Commonwealth appoints new Secretary-General
On 27 November 2015 it was announced that the Alderman for Bishopsgate, Alderman the Rt Hon Baroness Scotland of Asthal QC, is to become the new Commonwealth Secretary General. Previously, Alderman Scotland was the Attorney General until 2010. She is the first woman, and first Briton, to hold the post (created in 1965). Alderman Scotland is also a Skinner and honorary Constructor, and was last year’s World Traders’ Tacitus lecturer.

Negotiations with the Department for Business Innovation & Skills on apprenticeships with Livery Companies
These negotiations, which are informing the Government of the harmful consequences to the Livery Companies of the various proposed terms of the Enterprise Bill which is currently before Parliament, are continuing. Various proposals have been put forward by the Remembrancer (with appropriate guidance and support from the Livery Companies) but have not been adopted by the Government. It remains for the Government’s proposed terms to be challenged in the passage of the Bill through Parliament either at the committee stage or, ultimately, on the floor of the House.

The Guild of Nursing
On 9 February the Court of Aldermen approved the formation of a new guild, to represent the nursing profession. To read more on how to go about forming a new guild (ultimately hoping to become a livery company), go to the Clerks’ Almanac and the New Guilds & Modern Companies tab at www.liverycompanies.info

Ward of Walbrook Aldermanic Election
On Wednesday 2 December 2015, an Aldermanic election was held in the Ward of Walbrook. The result was as follows:
- Garbutt, John – Independent 86
- Waddingham, Adrian - Independent 61
- Bannister, Christopher - Independent 25

John Garbutt (Weaver) was duly re-elected as Alderman for the Ward.

Forthcoming Elections – Court of Common Council
Following the retirement from the Court of Common Council of Gerald Pulman, there is a vacancy in the Ward of Tower. There is also a vacancy in the Ward of Lime Street, following Robert Howard’s election as Alderman. Polls will be held on the 16 and 17 March respectively.

New diary manager at Mansion House
Sophie Smethurst has been appointed the Senior Diary Manager at Mansion House, in succession to Lucy Crowe. She took up her appointment on 11 January. Previously she has been employed in international advertising and communications agencies. Her telephone number will be the same as Lucy Crowe’s – or via the Mansion House switchboard 020 7626 2500.

Plans to transform Bank junction
On Friday 20 November 2015, the City of London Corporation outlined plans to transform Bank junction. Under the proposals, which could be brought in on a temporary basis within a year, only buses and cyclists would be allowed to use the junction between 7am and 7pm on weekdays.

Inter Livery Ski Championships
Over 140 racers from nearly 30 different livery companies took part in Morzine, together with over 50 supporters, in the French Alps on 21-22 January.

The racing started with a Parallel Slalom, followed by the main event - the Giant Slalom - on the second day. The standard of racing varied from expert to eccentric with some admitting that they hadn’t been on skis for decades. The emphasis was on friendly sportsmanship rather than ‘trophy hunting’ with ages varying from 21 to 76, with some companies fielding just one individual and another bringing out 18 racers.

Team prizes were won by the Grocers, Leathersellers, Actuaries and Ironmongers with the Vintners, Coopers, Stationers and Mercers all taking close seconds. Full results and more information at liveryskiing.com. The 8th Livery Ski Races will be 19-20 January 2017, again organised by the Ironmongers’ Company.
Shrove Tuesday: Inter Livery Pancake Races
The 12th annual Inter Livery Pancake Races took place in Guildhall Yard on 9 February 2015. The winners in the various categories were as follows:

- Fancy Dress – Society of Young Freemen
- Master – The Worshipful Company of Marketors
- Liveryman – The Old Bailey
- Ladies – The Worshipful Company of Information Technologists
- Handicap - The Worshipful Company of Tylers & Bricklayers
- The Overall Winner: Victor Ludorum - The Old Bailey

The Inter livery Pancake Races are supported by The Cook & The Butler and will take place next year in Guildhall Yard on Tuesday 28 February 2017, organised by the Poulters’ Company.

World War II Siren sounds to mark 75th anniversary of biggest Blitz attack on the City
An air raid siren was sounded at the Dowgate Fire Station on 29 December 2015 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the night of the Blitz when Guildhall and so many livery halls, 17 City churches, and many other buildings were destroyed or damaged on the night of 29/30 December 1940.

But not St Paul’s. This was the night of the iconic photo of the Cathedral’s dome amid clouds of black smoke. It was taken by Herbert Mason, of the Daily Mail. More than 100,000 bombs were dropped on London by the Luftwaffe that night, which became known as the second fire of London, and saw 160 civilians killed with many more later dying of their injuries. 75 years on, a Massey Shaw fireboat re-enacted pumping water for the firemen, and other vintage fire appliances drove through the City at 6.05pm, the time of the start of the 1940 raid.

‘London Ablaze’
A new organ work by Ben McGettigan was performed by the composer in its World Premiere at All Hallows by the Tower on 11 February. The music was commissioned by the Bakers’ Company to commemorate the 350th Anniversary of the Great Fire, started in Pudding Lane in 1666 in the bakery of Thomas Faryner, close by Bakers’ Hall, to where the audience adjourned for a reception.

News from New Zealand
On 2 February, the Inaugural Meeting of Liverymen in Auckland was held at the Northern Club, and attended by eight liverymen and freemen from the Air Pilots, Butchers, Parish Clerks, Master Mariners and Shipwrights.

DIARY DATES

PRINT ‘Perception and Reality’, 1 March
Continuing the ‘Perception and Reality’ series this lecture will explore the evolution of print as a marketing and propaganda tool. From the romanticised Edwardian adverts with glowing Gibson girls through to the Technicolor glory days of the real life Mad Men, notably Ogilvy & Mather, finally a look into the use of Photoshop and simplification of marketing as we become increasingly overwhelmed with information. The lecture will take place on Tuesday 1 March at 7pm followed by a drinks reception at Pewterers’ Hall.

Tickets are £30 each, including drinks and canapes, with proceeds going to the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust which supports British craftsmen, helping them with training and development. For tickets go to pewterers.org.uk/the_company/events.html

Unseen City: Photos by Martin Parr 4 March – 31 July Guildhall Art Gallery
View the City of London through the lens of acclaimed Magnum photographer Martin Parr. Explore the pomp, ceremony and behind-the-scenes activity as Parr brings the City to life, capturing the traditions and people who make up the colourful Square Mile. More information available online.

Youth Employment: Networking Reception, 21 March
On Monday 21 March at 6pm the City of London Corporation is hosting a networking reception to promote the launch of a new guide, looking at the role of City institutions – City businesses; the City Corporation; schools and educators; and Livery companies – in supporting employability among young Londoners. The guide looks at the challenges facing unemployed young Londoners, identifies examples of good practice, suggests guiding principles to direct further work in this area, and offers simple first steps to address the disconnect between skills and business needs.

If you wish to attend, please email pro.events@cityoflondon.gov.uk by Friday 11 March.

Queen’s 90th birthday celebrations, 10 – 12 June
For further information about the activities over the weekend 10-12 June, please visit the Diary page at www.liverycompanies.info and scroll down to this date.

Great Fire 350, 2 – 5 September
In early September across the Square Mile, an artistic response to the history, heritage and effect of the 1666 Great Fire of London will see an extraordinary number of commemorative events and activities, and will tell the stories big and small of London’s Great Fire. With funding support from the City of London Corporation, creative producers Artichoke, known most recently for Lumiere London, the light festival that took over the West End and King’s Cross in January, will present a four day programme of free spectacular outdoor installations. Londoners and visitors will be invited to explore the City and see its history and what the Great Fire means today through the vision of contemporary artists. Further information will be available in June.
Social Investment
At the Livery Committee’s meeting on 10 February, the City Bridge Trust shared information about their Social Investment work. Social investment is the use of finance to achieve a social, as well as a financial, return, with the market helping charitable and not-for-profit organisations raise capital that they may not be able to secure from conventional investment sources, whilst also helping investors find organisations that deliver them a social as well as a financial return. Unlike a traditional charitable grant, the repayment of the loan or bond (usually at a low rate of interest) then allows for the same money to be used again and re-invested in other projects with a positive social impact.

The City Bridge Trust have begun to engage with the Livery in this area and have recently co-opted a senior member of the Mercers’ Company on to the Social Investment Board, which the Trust manages on behalf of the City of London. They are keen to discuss potential collaboration with other interested Livery Companies; for more information, please contact David Farnsworth (the Chief Grants Officer) at david.farnsworth@cityoflondon.gov.uk

The Barbican Centre – world-class arts and learning in the heart of the City
Creative and cultural education is at the heart of the Barbican’s mission. They want to redress inequality of access to the arts and nurture talent in young people, irrespective of their background. In just the past five years their joint programme with the Guildhall School of Music & Drama has seen over 200,000 people take part in activities across the arts, developing their creativity and the skills that improve educational outcomes and employment prospects. Schools across east London and the UK visit the Barbican and in turn they take our arts and artists into schools. Next September they will launch a three-year partnership programme with secondary schools in outer-east London boroughs.

Livery Companies and their members have been generous supporters of the Barbican’s work and they are keen to build on these partnerships. To find out more about the Barbican’s Creative Learning programme please visit the website www.barbican.org.uk and contact Caroline Harris, Trusts & Foundations Manager at caroline.harris@barbican.org.uk

City Music Foundation (CMF)
The CMF charity supports exceptional musical talent by equipping outstanding musicians with the tools, skills, expertise and networks they need to build and sustain rewarding and profitable careers. All their Artists engage in an innovative two-year programme, which includes artistic and business mentoring as well as professional development workshops, the creation of promotional tools and the support and promotion of a bespoke musical project to help them develop a unique selling point.

The CMF’s presence in the City is further enhanced by their Concert Series, held monthly at St Lawrence Jewry, and the annual ‘City Beerfest’ on 6 July, combining classical music, jazz, and beer. Also look out for Simon Callow, Joan Rodgers and Roger Vignoles on 15 April in a Shakespeare concert in the Guildhall Art Gallery.

HMRC and VAT
Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs has recently published guidance notes for Livery Companies concerning VAT issues. The guidance can be found at the following web page: www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/vbnbmanual/VBNB60740.htm

Agricultural Implications of Brexit
A new report by Professor Allan Buckwell, commissioned by the Farmers’ Company, was launched at their Hall this month. Buckwell is an agricultural economist, who works part-time for the Institute for European Environmental Policy as senior research fellow.

The author highlighted the lack of current detail of any British agricultural policy that might replace EU policy, should we leave the EU, and emphasised the serious amount of work that would need to be undertaken, to negotiate appropriate new trade deals with the EU and the rest of the world. The full report can be downloaded from www.farmerslivery.org.uk

Cyber-Crime
The Financial Services Group of Livery Companies has recently produced a simple statement of basic principles on Information Assurance to help understand and manage the risks associated with Cyber-Crime, with livery companies in mind. Their document can be read on the FSG website

Centenary of Toc H
‘All Rank Abandon, Ye Who Enter Here’ read the sign over the door of Talbot House, a few miles behind the front line in Great War Belgium. Founded by Army Padre, The Rev’d Philip ‘Tubby’ Clayton MC in December 1915 when there was little seasonal Peace and Goodwill at the Western Front, ‘Toc H’ (as it was known in the wireless-operators’ code of the day) was a place of rest and refuge for soldiers, where throughout the war, all ranks mixed as equals.

Rev’d Tubby Clayton was the Vicar of All Hallows-by-the-Tower, guild church of the Carpenters’ Company, the Watermen & Lightermen, and the World Traders’. In peacetime, Toc H became an international Christian organisation which has for 100 years promoted principles of friendship, service, fairness and bringing about The Kingdom of God. The centenary was marked on BBC Radio 4 when the Sunday morning service came from that church, and was led by The Rev’d Bertrand Olivier, Clayton’s successor. The broadcast text of his interesting history of Toc H can be read at www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06tfb5p

National Memorial Arboretum Appeal
As part of its fundraising campaign for the refurbishment of the NMA, all Livery companies were invited to buy a large Yorkstone paving, to be engraved with their Coat of Arms, which would then be laid in Heroes’ Square - the centre piece of the new development. Many have already purchased one, but there are a few more spaces left within the allocation set aside for the Livery Companies which will take pride of place alongside those to represent the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force. Every engraved paving will be referenced and in the Educational Centre, where visitors will be able to see a representation of Heroes’ Square with a brief history of all those with stones. The build has begun and will be completed in the autumn of this year. If you would like to find out more, or secure a paving stone for your Company, please contact Caroline Cary at Heroes.square@clcevents.com or 01980 611211.
This bi-monthly newsletter, published by the Livery Committee and emailed to all Clerks for onward distribution to their liverymen, draws heavily on the News pages at the Livery Committee website www.liverycompanies.info, where you can find details and links to a host of livery related information. If you wish to post any News item on the site (please aim for between 50-150 words), and to appear in the April Briefing, please email the Editor.

Thank you.

Nigel Pullman
Livery Committee

Tweets of the Day from the Livery Committee chairman @NigelPullman:

- 11 February - The organ work “London Ablaze” was premiered today by its composer Ben McGettigan. Commissioned by the Bakers’ to mark the Great Fire 350.
- 10 February - Congratulations to the Old Bailey winning team in the Shrove Tues Pancake Races, magnificently supported as always by The Cook & The Butler.
- 8 February - Agricultural implications of BREXIT report by Professor Allan Tuckwell for the Farmers Livery was covered today on BBC Radio 4 Farming Today
- 7 February - 9 Feb is Shrove Tuesday, hence inter livery pancake races in Guildhall Yard. Sponsored by the Cook & the Butler, and organised by Poulters.
- 6 February - Today is Waitangi Day, New Zealand’s national day. Liveries that can claim an NZ link include Butchers, Girdlers, Woolmen & World Traders.
- 4 February - The WET 10 Debate on ‘How will London manage a drought?’ is to be at Glaziers’ Hall on Monday 22 February. More at http://www.liverycompanies.info/diary--news/
- 2 February - Today 2 February is Candlemas. Celebrated in the Livery world with a joint service of the Wax Chandlers’ and Tallow Chandlers’ each year.
- 1 February - A new month means that the rolling two year DIARY at the Livery Committee website, now goes up to end January 2018. http://www.liverycompanies.info/diary--news/
- 29 January - Livery Ski result: Best team: Grocers; on adjusted time: Leathersellers; Court: Actuaries; 200+: Ironmongers (also the organisers, thank you)
- 14 January - Lumiere London Festival starts tonight, thru to Sunday. Produced by Artichoke, who will also put on the Great Fire 350 event in September.
- 6 January - Treloars have 5 guaranteed starts in the London Marathon on 24 April. katie.wilson@treloar.org.uk tel 01420 547456 to be a sponsored runner.
- 6 January - A new month means that the rolling two year DIARY at the Livery Committee website, now goes up to December 2017. http://www.liverycompanies.info/diary--news/
- 30 December - 29 Dec 1940, when so many livery halls were destroyed in the Blitz, was remembered 75 years on by an Air Raid Siren in the City last night.
- 24 December - Lord (Derek) Ezra was one of the founding fathers of the modern Fuellers’ Livery, and retained his interest until his death at 96 this week.
- 24 December - Toc H. BBC Radio 4 marks the centenary with its service this Sunday from All Hallows by the Tower, home of founder Rev Tubby Clayton. 8.10am
- 20 December - City of London has plans to pedestrianise Bank junction. Under the trial, only buses and cyclists would use the junction between 7am and 7pm.
- 10 December - Closing date for nomination for The City Livery Club Root and Branch Award is 1st Feb. Application form is at the City Livery Club website.
- 9 December - Cityview is the online magazine of the City of London Corporation. You can download the December edition at http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/cityview
- 5 December - Northern liverymen Supper tonight, and Christmas concert in Ripon Cathedral. 20th May is the Brigantes Breakfast at Cutlers’ Hall Sheffield.
- 3 December - Wallbrook Aldermanic Election. Garbutt, John 86; Waddingham, Adrian 61; Bannister, Christopher 25. John GARBUTT (Weaver) was re-elected.
- 2 December - Election of an Alderman for the Wallbrook Ward. NOTICE OF POLL Notice is given that: A poll will be held on 2 Dec 2015 between 8am and 8pm.
- 1 December - A new month means that the rolling two year DIARY at the Livery Committee website, now goes up to November 2017. http://www.liverycompanies.info/diary--news/
- 30 November - The alderman for Bishopsgate, Baroness Patricia Scotland QC, has been elected Commonwealth secretary-general. Attorney General to 2010.
- 29 November - November edition of Livery Briefing now at http://www.liverycompanies.info/library/livery-briefing/