**Chairman’s Report to the Livery Committee**

**Wednesday 8th February 2017**

Following my election at our last meeting, my first few months as Chairman have been particularly busy as I have immersed myself in the role. I would like to offer my particular thanks to my Deputy Chairman, Victoria Russell, as well as the relevant officers who have supported me in getting to grips with things!

**New Member:** May I firstly take this opportunity to welcome Julia Sibley MBE to the Committee. Following Nigel Pullman’s resignation from the Committee in September 2016, the Clerks’ Association have nominated Julia, who is a past Master Innholder, to succeed him. In accordance with our constitution and normal procedures, I would like to propose that Julia be co-opted on to the Committee until her nomination is formally confirmed by Common Hall in June.

I would like to thank Nigel for his exceptional service on this Committee over the years, both as Chairman and as a Member, as well as for his continued efforts in maintaining the [www.liverycompanies.info](http://www.liverycompanies.info) website.

**Committee Dinner:** A date for your diaries: this year’s Livery Committee dinner has been confirmed for Monday 12 June at Cutlers’ Hall. I look forward to seeing you all there!

**Clerks’ Briefing:** The annual clerks’ briefing, kindly hosted by the Ironmongers’ at their Hall on 16 January, was a great success and I hope proved informative to all clerks in attendance. Amongst other matters, clerks were provided with the latest information on education and apprenticeships as well as some background on the Shrieval Business Plan.

Next year’s Briefing will take place on Monday 15 January 2018 at Painters’ Hall and we will be taking on board feedback received in planning for the event, as well as working with colleagues to ensure that we cover those areas of most interest to clerks. Please do let Greg Moore know if there are any specific issues/matters you would like us to cover.

**Livery Briefing:** The next edition of the bi-monthly Livery Briefing newsletter is due to be circulated later this month. I am keen to ensure that we capture all items of interest to the Livery and ask that you let our clerk, Greg Moore, know of any matters you think may be worthy of inclusion in this or future editions. Might I also offer my thanks to those of you who contributed to the December issue.

**Meetings with the Lord Mayor:** One of my first acts as Chairman has been to schedule regular catch-up meetings with the Lord Mayor, who is very keen to engage as fully as possible with the Livery during his year. These meetings provide a regular opportunity for us to discuss issues of interest to the Livery and I encourage you to let me know if there are any particular items you would wish me to raise with him at our next meeting. At our first meeting, the Lord Mayor was keen to know how the Clerks’ Briefing went and I relayed the subjects that had been raised. I explained that while the Livery were anxious to help and support the Lord Mayor in his year, there was a feeling that more was being asked of Clerks and Livery Companies and that it was important to recognise whose resources, particularly those of the Clerks, were limited.

**Livery Schools Link:** As you will note on the agenda, Paul Herbage’s time on the Livery Committee comes to an end after this year’s Common Hall. Whilst we will save our goodbyes and expressions of gratitude to Paul (and other Members whose terms are coming to an end) for his final meeting in June, it is important to note that Paul currently represents the Committee as an ex-officio Director on the Board of Livery schools Link. Consequently, we will need to identify a successor to take up the mantle from June and I would ask that any interested Member notify me please in advance of the meeting.

**Livery Companies Skills Council:** In the past month I have met with John Taylor and Tom Barton of the LCSC to discuss the issue of apprenticeships and the Government’s Technical and Further Education Bill. This followed up on discussions with the City Remembrancer, whom I thank for his continued assistance and guidance. A fuller update on this issue is covered in John’s report later on the agenda.

**Bank Junction:** As serving Prime Warden of the Blacksmiths, I’m aware that the Master of the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers recently wrote to all Masters to express their unhappiness over the introduction of a new experimental safety scheme at Bank Junction. I gather that the City Corporation has also written to all Masters in response to this letter. This of course is not a matter within the remit of our Committee, but is something that might have an impact on Livery Companies and their members and guests as we all use City Livery Halls and the Mansion House for our functions. If you do intend to raise any points or concerns about this project I would be grateful if you could please let me know in advance.

**Shared Office Space:** A number of clerks have raised with me their interest in procuring shared office space, as they often need a space in the City for only a handful of days per week and are therefore conscious it would be more cost-effective to enter in to an agreement with a company in a similar position. If you are aware of any such clerks or companies, or indeed know of any who have space which they would be willing to rent to a fellow clerk, please do let me know so that I can put them in touch with the relevant people.

**Policing:** Sergeant Luke Harley of the City Police’s Business Engagement & Crime Prevention teamhas contacted me to advise that he would be keen to engage with any interested Livery Company to provide crime prevention advice and other useful information. I encourage any of you with interest to contact him at: Luke.Harley@city-of-london.pnn.police.uk and I would propose to place an appropriate note to all clerks in the next Livery Briefing.

**Richard Regan OBE, Deputy**

**Chairman**

**31st January 2017**