

Master of the Worshipful Company of Plumbers Janet Rivers BSc (Hons)

Janet is hugely proud to be the first female Master of the Worshipful Company of Plumbers who has worked as a plumber. She named her business Girls on Tap.

Janet grew up in St. Albans and graduated in 1978 with a degree in Maths and Architectural Studies from Aston University. Then developed her corporate career from 1978 – 2003 which evolved from analytical roles to project management roles in both Marketing and IT. Major organisations she worked for included British Gas, Cadbury Typhoo and Barclays Bank.

Around the age of 50, her goal of changing career direction was achieved and she retrained as a plumber. Also setting up and running a domestic maintenance business – Girls on Tap which was trademarked. This lead directly to joining the Worshipful Company of Plumbers. Girls on Tap was grown from scratch and Janet worked “on the tools” as an owner manager for 15 years until retirement at the end of 2020.

Janet was invited to join the Court in October 2017, and in 2021 she introduced a hosting scheme for new Liverymen. This reinforces the WCOP aim of being a friendly Livery, demonstrates appreciation of new Liverymen’s commitment to us and helps them build their own networks within the Livery. Both those hosted and hosts, thoroughly enjoy the scheme and its lead to many new friendships. She was a trustee of the Plumbers charity for 7 years and in that time with 2 colleagues developed its strategy. Janet also serves on Admissions, Women in the Livery and Diversity (WILD) and Freedom and Livery committees as well as chairing Membership and Social committees.

Outside the Livery, Janet volunteers for a local foodbank and a school holidays lunch project for children who have free school meals. Enjoys visiting great gardens and developing her own. In 2025 some of the flower garden was dug up to create a first vegetable patch. Much enjoyed are days out with her husband (Tony), friends and walking. Janet and Tony went to the same University and overlapped for one year but did not meet for another 25 years! Tony’s degree was in Civil Engineering. Highlights in his career were running the onsite design team for the Nissan car plant in Sunderland and the redevelopment of the old Financial Times HQ at Bracken House near St. Pauls. For 16 years Janet and Tony had a beautiful 1920’s 52ft long wooden motor cruiser on the Thames which was run as a hobby business. Lots of fun was had and the pinnacle was circumnavigating the UK in the summer of 2018. Janet now Kayak’s on the Thames mainly from Kingston upon Thames