

LIVERY BRIEFING

February 2021



Message from the Chair, Vicky Russell

Dear Liverymen,

Following the government announcement earlier this week that there is a clear plan for an exit to lockdown and that we can once again hope for a return to some kind of normality, I wanted to once again to acknowledge, and to celebrate, despite the enormous challenges encountered during the past year, that the Livery has not only survived but also provided support to those who needed it. The Livery's charitable and philanthropic endeavours during the COVID-19 crisis have made a real difference to communities and for that I thank you all.

I am pleased to report that our [Livery Committee website](#), has now been up and running for nearly six months and is getting several hundred visitors a week.

Our courses continue to run virtually, with the next City Briefing being held on 19 May and the Wardens and Court Assistants course on 10 May. Booking is available through the Livery Committee website.

We are not yet at the end of this pandemic but there is now a clear way forward, with the vaccination programme already proving that it is making a demonstrable difference. With each day I believe we move a step closer to a reopening of the City and to a return to greeting friends and colleagues in person once again. Please do all stay safe and well until then.

With very best wishes,

Vicky Russell
Chair
Livery Committee.

Annual Cart Marking Ceremony, 10 July

The Annual Cart Marking Ceremony is a very special day in the City of London's calendar. It is the second largest event that the City holds when all eras of Commercial Vehicles come to join the ancient ceremony of Marking of Carts.

This year the Worshipful Company of Carmen Car Club will be adding to this ceremony a Vintage Car Display and are inviting all Liverymen who own a vintage car (pre 1939) to an unforgettable day in the City.

The day will begin with a display and Concours d'Elégance in Guildhall Yard in front of City dignitaries and then parade your treasured vehicle through the famous streets. You can then park your vintage (or Veteran) car in Grand Avenue, a secure and guarded area of the cultural centre of Smithfield.

An old Routemaster bus will then "whisk" you back to Guildhall Yard where you can watch the ancient ceremony of Cart Marking from your own reserved seat. You will also get a free programme of the event. This will be followed by a reception in the Old Library and Charity Luncheon in the Great Hall. There will also be a Charity Auction of highly prized and valuable items. (Donations for this Auction gratefully accepted)

Every car entrant will receive a special commemorative car badge and be eligible to enter the RAC Epsom to Portsmouth Vintage run in early September. All cars will be judged and the winner will receive a special presentation at the event.

At this stage we need to know if you are interested. Please email [the carmen](#) and state your interest together with your name, email address, livery Company you belong to, the make, model and year of your car. We will then send you more information and an entry form for completion.

Remember this is a once in a lifetime event so don't miss out. Why not get up a table of 10 of your friends at the Charity Luncheon and make it an exceptional occasion?

We look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

Richard S Buswell FIH
Chairman, Carmen Car Club
PS We have a limit to the number entrants of vehicles. Make sure you don't miss out.

The Virtual Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch 2021- Meeting the Need

The 2021 'Lunch' has had to evolve - because of the COVID-19 pandemic - into a series of fundraising events and activities, all of them online, which will start in late March 2021 and conclude by the end of May 2021.

Whilst what is now planned for 2021 may be very different to previous years, the cause for which we are raising funds has not changed. In fact the need has increased. Employment is an issue which has ballooned across the nation as a result of the pandemic. It has created difficulties for many people including military veterans seeking a job in the civilian world.

More than ever, support is needed to help veterans and in particular those suffering from the debilitating impact of pain - physical, psychological or both - manage the pain and, as a result, be able to seek and hold down a job.

Our support for the Veterans' Pain Management Programme at the King Edward VII Hospital helps transform the lives of individual veterans and their families; our ambition for 2021 is to fund 18 veterans waiting to go on the Programme.

Letter from the Lord Mayor Alderman William Russell and Michael Hockney, Co-Chairmen of the Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch

The last few months have been a pretty tempestuous time as the Committee has sought to put in place plans for the 2021 LMBCL against a backdrop of the spread of the Covid-19 virus. At our last Committee meeting on 13th January a proposed plan of events and activities was outlined, including the possibility of a tented LMBCL finale in Guildhall Yard in September. Now, even that has had to change.

As the City, the City Corporation and the Mayorality gears up for renewed commercial and philanthropic activity, September has become the focus to get this underway. There is already a busy programme of conferences, symposiums, visits, dinners, lunches and fundraising events throughout that month. As a result, we feel that trying to shoe-horn an additional event of the scale of what we had in mind for the 2021 LMBCL in Guildhall Yard is simply too much. We are disappointed that a LMBCL live fundraising event during September won't be possible.

Nor will it be possible to hold the curry lunches in April generously offered by Livery Companies with Halls and by some of the City churches. As we are all only too aware it looks as if gatherings simply can't take place.

However, the imaginative and entirely virtual programme of fundraising events and activities that the Committee has put together, ably supported by the staff team from ABF The Soldiers' Charity, should add up to something very special. It gives us the opportunity to meet - and exceed - our 2021 funding target to support veterans into employment, particularly through the Pain Management Programme. In this regard, the need has never been greater.

We very much hope that at the Lord Mayor's Big Curry Reception at the Mansion House in late September we will be sharing with you the good news of a really positive outcome, in spite of all the uncertainties en route.

The marketing programme for the Virtual Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch launched in w/c 22 February and the activities and events begin in w/c 15 March. The full programme can be found on the new Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch website.

Thank you for your support.

With best regards and keep well.

Alderman William Russell, Lord Mayor of the City of London
Michael Hockney MBE

A Taster of the 2021 Programme, February-May

The Gardeners' Livery Company Veterans Garden

We very much hope that, as soon as Guildhall Yard becomes available, the Gardeners' Company will be installing their 2021 garden to pay tribute to our Nation's veterans.

Online Raffle with 12 prizes:

Five Zoom Evenings with Well-Known Authors

Professor Saul David, Tim Gosling, Lieutenant General Sir Simon Mayall, Sir Michael Palin, and Alan Titchmarsh, all talking about and reading from their latest books with interactive Q&A.

Two Zoom Masterclasses with Leading Wine Experts

James Simpson MW on champagne, its history, making and the wines of Pol Roger. Edouard Moueix on the history, making and the character of the wines of Moueix. The facility to pre-order the wines to be tasted

Four Zoom Curry Cook-Alongs with Celebrity Master Chefs and Wine Experts

Chefs include Prue Leith, Matt Tebbutt and Cyrus Todiwala talking about and making curries. Leading wine experts include Nicola Arcedeckne-Butler MW, Jane MacQuitty and Ollie Smith talking about what wine to drink with curry. The facility to pre-order a food and/or wine box.

Online Auction

Over 60 amazing prizes - yellow gold and diamond pendant, bespoke British-made watch, sporting events, UK & overseas holidays, ceremonial occasions, 'money-can't-buy', 'behind the scenes', pet and portrait painting and photography and much more.

For more information visit the [Soldiers Charity website](#).

Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards 4th Online Inter-Livery Bridge Tournament, 1 March

We are pleased to announce details of our 4th online Inter-Livery Bridge Competition (ILB) to be held on 1 March at 2.15pm (with an expected finish time of 5.30pm), which we would be delighted if you would share with your members. Please feel free to forward this communication with them.

Detailed joining instructions can be found on the [Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards website](#).

It is open to any member of any Livery Company and, to make the event more inclusive during the pandemic, we are relaxing the normal ILB rule that your Partner must also be a Livery Company member. Accordingly, you are most welcome to join us and play with any partner of your choosing. The only restriction is that no more than one of each pair may have a King or Ace designation under the National Grading System of the English Bridge Union.

You can enter the Tournament by filling in our [online registration form](#).

The cost of the event is BB\$10 per person (approximately £7.30), which can be paid for online by following the Joining Instructions and any surplus will be for the benefit of the Makers of Playing Cards Charity, which provides educational and other support to disadvantaged children and others under 25 years of age.

Future Inter-Livery Bridge Events – the annual ILB with dinner at Drapers' Hall has been rescheduled from 1 March to 6 September, so please note this in your diaries.

A Celebration of the Livery Kitchen Initiative

Doubtless, you will be aware of the unwavering effort of Liveries kitchen and the house teams that have applied themselves to cooking and despatching thousands upon thousands of nutritious meals throughout the pandemic to NHS Staff and deprived communities in London's East End, via the great work of The Livery Kitchen Initiative and in collaboration with City Harvest London.

So, we were thrilled to spot a familiar face (albeit masked), pictured in the Grocers' Livery Hall, in the latest edition of 'Country Life' (17 February, page 24).

This just credit to those involved comes as we applaud the launch of The Livery Kitchen Cookbook. This publication is a celebration of the Livery Kitchen Initiative, the joint response of the Livery Companies of the City of London to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to the hard work of staff and members of the Grocers, Drapers, Fishmongers, Merchant Taylors and Party Ingredients, the generosity of many City Livery Companies, individuals and volunteers, more than 100,000 meals will have been delivered by the 5th March.

The real heroes of this project, the Head Chefs from each kitchen, have contributed to an immensely practical cookbook, compiled and written by chef/cookery food writer, Peter Gladwin. The Livery Kitchen Cookbook, with recipes from the Grocers' Company Head Chef, Graham Pratt, and the other Head Chefs, is available to order online via the [Drapers' website](#). Each book costs £15 and the order deadline is 19 March. All proceeds from the publication will go towards City Harvest Charities, supporting poverty in the East End.

Campaign to raise funds for digital devices March

Livery Schools Link have now raised over £151,000 for the Digital Divide Fund, providing digital devices and connections to 712 disadvantaged students in 58 schools in London, Bristol and Leeds.

The need for digital devices is high and Livery Schools Link, in partnership with Livery Companies and members, are together making a real difference transforming the life chances of disadvantaged students.

Should you wish to support us you can donate personally to the fund? You can do so here on [Livery Schools Link's Virgin Money Giving page](#).

Could your business or Livery Company donate? If so, please email [Maureen Marden](#).

More information is available on the [Livery Schools Link website](#).

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters Fire Lecture, 25 March: The Impact of the Grenfell Tower Fire on Building Safety with Sir Ken Knight

Following the fire at the 24 storey Grenfell Tower West London on 14 June 2017, in which 72 people tragically lost their lives, the government appointed Sir Ken Knight as the Chair of the Independent Expert Advisory Panel. The role of the Expert Panel, which is ongoing, is to recommend what actions are necessary to ensure people are safe in high rise residential flats. Sir Ken's online presentation will piece together the jigsaw of what has happened since the fire and outlines the proposals for the future, including:

- Matters arising from the fire itself
- Dame Judith Hackett's independent report
- The Judge-led Public Inquiry
- The Government's response including:
 - Proposal for a Building Safety Regulator
 - Proposal for a Construction Products Regulator
 - The Building Safety Bill
 - The Fire Safety Bill

Sir Ken is keen to use his presentation to set the scene on current and future practices, but he will encourage participants to engage in questions and discussion regarding the very challenging issues that have arisen as a result of the fire. For full details including how to register please visit the [Worshipful Company of Firefighters website](#)

Clean City Award Scheme

The City of London runs the Clean City Award Scheme (CCAS) which encourages and rewards City businesses who adopt and maintain sustainable practices. The CCAS has evolved since it launched in 1994 and this year, some of the award categories include the Plastic Free City Award, sponsored by Worshipful Company of Water Conservators and the Worshipful Company of Environmental Cleaners. This year's Chairman's Cup theme is "embedding environmental performance and sustainability during the COVID-19 outbreak". This year's CCAS Annual awards ceremony will take place virtually on Monday 22 March, 12noon-1pm. Everyone is invited to attend. Book your spot at the [virtual ceremony](#).

Framework Knitters 'Knit for Community' and sock donations

The Framework Knitters 'Knit for Community' project, which began last April, continues to grow with 43 new volunteers since early December. Members or friends of 34 different Livery companies have supported this initiative and as of 21 January we have 522 volunteers from across the UK, including one Liveryman from America! This initiative is 100% volunteer led and following TV coverage on East Midlands Today and

Look North, as well as knitting publications, local papers and a number of charities we gained a large number of new volunteers from local communities, the majority of whom would not have heard of a Livery company.

Last November we held an auction of 30 blankets with the proceeds being split between our five charities, and together with individual donations we were delighted to raise over £6,000. To date over 215 blankets and 164 lap blankets (in total well over 20,000 knitted squares) have been completed or are in production, and second deliveries of blankets have been made to two of our charities. Our five charities are Action Homeless – Leicester, Glass Door – London, Meadows Hope Food Bank – Nottingham, Small Acts of Kindness – Watford and Smart Move – Halifax. With the latest lockdown many volunteers are enjoying having a positive focus and are happy to keep knitting. We would like to continue donating blankets and lap blankets, and if anyone knows of a family member, friend or group who would be willing to support this project please ask them to go to www.frameworkknitters.co.uk or email Liz Green liz@lizgreen.co.uk. Donations of wool are also very welcome. Some comments we have received from our volunteers include:

'Thanks for giving me something worthwhile to do and think about during our enforced hibernation!'

'Quite a few squares for you this month as I have been knitting whilst watching 'Le Tour de France' cycling event. I class that as multi-tasking!'. James from Action Homeless commented 'I am about to take the blankets I picked up to one of our hostels for people with high support needs. As well as keeping people warm, they will help us to dress rooms and make each one feel more like home for the person in them. It just reminds me that each of us apart can't do much but TOGETHER we can'.

Last December, Past Master George Turner and his brother Liveryman Nicholas Turner, who own a sock manufacturing business in Derbyshire, donated 400 pairs of socks to Glass Door in London and sent 1,000 pairs of socks to Marianne Fredericks CC. Marianne is Chairman of the City of London Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Committee, and she arranged for the socks to be sent to their clients at St Paul's Hostel, The Lodge at St Ursula's (Lodge I) and The City Lodge (Lodge II), Thames Reach (the City's Outreach provider) as well as their city clients staying in temporary hotel accommodation and those still out on the streets and the Square Mile Hygiene Bank. We are in the process of sending some blankets to Marianne for distribution to St Paul's Hostel for clients who are moving on to permanent accommodation.

Lord Mayor's Programme

Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council (CWEIC) Event

On 10 December the Lord Mayor, along with the Policy Chair, took part in a panel discussion chaired by Lord Marland and organised in collaboration with CWEIC about banking and professional services trade. The Lord Mayor provided opening remarks and spoke about the UK's responsibility to collaborate with the Commonwealth, highlighting our work in Australia identifying market access barriers, changes and opportunities. He spoke about the importance of regulatory cooperation on services and as the world's leading international financial centre, how the City of London and the UK are best placed to lead industry in the post COVID recovery. The Lord Mayor also touched on the green and sustainability agenda, highlighting how finance is a critical part of stemming climate change and the road to COP26.

Gulf visits, December

In December the Lord Mayor visited Qatar (8-10 December, in person) and Saudi Arabia (14-16 December, virtually). In Qatar, he met the Prime Minister, Finance Minister and leading figures from Sovereign Wealth and banking to discuss investment and green finance, including sovereign green bonds. The Lord Mayor then led a virtual fintech mission to Saudi Arabia, where the highlight was a meeting with the CEO of the £300bn Public Investment Fund to promote investment into UK fintech. This will be followed by a virtual visit to the UAE, Kuwait and Oman, from 1-4 Feb, where the main theme will be investment, green finance and the road to COP26.

Virtual visit to Davos

The Lord Mayor was invited to attend the World Economic Forum Agenda meeting, the 'virtual Davos' from 25-29 January. The main themes of the meeting were economic recovery after COVID-19, Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) matters in investing, global trade and cities of the future. There were addresses by leaders from China, the UN, the EU and India. The Lord Mayor joined several meetings around ESG on the road to COP26, including ones led by Mark Carney OC (UN special envoy for climate action and finance) and Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP (President of COP26). He also spoke in a session on Net-Zero Cities, presenting the City of London's Climate Action Strategy.

Culture and Commerce Taskforce

On 9 February, the Culture and Commerce Taskforce published its report on tackling the 'cultural catastrophe' caused by COVID-19. Chaired by the Lord Mayor, the Taskforce was a joint effort between the City of London Corporation and Culture Mile. The report, titled 'Fuelling Creative Renewal', made three key recommendations to support London's cultural sector. These were repurposing public and commercial spaces for cultural activity, better knowledge sharing between the cultural and commerce sectors and developing 'enterprise hubs' for to test cultural ideas and bring talent together. [You can read the full report here at this link.](#)

Andrew Bailey Speech

The Lord Mayor welcomed Governor of the Bank of England, Andrew Bailey, for his Mansion House speech on 10 February. COVID-19 restrictions required the event to take place virtually. The Lord Mayor spoke on the enduring strength of the UK's Financial and Professional Services (FPS) sector, highlighting record £75.6bn FPS firms contributed to the Treasury last year. The Governor addressed Brexit, equivalence issues and the benefits of the global financial system.

Gulf Visit

The Lord Mayor's annual visit to the Gulf took place virtually in early February (1-3 February), focussing on the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait. The meetings gave the Lord Mayor the opportunity to catch up with major Financial Professional Services institutions and high-ranking ministers in both countries. The visit showcased the continuing strength of the City as a global financial centre, as well as the UK's expertise in innovation within financial services, particularly in the fields of Sustainable Finance and fintech. With the visit taking place so soon after the World Economic Forum, a major theme running throughout the visit was the global momentum towards net-zero, and ESG matters.

The Gresham Lecture

On 1 February, the Lord Mayor delivered his annual Gresham Lecture. This was the second he has delivered, due to his extended term in office, and this year's lecture focused on 'Building Back Better - The City's Role in a Green-Led Economic Recovery'. The Lord Mayor spoke on the City's plans promoting green finance, particularly in the build up to the COP26 Summit in Glasgow in November. He was joined by Mark Carney (UN Climate Envoy), Liv Garfield (CEO of Severn Trent) and Dr Rhian-Mari Thomas (CEO of the Green Finance Institute) who gave their own perspectives, before taking questions from online attendees. [You can watch the event at this link.](#)

Private Secretary

Vic Annells left his role in January as the Executive Director of Mansion House and Central Criminal Court and has taken up the post of CEO of the Cambridgeshire Chambers of Commerce. A new Private Secretary to the Lord Mayor will be appointed in due course.