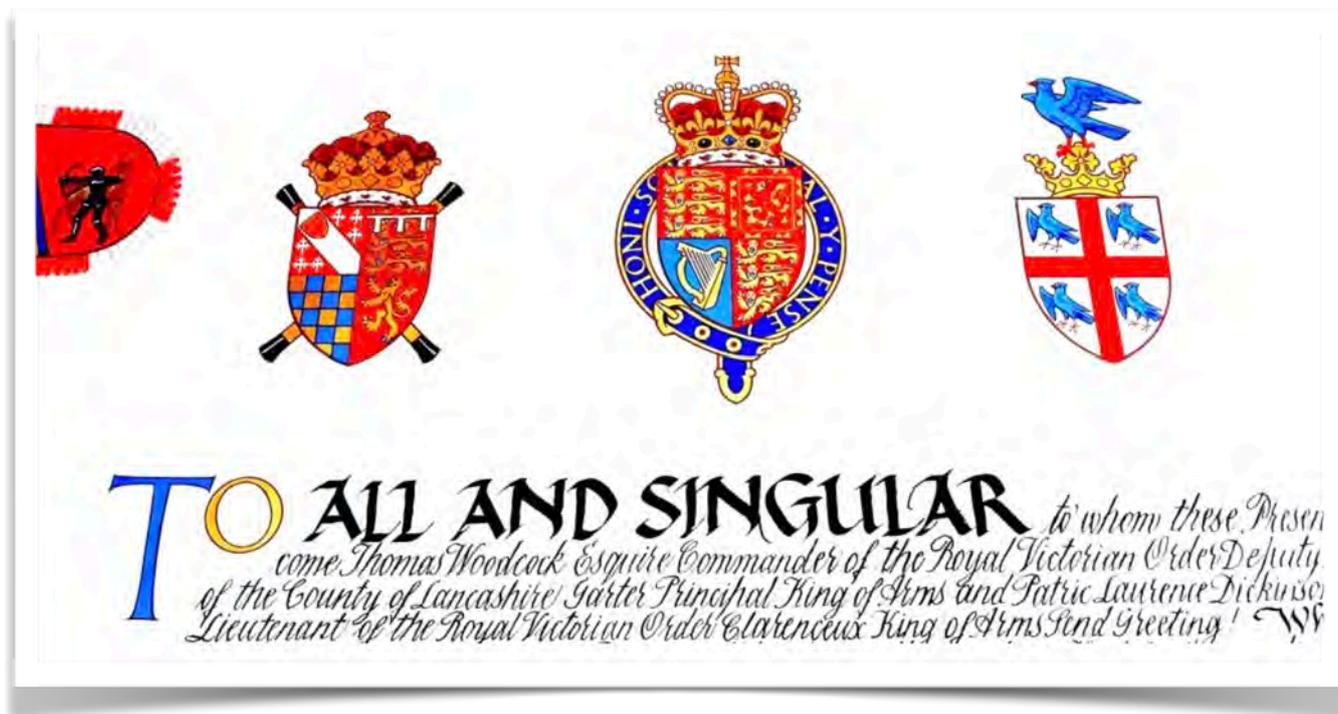


# A Practical Guide to Petitioning the Crown for a Grant of Arms

Information Technologists' Hall, 23rd April (St George's Day) 2018, 6pm - 9pm



Have you considered petitioning the Crown for a coat of arms? Most Freemen and Liverymen are likely to qualify. This workshop will explore the process of petitioning, ie, applying for a Grant of Arms in the United Kingdom.

Many past attendees have successfully petitioned for a grant of arms and received Letters Patent from the Crown conferring the hereditary right to use armorial bearings, ie., a coat of arms, standard, badge, etc.

The workshop will be delivered by Paul Jagger, author of *The City of London Freeman's Guide* and long-standing members of the Cambridge University Heraldic and Genealogical Society. A representative from HM College of Arms will also be in present.

Guests will have ample opportunity to question the experts about the process, timescale, options, costs, legal standing of arms and ways in which you may use armorial bearings. You will also see some examples of how arms may be used in a practical way on flags, banners, signet rings, seals, tablewear, stationery, etc. There will be plenty of exhibits and some practical 'hands on' heraldry.

No prior experience is required, and no knowledge of heraldry, the law of arms or blazon (the language of heraldry) is assumed. The event is open to anyone interested in the process of petitioning for a grant of arms in the United Kingdom.

The workshop opens with a drinks reception and canapés. Tickets are £57 and the event is open to Freemen, Liverymen and their guests.

**Book online: [heraldry.eventbrite.co.uk](http://heraldry.eventbrite.co.uk)**

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q) Surely arms are only granted to peers of the realm, knights, senior judges and the suchlike - how could I possibly be eligible?**

A) Her Majesty's Kings of Arms are empowered by the Sovereign to grant arms to 'eminent' ladies and gentlemen of good character. The test of eminence is entirely at the discretion of the Kings of Arms. In broad terms the sort of person who is a Freeman or Liveryman will usually satisfy the test (they must be a subject of the Crown).

**Q) Is this workshop about corporate or personal arms?**

A) The workshop is aimed at persons wishing to petition the Crown for personal arms that will be inherited by their heirs. That said, everything in the workshop is also relevant to corporate arms and the herald joining us for the workshop will be happy to take enquiries from both personal and corporate petitioners.

**Q) May my wife / husband / son / daughter attend with me?**

A) Absolutely yes! Arms are inherited intellectual property, described in law as an *incorporeal hereditament*. In this respect they are similar to Freedom by Patrimony, except that the inherited right to display arms passed through the generations immediately.

**Q) I have seen a shop or website that sells 'Family Crests', why should I attend your workshop when I can buy my family crest there for the cost of a sandwich and a coffee?**

A) Look up '[Bucket Shop Heraldry](#)' and 'Heraldic Fraud' from an independent, authoritative source of reference (e.g., the Heraldry Society, the College of Arms, academic text books on heraldry, etc). **CAVEAT EMPTOR.**

A word to the wise: Displaying arms you are not lawfully entitled to use is a crime in the UK, Crown Dependencies, Crown Territories and the Commonwealth Realms. In particular the Court of Lord Lyon in Scotland has a track record of using its sharp legal claws.

**Q) My family is of Scottish descent, would we be better approaching the Court of Lord Lyon King of Arms in Edinburgh?**

A) Scotland has its own heraldic authority and has done since before the Union of the Crowns. Lord Lyon's domain covers Scotland only. If you are normal resident in Scotland or have substantial land holding there, you will be eligible to petition the Crown through the Court of Lord Lyon. The workshop is equally applicable to English and Scottish heraldic practice.

**Q) I think my family may already have arms, how can I find out if I am already eligible?**

A) Eliminate the possibility that the products of bucket shop heraldry might have crept in to your family lore. Heraldic fraud is a pernicious (and fictitious) weed that latches on to a family's genealogical tree. Having eliminated that possibility, bring some documentary evidence with you to the workshop and we can take it from there.

