



The Company of Pikemen and Musketeers





*Pageantry, prestige, professionalism*





## COMPANY of PIKEMEN & MUSKETEERS

Honourable Artillery Company  
Armoury House, City Road, London EC1Y 2BQ

*The Gentlemen of the Artillery Garden*

I am delighted to have been asked to write a foreword to this brochure for the Company of Pikemen & Musketeers.

You may well already be familiar with the Pikemen & Musketeers from the annual Lord Mayor's Show in November, when we escort the Lord Mayor's State Coach through the City of London to the Royal Courts of Justice.

What may be less well known is the wide variety of other activities the Pikemen & Musketeers undertake, not only for the City of London Corporation but for livery companies, ward clubs and other City bodies, for Her Majesty's Government, the British Army, charities, commercial organisations and others.

I applaud the dedication, professionalism and commitment of members of the Pikemen & Musketeers. They give of their own time freely to carry out ceremonial duties to the high professional standards for which the Honourable Artillery Company is so well known and which are so much part of our nation's history.

The Company of Pikemen & Musketeers brings prestige, pageantry and colour to many different types of event and I hope after reading this brochure you will consider using their services.

**HRH Prince Michael of Kent** GCVO  
Royal Honorary Colonel  
Honourable Artillery Company



## COMPANY of PIKEMEN & MUSKETEERS

Honourable Artillery Company

### Who are the Pikemen & Musketeers?

The Company of Pikemen & Musketeers is a ceremonial unit of the Honourable Artillery Company (the HAC) and one of only six royally-warranted bodies in the UK.

The Pikemen and Musketeers are dressed and equipped as members of the HAC would have been in the 1640s and the Company is tasked with providing a ceremonial bodyguard and escort for the Lord Mayor of the City of London when on official business. As well as escorting the Lord Mayor's State Coach each year at the Lord Mayor's Show, the Company provides guards of honour and carpet guards for banquets at Mansion House and Guildhall and other venues in and around the City. The Company also provides displays of 17th century arms drill and guards of honour for events and dinners at Armoury House, the HAC's headquarters.

In recent years, apart from escorting and attending the Lord Mayor and parading at many City functions the Company has:

- provided guards for great occasions at the City of London's Guildhall, such as state banquets and the receptions following services at St Paul's Cathedral for HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and Baroness Thatcher's funeral
- provided a Sovereign's Guard for a Buckingham Palace Garden Party and guards for charity events at St James's Palace
- been reviewed by HM The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh
- provided a carpet guard for the British Government dinner marking the visit of Pope Benedict XVI

### Overseas the company has:

- participated in parades to mark the founding of the Grenadier Guards in Bruges, Belgium, in the presence of members of the British and Belgian Royal families.
- visited Boston to take part in the June Day celebrations of the HAC's sister unit, the Ancient & Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts
- taken part in the centenary commemoration of the Battle of Vittorio Veneto, the final action of WW1 in northern Italy
- attended the 500th anniversary celebrations of the Pontifical Swiss Guard in Rome
- been invited to take part in the Mayflower 400 celebrations in Plymouth, Massachusetts in 2020.



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### The History of the Pikemen & Musketeers

The Company of Pikemen & Musketeers was formed in 1925 to take part in the first Royal Tournament. This was deemed to be such a success that the demonstration team was developed, and has been providing colour and pageantry at events in the City of London and elsewhere ever since.

The form of drill used is taken from a manual entitled *Militaire Discipline* first published in 1638 by Colonel William Bariffe, a member of the HAC. Although many of the orders are similar to those used in the Army today you still hear some delightfully original orders such as 'Have a care', 'Assume a lazy posture' and 'Charge for horse and draw your sword'. Seventeenth century marches and music are provided by the Company's own drums and fifes.

In 1943 the Company had the honour of being asked to escort the Lord Mayor's State Coach in the Lord Mayor's Show for the first time and in 1955 HM The Queen granted the Company a Royal Warrant, authorising it to parade and tasked it to provide a ceremonial bodyguard for the Lord Mayor of the City of London. The warrant limits the Company to parading a maximum of 63 members, including six officers, at any one time – that being the size of a company in the 17th century.

### Membership

Only veteran members of the HAC with proven efficient service in the HAC's Army Reserve regiment are eligible to join the Company of Pikemen & Musketeers. All must join in the lowest rank, regardless of any previous military rank held. Medals and military insignia are permitted to be worn.

Members are unpaid, but give freely of their own time for drill practice and rehearsals as well as the parades and guards themselves. All are expected to clean and look after their armour, muskets and other kit and maintain the highest standards of turnout for the many prestigious occasions they parade for. They must be fit enough to competently complete the march of the Lord Mayor's Show.

All new members pay a substantial joining fee and an annual subscription.



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### Uniform, Arms and Equipment

The uniform members of the Company wear is identical to that worn by the HAC during the reign of Charles I. It comprises Venetian red tunics with white linen collars and cuffs and knee-length breeches. The seniority of officers and non-commissioned officers is signified by the amount of lace worn on collars and cuffs; the more lace the more senior the rank. Officers wear thigh boots and spurs.

Pikemen wear steel half-armor of back and breast plates with tassets (armor to protect the thighs) and a morion (steel helmet). The weight is about 18 lbs. They are armed with swords and pikes. The latter would originally have been 18 feet long but for reasons of practicality 12-foot pikes are used today.

Musketeers wear a buff sur-coat and wide-brimmed black felt hat. They are armed with a match-lock musket and rest and wear a leather cross belt, from which are suspended 12 wooden powder flasks known as apostles.

Uniform costs about £1,400 for each new recruit and a new suit of armor about £5,500. A musket and rest costs about £3,500.

Wear and tear takes its toll on arms, equipment and uniforms, so once every 20 years or so the Company has to undertake a substantial re-equipment programme.

Because the skills required to manufacture 17th century items are increasingly hard to find, this is both difficult and expensive. We are pleased that we have been able to source all items for our latest re-equipment programme from UK craftsmen. The Company has had to raise £400,000 for this and is very grateful to those City livery companies and others who supported the Company's appeal.



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### How we can add prestige and pageantry to your event

The Company can help you make your event special in a number of ways. Here are just a few ideas:

- An impressive 'carpet guard' at your reception or dinner. We line the entrance and/or room where your event is being held. We can add a sense of occasion by escorting your top table procession into dinner.
- Guards of Honour or escorts for important members of your organisation or visitors arriving at your function.
- Where the venue is appropriate, a demonstration of authentic 17th century pike and musket drills
  - trooping or lodging the colour
  - repelling a cavalry charge
  - framing a battelle (the forerunner of the infantry square!)

These can be staged with or without musket fire.

- We can also arrange for you to dine or hold your reception at Armoury House, the HAC's 18th century headquarters, with a demonstration and carpet guard by the Pikemen and Musketeers. This is a truly memorable experience for your members, staff or clients.
- At some events, after a demonstration or guard, it can be appropriate for members of the guard to mix and chat informally with those at your reception, explaining the role of the Company as the ceremonial bodyguard of the Lord Mayor and answering any questions.
- Depending on the event and the size of the venue groups of half a dozen up to 63 (the full strength of the Company) can be booked.
- The Company also offers a 'Pikemen & Musketeers Experience Evening' for groups of up to 40 people. This comprises an illustrated talk on the Company of Pikemen & Musketeers, a tour of Armoury House and a visit to our armoury where visitors can handle a musket or try on armour while enjoying light refreshments. The experience can be extended to include a dinner, tables dressed with regimental silver, in one of the private dining rooms in Armoury House.

For a discussion on how we can best enhance your event, and the costs involved, please contact the Clerk & Adjutant, Ensign David Hadden, [adjutant@pikemen.org.uk](mailto:adjutant@pikemen.org.uk) or telephone 07450 536614.



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### **Financial commitments when engaging the Company for an event**

When engaging the Company of Pikemen & Musketeers (The Company) for an event, there are three matters which must be agreed in advance.

#### **1. Attendance fee**

The Company does not receive any funding from the defence budget or other Government sources and has charitable status as a ceremonial unit of the Honourable Artillery Company. Our three Governors (the Rt. Hon the Lord Mayor, the Colonel Commandant HAC and the GOC London District) have set down in strict terms that the Company, as part of the HAC charity, must be self-financing. We therefore seek to cover our equipment maintenance and replacement of minor items from attendance fees.

#### **2. Transport**

The Company asks that transport costs from Armoury House to the venue and back be reimbursed. Transport must be of sufficient size to carry pikes, weapons, drums, armour and muskets, and will vary to cater for the actual number of men parading. The company obtains competitive rates from transport providers which are kept under constant review.

#### **3. Personal Recompense for members**

Membership of the Pikemen & Musketeers is strictly voluntary. Members pay a substantial joining fee and annual subscription. They do not receive any financial recompense for their services, not even travel costs from home. In return for their attendance at your function, members do expect to be suitably provisioned either before or after the formal proceedings of the event.

The Clerk & Adjutant will agree these costs with you, in advance of your event.

David Hadden  
Ensign, Clerk & Adjutant  
Tel: 07450 536614  
Email: [adjutant@pikemen.org.uk](mailto:adjutant@pikemen.org.uk)

*VAT is chargeable on all invoices at the current appropriate rate.*





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### Testimonials

“I just wanted to thank you for your superb contribution to beating the retreat and the performance for Heroes at the Tower at the Tower of London ... Everyone loved it and found it to be an exceptional and memorable occasion”.

*Andrew Chance, The Chance Organisation, Event manager, Heroes at The Tower, Tower of London*

“The Pikemen & Musketeers are an integral part of the Lord Mayor’s Show. Even given the other ceremonial gems on parade it is difficult to imagine what it would be like without them. They frame the spectacle of the State Coach and add a special lustre and precision”.

*Dominic Reid OBE, Pageantmaster, The Lord Mayor’s Show*

“Receptions such as these would not be the same without the presence of the Pikemen & Musketeers. You really do add a unique dimension to them”.

*Paul Double, City Remembrancer*

“Thank you for a brilliant performance for the CGS of Chile. Gen. Fuente-Alba was impressed to the point of being moved by it all and everyone else was equally excited”

*Gen Sir Richard Barrons KCB CBE ADC Gen Commander, Joint Forces Command*

“Wow - last night was a stupendous success and a great deal of that was down to the Company of Pikemen & Musketeers. They really added pageantry and tone of the evening and impressed so many people. You really made the event for us”.

*Adèle Thorpe, Clerk, The Guild of Entrepreneurs*

“The Pikemen & Musketeers upheld the very best traditions of British military ceremonial at every public occasion in Boston. All of London should be proud of how well you represent them”

*Brig Emery Maddocks (Retd)  
Ancient & Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts*

“You gave us a fabulous display of skills, complete with fascinating commentary, a fitting finale to our 30th anniversary year. A great day was had by everyone”

*Roger Walker, Chairman, Friends of Hurst Castle*

“Thank you and your men for parading for at our July livery dinner and looking so grand. You made the occasion very special for all our members and their guests”

*Paul Constantinidi, Master, Worshipful Company of Gold & Silver Wyre Drawers*



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### History of the Honourable Artillery Company

The Honourable Artillery Company, or 'HAC' as it is usually known, dates back to 1537 and is the oldest Regiment in the British Army. It originates from a Charter of Incorporation granted by King Henry VIII to the Overseers of the Guild of St George in London for 'The better increase of the Defence of this our Realm and maintenance of the Science and Feat of shooting Long Bows, Cross Bows and Hand Guns'.

Now, in the 21st century the charitable objectives of the HAC are defined as 'for military exercise and training and for the better defence of the realm'.

The HAC has a long and distinguished history: Captains of the Artillery Garden provided officers for the London Trained Bands, a citizen militia, most notably to man ships to oppose the Spanish Armada in 1588. Members of the Artillery Company fought on both the Royalist and Parliamentary sides during the English Civil War of 1642-49 and its archives survive from 1657 onwards.

The Company's role in restoring order to the City of London following the Gordon Riots of 1780 prompted the gift of its first cannon by the City Corporation and led to the creation of an HAC Artillery Division. (At the time of the HAC's charter in 1537 the word 'artillery' was used to describe archery and other missile weapons.)

The Company received its first battle honour 'South Africa, 1900-02' for its service in the Boer War. With the reform of the British Army and the militias shortly afterwards, and the passing of the Territorial and Reserve Forces Act in 1907, the Company became part of the newly formed Territorial Army. Two infantry battalions and five artillery batteries of the HAC fought in the First World War.

In 1919 the HAC detachment of Special Constabulary was formed. This is now attached to the City of London Police and assists in maintaining law and order in the City of London. In the Second World War the HAC provided three field artillery regiments, one anti-aircraft regiment and two additional anti-aircraft batteries, while the HAC's infantry battalion became an officer training unit.

When the Territorial Army was reformed in 1947 the HAC provide two artillery regiments and an infantry battalion. The HAC was reorganised in 1973 and currently has an exacting role, deploying patrols in the forward battle area to gather intelligence and identify targets for long-range weapons. It also has a parachute-trained gun troop. In recent years, members of the HAC have been deployed on active service to Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan.









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*of*  
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