

# LIVERY BRIEFING

July 2020



## LIVERY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Dear Liverymen,

I write as the further easing of lockdown ensues and the high street becomes increasingly busier. Whilst these signs are encouraging for many of us involved with Small and Medium Enterprises, I would urge everyone to proceed with caution and use common sense in terms of our day to day interactions in order to stay as safe as possible. I know that many in the Livery are looking at alternative events which can be held, from socially distanced outdoor drinks to hiring out of Livery Halls to other organisations in need of the space. The Lord Mayor has also begun a series of virtual coffee mornings or afternoon teas with the Livery which I know have been very well received. As per my previous message, I encourage all clerks to continue their conversations with me as well as with the Court of Alderman, who are feeding back to Mansion House on the great work being done to support the vulnerable members of our community in these unprecedented times.

I have been in discussions with Claire Holdgate, Events Manager at the City of London Corporation, to ascertain how the City Livery Briefings may be held virtually. The Livery Committee, which met on 10 June 2020, welcomed the news that holding these briefings via virtual means was a possibility, given their value to new and potential Liverymen alike and I hope to have more information for you on this in the coming weeks.

Please stay well and stay safe.

Best wishes,

Vicky Russell  
Chairman, Livery Committee

## NEWS/DATES

### Common Hall, Election of Lord Mayor

As the Livery will be aware, June's Common Hall had to be cancelled due to the global health pandemic. Consideration has also been given to September's Common Hall, in view of the ongoing pandemic and accompanying restrictions. As you will also be aware, the Court of Aldermen intend to re-elect the current Lord Mayor, Alderman William Russell, for a second one-year term and, whilst the City of London Corporation is preparing for multiple eventualities, we are mindful of Government directives in respect of assemblies. The extent to which restrictions on movement and social distancing requirements will be in force in September remains unclear at this point in time and the situation continues to evolve. However, it is likely that some measure of restrictions will remain in place and it is prudent to plan accordingly. Consideration is, therefore, being given to the way Common Hall may be held, in a procedurally valid manner, without having the usual gathering, and your Livery Committee considered a report at its last meeting on this matter.

There will be further communication with Clerks over the summer as the position becomes clearer but, given current uncertainties, it is reasonable to prepare for the likelihood that attendance at Common Hall in person will be strongly discouraged in line with Government advice, and for Companies and Liverymen to work on that basis in considering their own arrangements at this point in time. We ask for your patience and understanding in these somewhat unusual times, as we seek to ensure a safe and pragmatic way forward.

### Sheep Drive & Livery Fair postponed until 26 September 2021

We hope all of our friends and supporters are keeping safe and well during these challenging times. As you would expect, the organising committee of the Sheep Drive and Livery Fair have been closely monitoring developments and consulting widely about arrangements for our events this year. Our aim has always been to deliver an event that is a safe, fun day out, celebrating the ancient tradition of a Freeman's right to drive their sheep to market over London bridge, tariff-free, and through this unique event, raise funds for the Woolmen's Charitable Trust and Lord Mayor's Appeal.

It is with considerable regret that we have decided to postpone the planned Sheep Drive and Livery Fair on Sunday 27 September, which this year was due to take place on Southwark Bridge, allowing for essential works taking place on London Bridge. We have looked at different models for running the Sheep Drive, abiding by government approved social distancing and safety guidelines for gatherings in public spaces and outdoor activities. Sadly, our view is that these would require us to limit numbers significantly and also alter the format of the day to such an extent that it would impact participants' enjoyment and the additional costs involved reduce the overall charitable contribution we can make from the event. We are mindful that Government guidelines continue to evolve, however, in order to allow for essential planning time, including that of all of our fantastic volunteers and supporters, we feel that the decision on this September's event needs to be taken now. Hopefully this also mitigates against the potential risk of a short notice cancellation if stricter measures were to be reintroduced. We know that many of you will be equally as disappointed as we are.

However, we hope you will be delighted to hear that this means that we are now turning our minds fully to planning for a fantastic Sheep Drive & Livery Fair on 26 September 2021 when we can all look forward to an amazing day. We thank you for your continuing support and we very much look forward to remaining in contact with you as we plan for 2021. Please do not hesitate to email [sheepdriveteamenquiries@woolmen.com](mailto:sheepdriveteamenquiries@woolmen.com) if you have any question.

In the meantime, we will keep you updated through our website [www.sheepdrive.london](http://www.sheepdrive.london) regarding arrangements for booking in 2021.

Please also check out our social media where we will be following the stories of the team - that's both two legged and four - as we launch our plans, with some updates and nuggets of news along the way! Twitter: @SheepDriveLDN. Instagram: Sheepdriveldn. Facebook: TheWorshipfulCompanyofWoolmen.

Peter Hullah (Chair of the Organising Team for the Sheep Drive & Livery Fair, Upper Warden of the Worshipful Company of Woolmen)

### **Inspiring Connections: The Social Capital Project**

Inspiring Connections supports people from disadvantaged backgrounds into meaningful work. Our Candidates may have previous convictions, spent time in care or experienced mental health challenges. Some are looking to step into more rewarding jobs, others want to explore entrepreneurship. While the backgrounds and ambitions of our Candidates are diverse, they all share barriers to the opportunities and support they need to achieve their career goals. Our Candidates also share bags of potential, and the motivation to improve their circumstances. Established and funded by Skinners' and Clothworkers' Livery Companies, Inspiring Connections Advocates, drawn from their Members, use their experience and interpersonal skills to support Candidates build the confidence, aspirations and the networks they need to achieve their career goals. The programme consists of:

- Six fortnightly sessions, from w/c 7 September
- Sessions on Tuesday or Wednesday evenings, 6-8pm
- All sessions are group based and hosted either online via Zoom or in person at a central London location
- Topics explored include the professional journey, personal brand and networking

For more information visit [www.catch-22.org.uk/about-inspiring-connections](http://www.catch-22.org.uk/about-inspiring-connections) or contact the project manager Josh Falconer Roberts on 07545421289 or email him at [josh.falconerroberts@catch-22.org.uk](mailto:josh.falconerroberts@catch-22.org.uk)

### **Revamped Clean City Award Scheme**

Is your livery hall looking to be more resource efficient, adopt more sustainable waste and circular economy practices? Is your livery hall trying to improve air quality and taking action to reduce its impact on climate change? Whether you are just starting out in these areas or you've been making improvements for years, the Clean City Award Scheme (CCAS) is for you! Minimising your impact and increasing resource efficiency not only benefits the environment but also makes business sense as well. CCAS has been providing waste management support and advice to City businesses and sites since 1994. As the scheme enters its 26<sup>th</sup> year, a revamped CCAS was launched on Monday 6 July to recognise and reward achievements in the following areas; "Resource and Circular Economy", "Plastic Free City", "Air Quality and Climate Action" and also "Communication and Engagement". The CCAS helps City sites to sustainably manage their waste, adopt circular economy principles, improve air quality and take action against climate change as well as rewarding achievements in these high profile areas. To become a member of the CCAS and discover all the benefits of the scheme including affiliation with the City of London, invites to regular best practice meetings, monthly newsletters, opportunity to apply for awards, networking opportunities and more, please visit the CCAS website: [www.ccaslondon.co.uk](http://www.ccaslondon.co.uk)

### **Temporary On-Street Signage**

Temporary on-street signage with clear and consistent message on queueing and social distancing is being implemented across the Square Mile to provide a safe and welcoming environment as businesses are reopening. The street signage was developed by the City Corporation and is being implemented in partnership with the City's Business Improvement Districts. Businesses can submit their requests by completing a short form on the City Corporation website and signage is then installed in the streets by their contractor.

### **The Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch 2020**

You will be aware that in March, in consultation with the Lord Mayor and the Remembrancer, I made the disappointing but necessary decision to cancel the 2020 Lunch. Back then - what seems like a lifetime ago and in another world - with four weeks left to go before the day of the Lunch, it was looking as if the 2020 Lunch might even exceed the record sum raised at the 2019 Lunch. Tickets were selling very well, both individual ones and for groups of 10 or more. The levels of sponsorship from the Livery Companies, Ward Clubs and City businesses was well up on 2019. More Livery Companies than ever before were taking part. Many had upped their sponsorship. Six Livery Companies had each committed to sponsor the full cost of an individual veteran through the Pain Management Programme (PMP) at the King Edward VII Hospital's Centre for Veterans' Health, our principal benefitting charity for the years 2019 to 2021. Eight Livery Companies were running stalls. One Livery Company had already held its own fundraising event and sent us the proceeds. We had a fantastic array of prizes for the Silent Auction and the Draw. Eight authors had agreed to sign and sell their latest books. The Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress had designed their own unique cocktails to be sold at the Cocktail Bars. Our array of very generous sponsors-in-kind was in place, providing so much at no cost whatsoever to the Lunch. The Guildhall complex was ours again at no cost, thanks to the support of the City Corporation. As a result of all of this, the Committee was quietly confident that we might well exceed last year's record sum of £260,000 to hand over to the three national service charities for onward distribution to veterans of Iraq, Afghanistan, and their families.

As soon as the decision to cancel was made, I penned 13 different letters which were sent out by our excellent staff team at ABF The Soldiers' Charity, by post and/or email, to over 2,500 individuals and organisations connected in some way with the 2020 Lunch, whether as Committee members, Vice Patrons, commercial and private sponsors, Livery Company and Ward Club sponsors and supporters, ticket purchasers, stall holders, authors, volunteers and our team of suppliers. I thanked them all for their support and looked forward to everyone being involved again next year in the 2021 Lunch. In each letter there was a reference to the veterans of all three of Her Majesty's Armed Forces waiting to go on the PMP at the King Edward VII Hospital's Centre For Veterans' Health. We asked if everyone would consider leaving their contribution in place and/or turning their ticket purchases into a donation. In this way, we could, hopefully, make it possible for some veterans to go on the PMP over the coming year. The response has been simply amazing and speaks volumes about the Livery Companies', Ward Clubs' and business community's concern for and commitment to the Armed Forces of the Crown. As a result of everyone's generosity, the Lord Mayor and I are able to announce that we now have sufficient funds to be able to commit to funding up to eighteen veterans on the PMP. As you will be aware, this was one of our principal ambitions for the 2020 LMBCL. That is eighteen veterans who will now be able to go on the PMP in the coming months; the impact on them and on their families will be truly transformational. Income is still coming in, largely in the form of Gift Aid from ticket purchasers who have turned their ticket price into a donation. Once the PMP veterans have been fully funded, any additional income this year will go to support other initiatives to do with veteran employment.

In what will be a very tough environment for employment as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, our funding will be particularly important. The Lord Mayor and I would like to add a particular 'thank you' to all the Livery Companies for their amazing support in so many ways. You will be interested to know that Noon Products, which has supplied the delicious curries for the Lunch since its inception in 2008, has also been very generous. The Board has decided, given that they would not be supplying curries for 1,800 paying guests and volunteers this year, to instead fund a veteran through the PMP. I know we will all wish to thank the Board members of Noon Products for their special contribution this year. I will pen a brief article again as the plans develop for the 2021 Lunch, which we very much hope will take place in April 2021. Thank you all so much for your support. This is a terrific result. With best regards and keep well.

Michael Hockney (Court Assistant to the Musicians Company, Founder and Co-Chairman of the Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch)

### **Calling all Knitters**

Why not rekindle past knitting expertise, or learn a new skill, by joining Liverymen of TheFramework Knitters Company and residents of our Cottage Homes in their "Knit for Community". We are creating knitted squares that will be formed into blankets, with assistance from the Framework Knitters Museum (Nottingham), for distribution to the following charities:

- Action Homeless – Leicester
- Meadows Hope food bank – Nottingham
- GlassDoor – London

If you are willing to knit please contact Liz Green on [liz@lizgreen.co.uk](mailto:liz@lizgreen.co.uk) Please use brightly coloured wool if possible to enable us to produce eye-catching blankets and use the following specification:

- Double knitting wool to make a stable reproducible square (knitted diagonally and measured along the side)
- Either an 8" square using Size 8 (4 mm) knitting needles - approximately 60 stitches at longest point depending on tension or a 6" square using Size 5 (5.5 mm) needles and approximately 40 stitches.
- Cast on two stitches;
- Knit 1, then increase one stitch (at beginning of row only) by knitting into front then back of next stitch. Knit to end.
- Continue increasing until work measures either 8" or 6" along the side;
- Knit one row;
- Knit 1, then decrease one stitch by Slip 1, Knit 1 pass slip stitch over;
- Knit to end;
- Continue until 1 stitch remaining. Cast off and thread in loose end.

With grateful thanks from all at the Framework Knitters Company.

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## **LORD MAYOR**

### **COVID-19 Recovery Breakfasts**

Since May, the Lord Mayor has been hosting a fortnightly COVID-19 Recovery Breakfast meeting, convening senior stakeholders from 40 Financial and Professional Services (FPS) firms in the City and across the UK, to discuss their recovery plans and ways in which they could collaborate beyond the immediate response into the recovery phase. All firms have emphasised the primary importance of safety and well-being of staff and have noted the transition from the office to working from home has been successful. Resilience, recapitalisation and access to liquidity were some of the key issues across the financial and professional services sector. These events have focussed on different topics each week, with speakers from the Departments for International Trade and Culture, Media and Sport, and enabled firms to openly share information. Key workstreams identified were Mental Health, Building Use, and Transport and Safety.

### **Virtual Engagement**

The virtual engagement programme for the Lord Mayor and the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee has continued apace. As well as conversations with major FPS institutions, they have now also spoken to significant figures in UK nations and regions, including Scottish First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, Greater Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham, and representatives from the West Midlands and West Yorkshire. The focus of conversation has been the performance of FPS firms in these regions, how the City Corporation can support their recovery and any areas of potential collaboration, eg green finance. The Lord Mayor has started virtual visits to replicate his normal programme of travel in key overseas markets. In the last month, the Lord Mayor has virtually visited Japan, building on the City's long-standing business relationship, and discussing how the UK can support Tokyo's Fintech ecosystem and help UK-based Asset Managers in Japan. He has also spoken at several China events, organised by the City Corporation. In July, he is following up with virtual visits to Singapore and Australia. The visits help maintain the strong relationships the City Corporation has with overseas markets and discuss best practice in the post COVID-19 economic recovery.

### **Livery Engagement**

As some of you will know, the Lord Mayor has been engaging with the Livery through his regular newsletter and through virtual coffee events in the last month with Masters, Prime Wardens and Clerks. Top of the agenda at the coffee meetings has been the impact of COVID-19, matters relating to diversity and the economic recovery and next steps. The Lord Mayor has heard how the Livery has been proactive in responding to lockdown, continuing to support its charities and trades and meeting virtually. Companies have also been actively looking at diversity - from membership to historical issues – and how to attract more young people to join. The Lord Mayor is aware how difficult the lockdown period has been for many livery companies (in terms of loss of members, closure of halls, loss of income and lack of physical fellowship) and is keen to help circulate best practice among companies and show the many positive ways the Livery has been responding to the COVID-19 crisis.

### **Lord Mayor in the City**

With lockdown restrictions being eased the Lord Mayor has been able to resume some of his civic duties in the Square Mile. Two weeks ago, he visited the NHS Livery Kitchens initiative at three Livery Halls – Grocers, Drapers and Merchant Taylors. As part of Armed Forces Week (22-27 June), he presided over the raising of the Armed Forces Flag in Guildhall Yard. He has also visited the Old Bailey, St Paul's Cathedral, the Barbican Centre and is set to participate in City of London Police Passing Out Parade in Guildhall Yard this week. Although most City workers continue to work from home, there is still activity in the Square Mile.

### **Green Horizons Event**

Since the last briefing, the City Corporation and the Green Finance Institute have announced a major virtual event, taking place at the Mansion House between 9-11 November, focusing on the role of green finance in the COVID-19 recovery. 'Green Horizon Summit - The Pivotal Role of Finance' will take place on the original dates for the postponed United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), now taking place in Glasgow in November 2021. Mark Carney, UN Special Envoy for Climate Action and Finance, will give the keynote address. The Lord Mayor believes the event will be hugely important in the global financial community coming together to play its part in the fight against climate change.

### **20:40 webinar**

On 16 June, the Lord Mayor was a panellist on a 20:40 webinar entitled 'Leadership in crisis and the role of the next generation in economic recovery'. Hosted by the 20:40 organisation, it focused on young people aged 20-40. The Lord Mayor spoke on the need for a green-led recovery, the economy after the COVID-19 crisis, and lessons from his career in finance and time at the City Corporation. Ann Cairns, Executive Vice Chair of MasterCard and Adrienne Harris, former Special Assistant to President Obama also took part.