

The Dames Commander Society: Autumn 2025 Newsletter

Dear DCS Members,

It's a pleasure to share an update on the Society's activities and development. The DCS is making excellent progress in membership, establishing itself as a formal Society, a significant number of networking events, and importantly good momentum on our societal impact work.

Key Upcoming Events

Our next event is **Networking and Canapes at Berry Bros & Rudd on Tuesday 21st October** from 18:00. This should be a lovely evening at one of London's most historic wine merchants and feature a presentation by a female Master of Wine. Please RSVP to Central@damescommandersociety.org to confirm your attendance.

We also have some new and exciting news - we've secured the funding to participate in the **Lady Mayor's Show on November 8th from 11:00** with our very own horse-drawn omnibus. We hope to see many of you there. **If you'd like to join us, please confirm your attendance by Friday, 3 October** and your lunch preference (vegetarian or non-vegetarian) nina@damescommandersociety.org.



Additionally, we have been invited to **view the Royal Ceremonial Dress Collection, at Kensington Palace**, by Historic Royal Palaces. This event is free of charge and will run between 08:30 – 10:00 **on Thursday 27th November**, followed by a private tour with the curator. Please RSVP to Central@damescommandersociety.org to confirm your attendance.

Celebrating a Year of Growth and Progress

The Dames Commander Society is thriving. With around 255 members from a wide range of sectors – representing a substantial portion of the ~600 Dames – we're building a vibrant community dedicated to making a lasting positive impact on society. We're more than just a social gathering; we're a force for good. Our strong governance and evolving outputs, including our newly released podcast series and the membership directory under development, reflect this commitment.

Our **Anniversary Event at the House of Lords** was a wonderful success, bringing together over 75 Dames, alongside a few guests from the Imperial Knights Bachelor Society (IKBS) and our valued partners. We extend our thanks to Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson and the House of Lords staff for their warm

hospitality. The event provided a great opportunity to get together and make new connections as a group, as well as to highlight the Society's achievements and progress.



Our Construct & Governance

The Interim Advisory Board’s strategic plan is progressing well, where our current focus is on achieving Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) status by April 2026. This important step will enhance our reputation, making it easier to attract formal patronage and access further sponsorship opportunities. We are deeply grateful to Dame Fiona Kendrick for her tireless efforts and leadership in this area.

Additionally (and rather excitingly) we've formally requested royal patronage from Her Majesty Queen Camilla, who is herself a Dame. We will keep you updated on our progress here.

Annual Membership Payments

A brief reminder that the membership fee of £50 (or more if you are able) will be requested in January. We will get in touch with further information in due course. Thanks to everyone who has made a payment this year; this is a small annual amount designed to keep the Society stable whilst we continue to progress to full operating capability, with Sponsorship to support.

Membership & Events

Upcoming Events: Mark Your Calendars

We have a fantastic line-up of events planned for the coming months, offering diverse opportunities for connection and engagement. Please save the dates and look out for calendar invites.

What?	When?	Where?
Societal Impact Committee Meeting	Tue 21 st October 2025, 09:00-10:00	Online, MS Teams
Networking & Canapes at Berry Bros & Rudd	Tue 21 st October 2025, 18:00	Berry Bros & Rudd, London

Lady Mayor's Show Participation	Sat 8 th November 2025, 11:00 start	Mansion House, London
Royal Historic Palace Breakfast	Thu 27 th November 2025, 08:30 – 10:00	Kensington Palace, London
ISKB Annual Carol Concert	Thu 11 th December 2025, 18:30 start	The King's Chapel of The Savoy, London
Annual DCS Dinner	Tue 17 th March 2026, Time tbc	Mansion House, London
Half Six Fix Concert (<i>Mahler's 4th Symphony</i>)	Wed 20 th May 2026, Time tbc	The Barbican, London

Please RSVP to Central@damescommandersociety.org to confirm your attendance to any of the events above.

DCS Podcasts

We're thrilled to announce that the pilot series of our DCS podcasts is live on the [website](#). A huge thank you to Dame Jane Dacre for her incredible pro bono work in bringing these podcasts to life. We are now seeking sponsorship to expand our podcast content and produce additional seasons of engaging episodes.

Membership Directory Update

The membership directory continues to be developed, key to finalising it, is your input. Please kindly share your short biography and photo with nina@damescommandersociety.org.

Making a Difference: Our Societal Impact Initiatives

The DCS is actively involved in initiatives designed to create positive societal change. We're currently focusing on pilot projects supporting Afghan women and addressing domestic violence. These are member-led initiatives and do not yet represent formal Society endorsements. Members interested in participating are encouraged to contact [Dame Tristia Harrison](#).

A Last Note

DCS Support

You might have noticed that our administrative support has changed slightly. Currently we are supported by a small team of individuals from our partner organisations, whom we are so grateful for:



Nina Jhita: Nina's support is provided pro-bono from Modality Partnership, one of the UK's largest GP super-partnerships, where she is the Director of Workforce & Integration. Since joining the DCS team a few months ago, Nina has supported with membership and events management.



Claire Moran: Claire supports from time to time from Sue Hill's team in the organisation and management of DCS events. Claire has provided support for DCS events since our first dinner in June 2023 – our silent hero.



Talia Nechelput: Talia's support is provided pro-bono from Deloitte, where she is an Organisation & Workforce Design Consultant. Talia has worked with the DSC since early 2023; in recent months she has predominantly supported the Society's governance and development activity.

Your Involvement Matters

We encourage all members to welcome new members - if you know any Dames who might be interested in joining our Society, please let them and us know. Additionally, we would love for you to share your feedback and suggestions so that we can continue to improve the DCS.

Thank you for your continued membership and active participation. We look forward to an exciting future for the DCS.

Warmly,

Tristia Harrison (Chair), **Sue Hill, & Jackie Daniel** (Vice-Chairs)

On behalf of the Dames Commander Society

[Get in touch via email](#)

[Check out the website](#)

This is an internal document which provides an update to the members of the Dames Commander Society. It is not to be copied or made available external parties. This email may be shared with Dames who are not yet members of the Dames Commander Society, by way of recruitment.

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