature and become intimately involved not just with trade, but also education, regulation and enforcement of early trading and consumer standards, church, civic life and governance of the City.

To learn more about the City and the Guilds [click here](#)



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# About our Company



# The founding of The Company of Entrepreneurs

By early 21st Century, the City was recapturing some of its “Guild” trading origins alongside its established global role in financial and professional services. The re-purposing of once large banking halls, the growth of the business centre market and the development of technology were again making the City and the surrounding area more accessible to new types of entrepreneurial activity including media, textiles, communications, retail and leisure.

The City was alive with business networks, investment clubs, technology meetings and associations, suggesting that there were many thousands of Entrepreneurs with an affinity to it.

The leading proposer for the formation of the Guild of Entrepreneurs, serial finance and communications entrepreneur Dan Doherty (a liveryman of the Needle makers’ Company), had already founded and was running a successful informal group for entrepreneurs called “Entrepreneurs – City of London Network”. They met regularly at the Capital Club, and had always linked its activities to promoting enterprise within the City.

With assistance from the Chamberlain’s Court a proposal document, accompanied by numerous letters of support from amongst the City Livery Companies, academic institutions and businesses, was drawn up and delivered to the Court of Aldermen. Approval was given for the formation of a new Guild on July 8th, 2014 and on September 8th, 2014, the Guild’s first Court Meeting was held at the Old Bailey.



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[Click Here](#) to learn more about the Company and our history





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# Our promises

**Freemen of the Company demonstrate that they:**

- Are engaged in verifiable successful entrepreneurial activity as specifically defined
- Have a connection with the City of London and or a desire to support the Mayoralty and the Corporation's objectives as an economic area.
- Have a desire to support future generations of entrepreneurs through mentoring, education and outreach activities.
- Are willing to contribute to the promotion of excellence in entrepreneurship through thought leadership, awards for students and the promotion of higher standards in business among other academic and philanthropic activities.

# Why Join the Company?

For many Freeman it is a way of giving back by helping the various originations the Company supports.

For others, it is to be around like-minded people that have experienced the same challenges in business that anyone that has started, run and grown a successful enterprise has had.

“Entrepreneurs are different.”

“We speak a different language.”

“Very few people understand what it’s like to be an entrepreneur, here everyone just gets it!”

“Being a Guild (Company) member is like coming home, I feel comfortable around like-minded people for the first time!”

“There are no egos here, we have all worn the T-shirt and, in some cases, worn it out, we are all equal.”

“I’ve found a huge amount of support from fellow Guild (Company) Members that I just wouldn’t have been able to find elsewhere.”



# Joining the Company – The Benefits

*(“The more you put in the more you get out”)*

As a Freeman you would be part of a tradition dating from 1155 when the first Guild was formed.

Almost 90% of our meetings are London/City based so travelling is light for most of us.

As Freeman we are invited to many ‘closed’ City events such as the Lord’s Mayors Show, services at St. Paul’s Cathedral, Royal Celebrations etc.

Partners and guests enjoy joining us in taking part in the relaxed atmosphere and conversation at our events

Giving back by offering your time to assist the many organisations that we support

Access to our official home at the architecturally breath-taking Drapers’ Hall in Throgmorton Street.

Numerous inter-livery events/competitions such as Skiing, Thames barging, Business judging and so on.

The City Liveries collectively and annually contribute approximately £65million to charity or deserving causes.



# A Typical Annual Event Diary

**December** - the Company Carol Service is held at St Lawrence Jewry

**February** - a Ceremonial Court is held to admit new Freeman (black tie)

**Tuesday after Mothering Sunday** - Spring Breakfast

**A fortnight before Good Friday** - United Guilds Service at St Paul's followed by lunch at a Livery Hall

**April** - Ceremonial Court admits new Freeman following the Court Meeting followed by the Appreciation Supper (lounge suits)

**May/June** - the Master arranges the Master's Weekend, all Freeman are invited

**June** - Ceremonial Court is held to admit new Freeman followed by The Summer Banquet (white tie)

**July** – Summer barbecue

**July** - Election Court is held to elect Wardens and Court Assistants for the following year

**July** - The Master's Weekend

**September** - Ceremonial Court is convened to admit new Freeman followed by the September Court Dinner (Black Tie)

**November** - Installation Court (white tie) & Global Entrepreneurship Week, the Guild hosts its Annual Lecture

**December** - The Company Carol Service is held at St. Lawrence Jewry hosted by our Chaplain

**Informal Drinks for existing and prospective members** - Throughout the year on every second Tuesday of the month, drinks are held informally from 6pm in the City.

**Supper Club** – A number of gastronomic outings are organised throughout the year

**Welcome Breakfasts** - Newly admitted Freeman are invited to attend an informal welcome breakfast to learn of the working of the Company from The Master, Wardens and Court Members.





# Joining the Company

All members of the Company, both men and women, are known by the traditional title of Freeman. Membership – the Freedom of the Company – is formally granted at a Freedom Ceremony which family, friends and business associates can attend.

Prospective members of the Company will either be known to and proposed by two members or can come along to one of our informal meet-ups at which they can meet members and arrange for sponsors to support their application.

The Company hosts an informal event on the second Tuesday of every month, where prospective members, or anyone interested in learning more about the work of the Company can come along and meet existing Freeman.

Please check the website for exact dates and locations.



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# How to Join

A completed application form should be sent to the Membership Committee. Once the Membership Committee has received your application, they will ask you to attend an interview prior to making a recommendation to the Court (the Company's governing body) as to whether you should be admitted as a Freeman of the Company.

If your application is successful, the Clerk will invite you to a Ceremonial Court for your Freedom Ceremony (the formal admission). Freedom Ceremonies are held in February, April, June, September and November.



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# Our Committees

Whilst the Master, Wardens and Court directs the Company's overarching strategy, the implementation of the Company is devolved to a number of Committees, each chaired by a member of the Court.

**AWARDS | COMMUNICATIONS | EDUCATION  
EVENTS & FELLOWSHIP | FINANCE | MEMBERSHIP  
OUTREACH | FUNDING & SPONSORSHIP | TRUST**



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## Joining the Company of Entrepreneurs

### Fees and Financial Commitments

**The Freedom Fine** (a one-off joining fee) , which is payable upon approval for admission as a Freeman, is currently £385. (Please check the website for the up to date figure)

**The Quarterage** (annual subscription – historically paid in quarters, but now paid monthly or annually) for all Freemen is currently £408.

A core commitment of Freeman Entrepreneurs is to support the Company's charitable activities and the most common way to do this is to make a regular donation to the Company of Entrepreneurs Trust. Typically, a Freeman would be expected to donate at least £15 a month – many donate more, depending on circumstances of course.

Principal Benefactor Donation: £1,000 in any one year  
Patron Donation: £10,000 in any one year



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# Next Steps



1. Download the application form that can be found on our website [www.companyofentrepreneurs.org](http://www.companyofentrepreneurs.org)
2. Nominate your proposer and seconder
3. Complete the application form
4. Email the completed form to the Membership Committee
5. You will then be invited to an informal interview with two members of the committee
6. At the interview you will be asked to outline your entrepreneurial journey so far
7. The interviewers will make their recommendation based on your response
8. You will hear within two weeks if you have been successful and the Clerk will invite you to the next available initiate ceremony.



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We hope you found this information and overview of the Company helpful and will now take the time to make your application.

We look forward to welcoming you as our newest Freeman in the very near future!

Thank you.