LIVERY COMMITTEE - THE FUTURE

In early November 2018, past Lord Mayor, Alderman Charles Bowman, hosted a briefing at Mansion House for Masters, Prime Wardens, Upper Bailiffs and Clerks on progress with the Pan Livery Initiative. He was joined by Vicky Russell, Chairman of the Livery Committee, who was able to talk about work currently in-hand to enhance the Committee’s role. Further details of the Pan Livery Initiative update are set out below.

Vicky explained that the Committee essentially came into existence in 1864, in order to ‘consider the best means and take such measures as they deem advisable for securing the Guildhall from the intrusion of strangers at the meetings in Common Hall’ for the election of the Sheriffs and the Lord Mayor. Overseeing the arrangements for Common Hall remains an important part of what the Committee does, particularly when there are contested elections, but the terms of reference of the Committee are broader than that.

The Committee’s objects require it to undertake initiatives ‘aimed at creating an awareness amongst liverymen and the general public, especially opinion formers, of the work of the livery companies in their trade, professions….and charitable activities’ and to ‘undertake such other tasks which are intended to be in the best interests of the general body of the livery’. This includes advising livery companies on best practice generally and ‘acting as a forum to which livery companies can bring matters of concern for discussion’.

The Committee thus acts as a conduit for information and communication. To that end, it runs several training courses and last year over 550 people came on those courses, which are hosted by the City of London Corporation.

A Livery and Guild Liaison Scheme is also maintained, with each Committee member being the point of contact for several companies and guilds. Members are encouraged to develop good working relationships with the Master and Clerk, with regular communication.

The Livery Committee recognises that it is at a reinvigorated stage of its development and there is need for positive and strategic cooperation between the Committee and all its stakeholders. This is particularly so for the Pan Livery Initiative, going forward, to ensure that the Committee not only remains relevant but also becomes more significant. There is now a major opportunity to focus the work of the Livery Committee and the Pan Livery Initiative to meet future challenges and champion the Livery. Vicky recognised that this is a partnership, with several members of the Livery Committee on the steering group of the Pan Livery Initiative, thus ensuring close collaboration and mutual support.

The Livery Committee is also actively concentrating on its future strategy, debating for the first time in detail the long-term development and direction of the Committee: who we are, what we’re going to do and how we’re going to do it. The Committee wants to investigate how it can modernise the arrangements for Common Hall and would like more people to be able to participate, but some changes can only be effected through amending primary legislation so all the alternatives need to be explored. It wants clear results to be achieved in contested elections and electronic voting is being considered. The format of Common Hall is also being reviewed with a view to making the October Common Hall more efficient. The Committee also wants the route to becoming a non-Aldermanic Sheriff to be better profiled, with enhanced guidance given to prospective candidates.

As part of the Committee’s plan to improve communication, it is developing a website. This will promote the work of the committee and the livery and be the definitive source of useful information. And Vicky thanked those companies and guilds which had contributed towards the cost of this new initiative.

There are myriad ideas as to how the Committee can best improve its training and how it can promote the beneficial impact of the Livery in relation to its charitable giving as well as maintaining of industry and professional standards. There is currently limited engagement by the Committee with the Livery to provide advice and guidance in respect of skills, education and apprenticeships, areas where the Livery is very active. The Committee clearly needs to do more here.

The importance of working together, with openness and transparency, to emphasise and communicate the Livery’s relevance to modern society, was highlighted. That may entail restructuring the Committee’s membership, so it is fit for purpose. A job description was being drafted, so that in future committee members have the right skill sets and proper
focus and adhere to the seven Nolan principles of public life.

Greater involvement with the Guilds, who are after all the Livery of the future, and particularly encouraging younger Liverymen and Freemen, so as to become more inclusive as well as more diverse is also proposed. And the Committee is keen not just to be London centric. It is looking at holding a national event, potentially building on the existing calendar, and considering running some of its training courses in the regions, to be more accessible to the large numbers of Liverymen and Freemen living outside London as well as reaching out to the regional companies and guilds.

This is still all very much work in progress and Vicky was confident that the Livery Committee can harness its current energy and enthusiasm to deliver its future.

Finally, the Livery Committee is committed to working with the Pan Livery Initiative and remaining relevant in a changing world. Vicky assured everyone that the Committee believed in collaborating to engage with, support and promote the Livery and become a Livery Committee fit for the 21st century.

Should you wish to contact Vicky about anything that you think the Committee might be able to help with or if you wish to contribute to future editions of the Briefing, please contact the Livery Committee Manager, Simon Murrells on simon.murrells@cityoflondon.gov.uk who will pass on any correspondence.

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**ELECTIONS AND ADMISSION OF LORD MAYOR**

**Admission of Lord Mayor 2018**

On Friday, 9 November 2018, Alderman Peter Estlin was admitted as Lord Mayor of the City of London, having been elected to Office at Common Hall in September. This was followed on Saturday, 10 November, by a spectacular Lord Mayor’s Show with many livery Companies and Liverymen participating.

**Elections – Court of Aldermen**

Broad Street: Professor Michael Mainelli surrendered the office of Alderman for the Ward of Broad Street. Professor Mainelli was the only person to submit a validly nominated paper for Ward and the vacancy was, therefore, uncontested.

Billingsgate: Matthew Richardson has surrendered the office of Alderman for the Ward of Billingsgate.

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**PAN LIVERY INITIATIVE - UPDATE**

On 6 November, over 200 Liverymen and Clerks attended a Pan Livery Meeting at Mansion House.

Updates on the Pan Livery Initiative were given by the then Lord Mayor Alderman Charles Bowman; Chairman of the Steering Group, Alderman William Russell; Clerk to the Leathersellers’ Company and Chairman of the Communications Working Group, David Santa-Olalla; and Chairman of the Livery Committee, Victoria Russell.

The meeting focused on the initial results received from the three surveys conducted during the late summer and early autumn. The first survey, completed by the Clerks, provided background demographic information on age and gender of Livery Company Members which helped to inform the interpretation of the Attitudinal Survey. The second survey, also completed by Clerks, provided information on the Livery’s philanthropic work. Although not all Companies had completed the survey, analysis of the results showed there had been significant increase in giving since the last Livery Profile and the variety of Livery Company philanthropy was also highlighted. The third, Attitudinal Survey had been completed by individual Livery Company members. It was decided that this survey would be reopened, with a new completion date of the end of the year, to allow Liverymen and Freemen that had not yet responded to do so. If you would like to complete the attitudinal survey, but have not yet done so, please contact your Clerk or, alternatively, the Clerk to the Leathersellers’ Company.

The full results of the surveys will be shared with the Livery, via their Clerks, early in 2019.

Alderman Russell provided an update on donations used for the communications stream and thanked those that had donated so far.

The initiative was mentioned again on 21 November when the Lord Mayor, Peter Estlin, gave his address to the Livery and pledged his support to it, particularly with regard to a common communications plan. He also highlighted the importance of incorporating the national Livery within the initiative.

There will be more news on the survey results in the next Newsletter.
THE CHIEF COMMONER – ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

As well as the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs, the civic team at the City Corporation includes the Chief Commoner. The ‘Chief’, as he or she is known, acts as the foremost representative of Commoners in the Court of Common Council regarding their rights, their requirements for the efficient conduct of the City Corporation business, and their privileges, and to be responsible for championing the interests of Common Councilmen on such matters. A key element to the work of this historic office is the support that the Chief gives to the Lord Mayor and the civic team on behalf of Common Councilmen.

The Chief Commoner is elected by the Court of Common Council in October each year, taking office for a period commencing and ending on the date of the first Court of Common Council after the wardmotes each year. The current Chief is John Scott, a long serving Member of the Common Council, and his successor is Tom Hoffman who will take office in April 2019.

The title is unique amongst the Commoners in that it is bestowed by the Court and serves to recognise the distinguished contribution the office holder is likely to have made to the City Corporation over a period of years. The Chief Commoner also chairs Sub-Committees and Working Parties responsible for the provision of City Corporation hospitality and consideration of the Commoners’ privileges and related issues.

The Chief Commoner usually enjoys a busy year representing the City and the City Corporation at events and other occasions and, subject to diary commitments, is always happy to hear from Livery Companies and participate in and support their activities.

OTHER NEWS

Armistice

The centenary of the Armistice gave a special poignancy to this year’s remembrance services which began with a concert in St Paul’s Cathedral hosted by the Government of Flanders, the wreath laying at Middle Temple for the Submariners, attended by the Duke of Cambridge, and then at the Royal Exchange after the service at St. Paul’s. This was the first year on which the Chief Commoner and the Livery Companies, represented by the Master Grocer, had laid wreaths on behalf of their respective bodies. The number of Masters attending the lunch at Guildhall Club afterwards showed what
a popular event this was, and it was an opportunity for the civic City to come together with its livery colleagues.

The Lord Mayor’s Big Curry Lunch 2019

On 4 April 2019, the 12th annual Lord Mayor’s Big Curry Lunch will be held at Guildhall. The Lunch unites the City of London to show their support for members of Her Majesty’s Armed Forces and veterans through the three National Service Charities; ABF The Soldiers’ Charity, the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity and the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund. Polly Roberts, the Lord Mayor’s Big Curry Lunch Manager, says that as we move towards the 12th Lunch, we do so with great excitement and a renewed sense of purpose. For two reasons. Firstly, we hope that the proceeds from the 12th Lunch will take us to – and beyond – the figure of £2 million contributed to serving soldiers, veterans and their families over the life of The Lord Mayor’s Big Curry Lunch. This has had a deep and lasting impact of the lives of thousands of servicemen and women who were affected by service in Afghanistan and Iraq. We thank you for your support.

Secondly, for the next three years, The Lord Mayor’s Big Curry Lunch will link with the civic and Mayoral theme of employment and employability. As part of our giving we will provide financial support for veterans to take part in a programme designed to help them manage their pain and subsequently find meaningful work. One of the biggest inhibitors to veterans getting into the world of work and sticking at it is pain. The causal factors involved are complex, whether physical or psychological. King Edward VII Hospital’s Centre for Veterans’ Health has developed – and tested – a six-month long Pain Management Programme specifically for veterans. The Lunch will fund, as part of ABF The Soldiers’ Charity grant-giving, up to 18 veterans on this programme in each of the next three years. This will cost up to £120,000 each year, which will still leave us with a significant sum to fund other programmes that support employment and employability and the wider work of the three National Service Charities including those who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Please visit the website to buy your tickets at just £100, which includes unlimited curry, wine and beer. Corporate Packages (for groups of 10 or more) are also available, for further details please contact Polly Roberts on proberts@soldierscharity.org or call 0207 811 3202.

Information Technologists

Two charities, CALM (Campaign against Living Miserably) and Missing People, have jointly won The Worshipful Company of Information Technologists’ Charity IT Award 2018. Each will receive a grant of £300,000 as a result of their win.

The WCIT award considered four finalisers, drawn from 76 entries, and, in the end, it was impossible to separate two of them. As a result, the judges, led by Sir Kenneth Olisa, Lord Lieutenant of Greater London and Past Master of the WCIT, and ably supported by six other independent judges including Debby Ounsted CBE of the Mercers, recommended that the grant would be split between CALM and Missing People.

Watch the winners video HERE

You can read the full story of the IT Award HERE

The awards will make a great difference to these two charities. Both winning charities face the problem of rising call and online chat volumes with insufficient human resources to service all the contacts they receive. They are therefore both seeking to make innovative use of chatbots supported by Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to prioritise the calls and increase the number of enquiries successfully handled.

Furthermore, the winning projects have inspired the WCIT, the 100th Livery Company of the City of London, to create what has been provisionally called The Artificial Intelligence Learning Exchange, in order to build a leadership role in the use of Artificial Intelligence in the charity sector. Among the WCIT’s 800 members are leading practitioners in the AI and security sectors, and their skills will underpin this initiative. The WCIT Charity will invest in and provide support for this new initiative to ensure an approach that quickly promotes collaboration between the winners and rapidly acquires momentum in the charity sector.

Worshipful Company of Marketors’ – Golf Day

The Worshipful Company of Marketors is holding its annual WCM “Ryder Cup” Livery Fellowship Golf Day, and they hope to see you in 2019. They are delighted to announce that next year’s event will once again be held at Verulam Golf Club, St. Albans, (“The Home of The Ryder Cup”) on Monday 1st July 2019. They are most grateful that James Hambros will again be providing sponsorship for this event.

The format of the event will follow the same successful formula as in previous years and full details are on the flyer at the end of the briefing. The cost remains the same at £90 per player (£360 per team) which includes a 4-course dinner in the evening with wines and a major set of prizes (for both good and “lucky” golf).

Entries will be limited to a maximum of 25 teams and places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. They very much hope that you will wish to enter a team or teams again this year. To reserve a place, complete the form included on the flyer.

Please remember that if you have more or less players than the four required for a team, they will happily create “Harlequin” teams with players from a variety of organisations.
The organisers look forward to welcoming you personally on the day and welcoming you to Verulam, and to ensuring that you enjoy yourselves as much as possible (they cannot, however, be held responsible for the quality of your play).

However, they can ensure that the course will be in as good condition as the weather will allow – and that the food and drink will be at a very high standard indeed.

You will be pleased to know that they donated almost £2,200 to the Lord Mayor’s Charities as a result of the 2018 event – with your help they aim to better that in 2019.

**Brigantes Breakfast**

A reminder that Thursday 25 July 2019 sees the Brigantes Breakfast, the annual northern luncheon for City of London Liverymen, which in 2019 is to be held in central Manchester. The Principal Guest will be the Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Civic Party.

The location is the magnificent Whitworth Hall, designed by the Waterhouse practice which was responsible for a number of well-known landmarks including Manchester Town Hall, the Natural History Museum in South Kensington and the Prudential offices in the City.

The Whitworth Hall is easily accessible by road and rail. Manchester Piccadilly Station is just 2hr 5mins from London Euston. Several hotels are situated within a few minutes walk.

81 Livery Companies were represented at the 2018 Brigantes Breakfast at The Royal Armouries in Leeds, which attracted over 350 Liverymen and guests, including 26 current Livery Masters. The organisers would be delighted to welcome even more current Masters in 2019.

The Brigantes Breakfast will commence with a reception at 12.00 and conclude at about 16.00. At 10.30, the Director and curators of the adjoining Museum of Manchester have kindly agreed to give a talk and tour for Liverymen and guests able to arrive early.

The invitation and booking form for Masters will be circulated to all Clerks in early March. If you would like further information before then, please contact Fiona Robinson at livery@brigantes.org.uk who will be pleased to assist.

**City Briefings**

These early evening events (5.30pm-7.30pm) are aimed at introducing Liverymen and Freemen to the City of London Corporation and its links with the Livery. Taking place at Guildhall, forthcoming dates are as follows:

- Tuesday 5 February 2019
- Wednesday 15 May 2019
- Monday 21 October 2019
- Tuesday 19 November 2019

**After Dinner Speaking Course**

Please don’t forget arrangements for a half-day After Dinner Speaking course which is scheduled for 12 February 2019. Further details can be found at http://www.liverycommitteecourses.org.

Comments from past attendees have highlighted how useful and informative they have found these courses and we hope that as many of you as possible will take full advantage of the services offered. To book on to these (or any of the Briefing Courses organised for the benefit of the Livery), please go to the website.
14th MARKETORS' “Ryder Cup”
Livery Fellowship GOLF DAY
Monday 1st July 2019
at “The Home of the Ryder Cup”
Verulam Golf Club

When Sam Ryder, founder of the Ryder Cup, was Captain of Verulam, he had no idea of the impact that his trophy would have on the world of golf.

The first official Ryder Cup was played in the USA in 1927 and Sam Ryder’s famous gold trophy made its first appearance at Verulam Golf Club when he entertained the Great Britain team before they left for the 1927 match. Sam gave us “the World’s best known team sporting challenge” and today’s Professionals owe a great deal to Sam’s legacy.

On Monday 1st July 2019 the Worshipful Company of Marketors invites you to join us, as individuals or in teams, for a great day of Golf and Fellowship at Verulam GC in St. Albans City. Near both M25 and M1, it is a great location.

Our limit is 25 teams of four and places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Individual entries will be formed into “Harlequin Teams” of four.

The Verulam course was designed by the great James Braid and opened in 1905. It offers a good golf challenge without making it impossible for the higher handicap player.

Our day includes coffee and bacon rolls on arrival, 18 Holes of Golf and a Putting Competition. There will also be some surprises on the day! A £10 entry fee to the “Swing Studio” Competition is donated in full to the Lord Mayor’s charities. This excellent day is rounded off by a 4-course dinner including wine, followed by prize giving.

Come and enjoy yourselves! As in previous years, we will do our best to make everyone feel special throughout the day.

Please enter me/us for the Marketors’ “Ryder Cup” Golf Day on Monday 1 July 2019

Name: .................................. Handicap ..... Club:..............................................

Total number of players ..... (please detail names, handicaps and clubs on a separate sheet).

Also please reserve ......... extra places at dinner for non-golfers at £35.00 each.

I enclose my cheque for £……….(£90 per player; £35 for non-golfers’ dinner only)

Name: .................................. Address: ...........................................................

.......................................................... Postcode: ...........................................

Tel.: ....................... Email (please write CLEARLY) ..............................................

Please list any dietary or access requirements. ..................................................................

Please tick box if you need a VAT receipt  □