

WCSM: Journeymen & New Freemen Online event & Launch

Tuesday 21st September saw the inaugural Journeymen event launch online. It's aim, to introduce new & potential Journeymen to the wealth of opportunities our City of London Livery Company has to offer. We were also joined by newly admitted Freemen for whom this was their first Company event.

The Journeyman scheme, launched in 2021, gives people working in optical professions or the sight loss sector a chance to get to know us, to get involved and to want to move up to full membership of the Spectacle Makers' Company.

There's no age restriction but you must be in the early stages of your career to become a Journeyman. You might be in a pre-reg year, a post-doc starting in research, someone who has returned to work after a career break, a charity fundraiser or volunteer, a newly qualified dispensing optician, orthoptist or optometrist or someone whose career development brings them into optical sales or manufacturing. Whenever you start, your time as a Journeyman will end after five years – but you don't have to wait that long. You can choose to move up to Freedom at any time.

We take pride in our friendliness and openness. We don't accept discrimination. Any person committed to better vision for all is welcome to the Spectacle Makers.

At the online event we heard from three Freemen of the Company – all with very different backgrounds but united in the support of our mission: Better Vision for ALL:

- Reena Chopra is an optometrist by profession who has gone on to become a foremost Vision Scientist and winner of the WCSM prestigious Ruskell Medal for her research in AI within ophthalmology and beyond.
- Tom Broughton, founder of Cubitts – a company of modern spectacle makers who strive to honour great master craftsmen of the past by using the latest cutting-edge technology today in both eye examination techniques & spectacle manufacture.
- Karla Graham (nee Fleming) a previous bursary winner who has gone on to become a fully qualified Dispensing Optician and Business Development Manager for a small independent group of opticians in the Highlands of Scotland.

It is hoped that our new Journeyman programme will showcase our Company to many more potential members from a diverse and varied background with the aim of supporting our Company for the next 400 years.

The Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers is the oldest optical professional body in the world. Founded in 1629, its mission is to support the prevention and treatment of vision impairment. Open to all optical and ophthalmological professionals, and those who support our aims, details of our activities and membership can be found at www.spectaclemakers.com and on Twitter @spectaclemakers.