

LIVERY BRIEFING

May 2020



LIVERY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Dear Liverymen,

As we all continue to work to find a way forward in these unprecedented times, I present the latest edition of the Livery Briefing newsletter, which I hope will serve as a reminder that the spirit of fellowship and community remains strong throughout the Livery. Many wonderfully positive stories of efforts from Companies and Guilds supporting the COVID-19 response are emerging, and 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.

The Livery City Briefing which was due to be held on 26 May has been cancelled. If the format of these briefings becomes virtual, you will be kept informed. Likewise, any updates on the Wardens and Court Assistants City Courses will be communicated in due course. The hope is that these events will resume as soon as possible, but only once deemed safe for all participants.

Please stay well and stay safe.

Best wishes,

Vicky Russell
Chairman
Livery Committee

NEWS/DATES

Pollinating London Together - a Pan Livery opportunity

Subject to recovery to a more normal life from the virus, on Wednesday 16 September, Mansion House, Wax Chandlers and Grocers Halls will be a part of a day of innovative events in support of 'Pollinating London Together'. The purposefully positive programme will aim to bring together as many Livery Companies as possible in a shared initiative to raise awareness of the importance of flowers, trees, shrubs and habitat in providing food and homes for pollinators in every month of the year; this is central to our food security.

The Mansion House session, kindly hosted by the Lady Mayoress, will cover important trending topics such as: Food security for the future; The relevance of pollination to business; How to raise awareness of our individual roles as pollination saviours; and What we can do to re-green the City and its potential impact on our health and wellbeing.

Wax Chandlers, as one of the instigators, plan to host cultural events to demonstrate the wider wonder of all three bees – solitary bees, bumblebees and honey bees - through their gifts of health, food, honey, wax, mead, music, bomb-detection, communication, teamwork and acknowledged inspiration for The Flight of the Bumblebee orchestral interlude. There will also be a dinner at Grocers Hall.

This annual fund-raising event will, in future years, cover other pollinators and other ecological issues, to which the City and its Livery Companies can lend their valuable weight.

For further information, please email Anthony Bickmore, Upper Warden, Wax Chandlers: Anthony@anthonybickmorelimited.com

Inter-Livery Tennis Tournament, 9 September – message from the Clerk to the Feltmakers' Company

The Inter-Livery Tennis Tournament is due to take place at Queen's Club on 9 September. We are holding back from asking for any money at this stage, but I would ask that you proceed on the basis that we 'might' be playing and be prepared to give your team nominations, and indeed money, when I call for it (it is unlikely to be before June). I hope to hear from Queens Club in May/June and will get back to you then. Stay safe.

Major Jollyon Coombs
Clerk to the Feltmakers' Company.

Service of the Order of the British Empire - update on Service of Dedication, Wednesday 24 June

In line with current Government advice on measures to tackle COVID-19, many events in June have been cancelled. This has affected Investitures, Garden Parties, the annual Garter service at Windsor Castle, and Church Services. The decision has been taken to cancel the OBE Service of Dedication planned for Wednesday 24 June.

It is hoped that the planned OBE Evensong will still take place on Tuesday 17 November at St Paul's Cathedral. More information for this event will be announced on the <https://www.centralchancery.org.uk/Home/OBEService> website in the coming months. If you have any questions, please email the Central Chancery directly at info@ccok.org.uk

Sheep Drive and Livery Fair, Southwark Bridge, Sunday 27 September

The Sheep Drive and Livery Fair are tremendous opportunities for celebration and enjoyment in support of The Woolmen's Company Charitable Trust and The Lord Mayor's Appeal. As you would expect at the current time, our plans are constantly under review to reflect changing circumstances and to ensure they are in line with Government guidelines. However, at the moment, please do keep the above date in your diary. We will provide a status update in the light of any further guidance issued in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, we wish you the best of health during this very difficult time.

Peter Hullah
Chair of the Charity Committee and Sheep Drive/Livery Fair Team
Upper Warden
Worshipful Company of Woolmen

For further information, please contact Anne Donoghue by emailing anne@squareevents.co.uk or calling 07708944007.

All Freemen are eligible to take part in the Sheep Drive. To register visit <https://sheepdrive.london>

The Lord Mayor and Policy Chair's Virtual Engagement Programme

From an international dimension the Lord Mayor and the Policy Chair have been working together to speak to Her Majesty's Trade Commissioners, the nine senior Government officials responsible for trade and investment policy around the world, working with them to identify how best the City of London Corporation can apply its expertise and resources to support the UK's trading relationships with our most important overseas partners. While their overseas visits may have been postponed, the Lord Mayor and the Policy Chair have been having positive conversations with Ambassadors and High Commissioners representing key overseas markets, and plans are in place to carry out a virtual programme of international events and engagements.

In the wider response to COVID-19, the City Corporation has been playing its part. Its focus has been on supporting businesses and communities, not just in the Square Mile but also across Greater London. The City Corporation is providing financial support through the City Bridge Trust to the most vulnerable and working closely with frontline agencies. London's Strategic Coordination Group, which is coordinating the pan-London response to this crisis, is being led by the Town Clerk and Chief Executive of the City Corporation, John Barradell. As ever, the City Corporation is seeking to be the interface between businesses of all sizes and Government, to ensure that policy-makers understand the issues facing the financial and related professional services sector, and that support is supplied in the optimal way. The priority is to maintain confidence in the City, especially among international audiences. The resilience and agility of the financial and professional services industry will be central to the long-term economic recovery, both in the UK and globally.

Culturally, too, the Lord Mayor has reached out to key cultural institutions within the City to express his gratitude and sympathy, outlining that they remain a major priority for him and his mayoral programme. Both the Lord Mayor and the Policy Chair have written to residents within the City to outline the work they are doing, as well as the support that is available to them.