



# Cordwainer

## Sir Roger Gifford

1955 – 2001  
Ward Alderman 2004 – 2021  
Lord Mayor 2012 – 2013

### A personal tribute, by Sir Michael Snyder

It was with the very greatest of sadness last month that I relayed the tragic news of Roger's sudden passing to not only my Ward colleagues Alex and Tracey, but also my own family. It was because we all knew Roger as precisely that – family, making the news so terribly hard for us all. Roger was such a huge part of all our lives, be that civic, ward, business and beyond, his loss will be immeasurable and the hole that his larger-than-life personality will leave, immense. I therefore wanted to take the opportunity to offer a personal tribute, that I hope goes some way to capture Roger's energy, his love for the Ward and the City and of course the outstanding contribution he made to financial and professional services.

I first met Roger nearly 20 years ago and remember that when he first started his election 'campaign' as Alderman for our Ward he had little idea that political electioneering had a pretty negative side and we had to quickly 'educate him' as to what was necessary in order to succeed! The result wasn't in doubt however, as he had that energy and kindness which defined Roger and he quickly won people over. Of course, by that stage Roger had already made his mark on the 'business City', having started his career in finance with SG Warburg in 1978, his first stint in banking and capital markets, and a far cry from reading Chemistry at Trinity College, Oxford. Roger moved on in 1982 to join the new merchant bank, Enskilda Securities, part of Skandinaviska Enskilda Bank, or SEB, for whom he then worked for the rest of his banking career. In 1994 he moved to Japan to head SEB's Tokyo operations. Roger's great love and affinity for Japan was formed there, and in the COVID world of virtual meetings we have just seen, we were regularly treated to Roger sitting in front of a silk screen from Japan and other antiquities. He also frequented the Japanese restaurant in our Ward and 'waxed eloquent' about the food – which was definitely justified!

Returning to the UK in the millennium year, Roger became SEB's UK country manager, a role he held through his subsequent mayoralty and on to 2017, and after that as a senior banker at SEB. Alex Barr recounted to me meeting Roger in 2017 in the SEB office, with a warmth of greeting that became his hallmark. More recently Roger was appointed Chairman of the Green Finance Institute having previously led the UK Government's Green Finance Taskforce in 2017. He did all this as well as being a former chairman of the UK branches of the Swedish Chamber of Commerce and of the Association of Foreign Banks.

Most of you knew Roger through his considerable civic achievements and it is right that I complete this tribute on those. Roger started his association with this ward in 2004 being elected Alderman following the retirement of Sir Brian Jenkins. He subsequently served on multiple City committees including Culture, Port Health, Policy and Resources and Gresham. He became one of the City's Sheriffs in 2008, living in the Old Bailey and hosting the judiciary and many other distinguished guests with classic Roger aplomb.

Roger became the City's 685th Lord Mayor in 2012, and travelled the world promoting the City with tremendous energy. Of course, it almost didn't happen as Roger often recounted the tale of the wheel of the Lord Mayor's coach falling off during his Lord Mayor's show, but with a swift recovery our new Lord Mayor was able to be 'seen', but this time via the less fragile platform of the back of a military Land



Rover. Roger's successful mayoralty was marked by many events, but the words of his post-election speech "...service is, and must be, at the heart of the financial services industry of the UK...the City must serve society – and be seen to do so" summed up everything that was selfless about Roger.

Roger also made his mark on the Livery (serving as a liveryman of the Worshipful Companies of Cordwainers, Musicians and International Bankers), Charity (amongst others, the Bank Workers Charity Trustee Board) and the world of philanthropy and music, which he and Clare, Lady Gifford, were so passionate about. They founded the City Music Foundation, with his Lord Mayor's charity starting the funding, to help young musicians into the world of professional performance.

I am proud to have known Roger, my friend and colleague and, together with Alex and Tracey (and George Gillon and Sir Mark Boleat, two previous Common Councillors for Cordwainer), mourn the passing of someone who made such an impact, had so much *joie de vivre* and so much kindness.

Rest in peace Roger.

## Cordwainer team leads COVID recovery grant initiative

In March the City's Court of Common Council approved a proposal to create a £50m City of London Covid Business Recovery Fund to alleviate some of the worst effects of the pandemic upon the Square Mile's support infrastructure. The Fund will help enable the City to emerge with a functional and thriving economy by supporting small retailers, hospitality businesses and clinical and professional practices within the Square Mile.

**Sir Michael Snyder** proposed the setting up of the Recovery Fund which was backed by the full Cordwainer Team – the late **Sir Roger Gifford**, **Alex Barr** and **Tracey Graham**. The closing date has been extended to 30 June. Scheme operation details can be seen here: <https://tinyurl.com/92awjy8>

Your civic team are unable to get involved in individual applications, but are keen to hear of any issues Ward businesses may face in accessing the grant.



**Cordwainer**  
www.cordwainer.co.uk

## Who We Are



**Sir Michael Snyder**  
**Ward Deputy**  
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**Key committee appointments:**  
Policy and Resources  
Finance  
Community & Children's Services  
Capital Buildings Committee (Chairman)



**Alex Barr**  
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**Key committee appointments:**  
Port Health and Environmental Services  
City of London School  
Audit and Risk Management (Chairman)  
Police Pensions

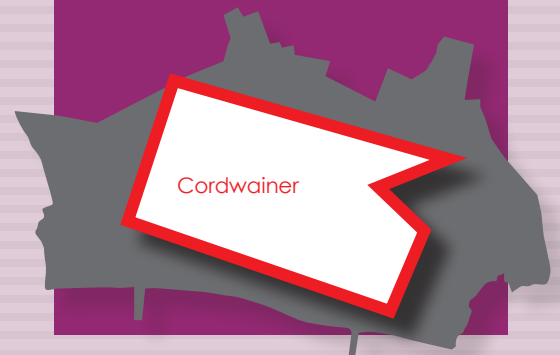


**Tracey Graham**  
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**Key committee appointments:**  
Planning and Transportation  
Culture, Heritage & Libraries  
City of London Freemen's School  
Establishment (Chairman)

## CONTACT US

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## COMMUNICATING WITH THOSE WHO LIVE AND WORK IN THE CITY OF LONDON

### Key roles for Cordwainer team

The focus of your civic team through the last year has been on supporting the needs of our smaller businesses as we moved through the pandemic's phases. This hasn't been to the exclusion of staying close to the Ward's larger firms, and indeed that process of engagement has continued virtually.

Overseeing the day-to-day business of the Corporation has continued and your team have played their part in steering key priorities through Common Council. The Corporation still has to provide essential services and maintain the City to the high standards that all its users expect. Your councillors continue to hold key roles:

**Sir Michael Snyder** was re-elected to Chair the Capital Buildings Committee, which leads on the oversight of major capital building projects. This includes the new combined courts and police facility, known as 'The Salisbury Square Development'. This new justice quarter will reinvigorate the area, the former home of the newspaper industry. On completion, it should support c2,500 jobs, of which c400 will be newly created. Sir Michael was also re-elected to the Policy and Resources committee, the City's principal committee.

**Alex Barr** was appointed to Chair the City's Audit & Risk Committee, which oversees the City's audit arrangements

and its systems of internal control and risk management strategy, plus its anti-fraud and corruption arrangements. The role comes with responsibility for overseeing the key Covid-19 risk that has impacted all aspects of the Corporation.

**Tracey Graham** was appointed as Chair of the Establishment Committee which is responsible for personnel and all establishment matters. That Committee

has led the adoption of a new Target Operating Model for the Corporation, which will lead to tangible efficiency savings and create a new leadership framework. Tracey continues her membership of the Planning Committee, important for maintaining the City's pre-eminence as a world financial centre and supporting the planning needs of SMEs and residents.

These key positions reaffirm your civic team's ability to deliver change and a better City for all.

### Ward club news

The Cordwainer Ward club has new leadership for this civic year, with Carmen Hart recently assuming the Chair role from David Reynolds. Elected as her Vice-Chairman was Sam Walker. This year's programme of events has already started with a virtual meeting on May 20 with Roy Hay, guitarist and song writer mainly of Culture Club, and Nico Golfar his executive producer, with both joining from Los Angeles. The club looks forward to hosting in-person events, with all details posted on the club website, [cordwainer.co.uk](http://cordwainer.co.uk).

**Carmen Hart**



**Sam Walker**

