



## The Worshipful Company of Engineers

(Incorporated by Royal Charter 2004)

### The Middle Warden 2023 - 2024



**Eur Ing Penny Taylor JP**

CEng FIMechE FWES

Penny has been an active member of the Livery since 1998 and was elected to the Court of Assistants immediately after the Company received its Royal Charter in 2004. Since then, she has always served on one or other of the main committees. She organises the Midlands Social Dinner each summer which allows members from outside London to gather closer to home and introduce friends and colleagues to the Company. She particularly values the people she gets to meet in places that she would not be able to get to any other way, with a wide range of engineering subjects being discussed. She has made many life-long friends through the livery.

Penny had a long career in the automotive industry, starting off as a Jaguar Rover Triumph apprentice and being sponsored through a thin-sandwich degree course at Lanchester (Coventry) Polytechnic. She worked in design and development on several new vehicle programmes and had responsibility as Programme Manager for the Metro-replacement programme, which sadly got shelved before launch in the mid-1980s.

In the 1990s she moved into academia to set up an Integrated Graduate Development Scheme (IGDS) for Ford and Lotus with a consortium of universities, based at the University of Hertfordshire, which later became the Automotive Engineering Centre with a wide range of courses and facilities. She then went back into the component supply industry working for a number of first-tier suppliers in a variety of roles including sales, finance, HR, quality, continuous improvement and manufacturing ending her corporate career as Operations Manager for a large Just-in-time seating plant supplying multiple manufacturers. She has worked in Spain, France, Germany, Slovakia, USA and China.

Currently Penny runs a consultancy business which trains and coaches engineers in soft skills such as management, leadership, communications, ethics etc. She is a member of the Engineering Council Quality Assurance Committee (EngC QAC), has recently stepped down from chairing the IMechE Professional Review Committee (PRC) to be Vice-Chair of the IMechE Qualifications and Membership Board (QMB) and sits on two BSI committees. She has been a magistrate in the criminal court for over 11 years and has supported magistrate recruitment through the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee.

The IMechE has been a large part of Penny's engineering identity, since she was the first girl to win the Queen's Silver Jubilee Prize Award (now called 'Speak out for engineering') in 1984. This profile meant that she was recruited as a 'young member' to various committees including the Prizes and Awards Committee. In 2004 she became the first female Chair of the IMechE Automotive Division and gave a series of lectures around the country. She has been elected to Council, been a Trustee and non-executive director of the publishing arm of the institution, as well as taking numerous volunteering roles supporting the Membership, Accreditation and Professional Development Department (MAPD).

Penny lives in Solihull with John (a physicist turned electronics engineer, CEng FIET, and member of the British Section of Ingenieurs et Scientifiques de France) and their two cats. They are both keen, but slow, runners who support their local jazz scene and enjoy ballet and theatre.

Penny was installed as the Junior Warden of the Worshipful Company of Engineers in May 2022 and then Middle Warden on 25 April 2023.