

**Livery Committee
Chairman's Report
11th June 2014**

A number of matters have arisen since my last report, some resulting from our meeting in February. Amongst them I report the following:

Committee Membership – there are a small number of changes in our membership due to take effect after formal approval at Common Hall on 24th June. We say good-bye and thank you to Mike Samuel, one of the four liverymen nominated through the Fellowship of Clerks, on completion of six years service; and to Raymond Layard, one of the two clerks nominated by the Fellowship, on his retirement as a clerk. Subject to election, their successors will be David Cole-Adams (Master Tyler) and Philip Grant (Fellowship Secretary) respectively. The late Hugh Stubbs is to be replaced as the Great 12 nominated liveryman by Robin Booth (Clothworker). There were a gratifyingly large number of applicants for the Fellowship nominated liverymen vacancy, and following a selection procedure by the Fellowship clerks, Mr Cole-Adams has been nominated.

Committee Clerk – members will be aware that Gemma Stockley is now on maternity leave. The Town Clerk's Department recruited an external successor, but after a promising start, he decided to seek employment closer to his home, and has now left the Corporation. Pending recruitment of a new committee clerk, Lorraine Brook, Committee and Member Services Manager, is looking after us, and I am grateful to her.

Livery Schools Link – LSL held another Showcase event for school students in March at the Apothecaries' Hall, and this was again well supported by livery companies, students attending, and livery masters and clerks also coming to support. I particularly thank those members of the Committee who also made time to visit the event. On 26th June, LSL are holding an Education Conference at Staple Inn, to which Committee members will again be welcome.

Livery Companies Apprenticeship Scheme Ltd – I should like to put on record the great thanks of the Committee to Peter Cook and his fellow directors of the Scheme, who I know have put in a very large amount of detailed work and time on this ambitious project. More will be reported at the meeting.

Livery Briefing – the newly styled bi-monthly email briefing was sent to all livery clerks in February (this edition included a report of our last committee meeting, but was not limited only to that), and in April (this edition predominantly contained City news items of interest to liverymen). The next edition will be sent later this month.

Generally the new format and frequency seems to have found favour, but the main problem is persuading livery clerks to forward it on by email to their liverymen. Some do, some post it at their website, and others prefer not to re-distribute it.

Website – the new Livery Committee website liverycompanies.info is now up and running, and seeks to be the single source of information and links to other websites relevant to the livery. Copies of the *Livery Briefings* are posted in the Library section of the site. The stories that appear on the News page form the basis for the next edition of the *Livery Briefing*. Again it seems well received, and many livery companies have created links from their own site to liverycompanies.info

Diary – at the website is a Diary page listing livery related events over the coming 12 months. Dates to be included can be emailed to me. A recent example is a repeat of the Sheep Drive over London Bridge fundraiser being organised by the Woolmen's Company, which is to take place on Sunday 5th October.

Ethnic Diversity – following the raising of this topic by the Private Secretary at our last meeting, I requested the Livery Companies Working Group, under the chairmanship of Victoria Russell, to consider possible actions. Their conclusion is that it would be helpful to know the facts about ethnic minority membership within livery companies, whilst making it crystal clear in so doing that it was no part of this

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Committee's role to dictate or coerce any company in its recruitment policies. After designing a draft letter and questionnaire, this was market tested to a number of clerks. Response was mixed, and it is clear that given the sensitivities surrounding this issue, we should proceed with great caution, if at all. Members will note that this subject is on the agenda for discussion at our forthcoming meeting.

150th Anniversary of the Committee – 4th July 1864 was the date of the first recorded meeting of the Livery Committee, and to mark this milestone, our annual Committee dinner is to be held this year, at Haberdashers' Hall, on the exact anniversary of that first meeting. All Committee members should have received an invitation, and as in previous years, a selection of masters and clerks are invited as guests. However, given the special anniversary, I have also invited a number of relevant other guests, but because our numbers remain fixed, this has meant some regular guests have been omitted this year.

Nigel Pullman

1st June 2014