

Milestones in the Company's history

14th Century	1327	Letters Patent of Edward III - Royal acceptance of the Guild by its first Charter.
	1371	"The good men of the trade" of Tailors and Linen Armourers submitted an Ordinance for the approval of the Lord Mayor and Aldermen to enable them to order and regulate their craft.
	1390	Letters Patent of Richard II - authorising the Fraternity to give a livery garment and "to hold and keep in an honest manner the feast of meat and drink on St. John Baptist's Day."
15th Century	1408	Letters Patent of Henry IV - granting Incorporation of the Fraternity with powers of self government.
	1428	Evidence of "search" on the Eve of Bartholomew Fair (1445 hallmark on the Clothyard).
	1439	Letters Patent of Henry VI - empowering the Guild to make "full search within the City and suburbs".
	1465	Letters Patent of Edward IV - confirming the right of search which the Corporation had challenged.
	1481	First Grant of Arms - to the Fraternity of Tailors and Linen Armourers by Clarenceux King of Arms.
	1484	Lord Mayor Billesden awards Merchant Taylors and Skinners priority in precedence in alternate years: This is known as the principle of "sixes and sevens"
16th Century	1503	Letters Patent of Henry VII - the Charter which first recognised the Guild under the name of Merchant Taylors
	1507	Ordinances for the government of the fraternity ratified.
	1547	John Stow admitted after apprenticeship to the Freedom; and in receipt of a pension by 1579.
	1565	Court of Assistants so named.
	1566	Acquisition of the Mora estate (Moorfields) for the siting of racks or tenters in the making of cloth.
	1572	Company required to provide 200 men for the defence of the City.
	1586	Second Grant of Arms - to the Art or Mystery of Merchant Taylors of the Fraternity of St. John the Baptist.
17th Century	1607	King James I dines at the Hall; and 'God save the King' perhaps first played by Dr. John Bull.
	1613	New Ordinances confirmed, which established the Oath to be sworn by new Liverymen.
	1618	Irish Society grant an estate in Ulster to the Company, designated as "the manor of St John the Baptist".
	1640	First barge built
	1642	Return made to Lord Mayor of arms and ammunition held for the defence of the City.
	1676	Festival of the Sons of the Clergy first held at the Hall.
	1685	Letters Patent of Charles II: and surrender of Charters to the King in 1687.
	1690	Letters Patent of William and Mary, repealing the "Quo Warranto" of 1684.
18th Century	1702	Hall rented by the East India Company; and in 1711 by the South Sea Company.
	1719	Letters Patent of George I - the last and confirmatory Charter.
	1727	Sale of the Irish Estates.
	1751	Five Liverymen petitioned the Court of Aldermen unsuccessfully for the right of inspection of the Charters.
	1786	£10,000 voted for the public service.

19th Century	1800	Last barge built (its sternboard on the wall of the Grand Staircase).
	1802	Dinner in honour of William Pitt in the Hall; and subsequently the "Pitt Club" dinners.
	1814	Alexander I of Russia and Frederick William III of Prussia dined in the Hall.
	1837	Royal Commission on the Livery Companies.
20th Century	1972	Company's records put on microfilm and copies placed in Guildhall Library.
	1982	Establishment of Merchant Taylors Catering Ltd to operate the commercial letting of Merchant Taylors' Hall facilities.
	1984	Quincentenary of the Billesden Award.
	1992	Ladies admitted to the Livery of the Company.
	1996	Company's archives transferred to the Guildhall Library.