



# The Chartered Accountants' Company

## A Virtual Livery Charity Conference 2021

Organised by the Chartered Accountants' Company.

On Zoom, Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 4.30pm

### Who was found to be naked when the tide went out?

Warren Buffet's famous *quote* "Only when the tide goes out do you discover who's been swimming naked" related to the corporate world, but may be equally applicable to Charities, and particularly in 2020 when the pandemic struck.

What lessons should we learn? This conference, following on from one in 2018, will discuss charity governance issues, debate the success of charity responses to the social needs caused by the virus, and allow delegates to hear from the Charity Commission about expectations and support in the recovery phase.

The Charity Commission has recently launched a campaign to help Trustees be "certain in uncertain times", and there is an updated Charity Governance Code. This is an ideal opportunity to receive an update on Charity Governance, with a focus on Livery Charities.

Delegates will hear from Helen Stephenson, CEO of the Charity Commission, about the support the sector might expect from the Commission over the next year or so, and from Rosemary Macdonald, CEO of UK Community Foundations, the umbrella body of a nationwide network of charities who have delivered at the front line during the pandemic.

By the end of the conference, delegates will have updated their knowledge of the new Charity Governance Code 2020, will have received an update on operational charity matters to assist in their own administration, and learned lessons from others about how to maximise the impact of grants. A Panel session and Breakout rooms after the conference will allow free discussion so that delegates can share their experiences, and meet their peers in other Companies.

There is no charge for this conference, although registration is necessary via the attached form, which should be sent to [almoner@accountantslivery.org](mailto:almoner@accountantslivery.org) following which they will receive a link to the event. The organisers feel that it would be appropriate for delegates or their companies to donate around £20 per delegate to the Lord Mayor's Appeal <https://www.thelordmayorsappeal.org/get-involved/donate>

Copies of slides will be despatched to all delegates after the conference.

Please submit your applications by **Monday May 10<sup>th</sup>**.

# Agenda

(Log in available from 4.15pm)

**4.30 pm Introduction by the Chair, Mark Spofforth OBE, Past Master Chartered Accountant**

**4.40 pm “What to do when governance fails”**

***Christina Parry OBE, Past Master Chartered Secretary and Administrator***

Christina will join us from Malta, where she is undertaking study for an MA. She is currently a Trustee of a large multi-Academy Trust, and spent some time on secondment to the Charity Commission’s offices with management responsibility for charity regulation. Christina will speak about a particular Charity building project that started to go wrong, highlighting the lessons learned, with particular reference to the Charity Governance Code

**5.00 pm “How did the UK’s charity sector respond to the unexpected?”**

***Rosemary Macdonald BEM, CEO of UK Community Foundations***

Rosemary is CEO of UK Community Foundations, the national network of county based Community Foundations. These organisations try to develop local philanthropy and maximise the impact of charities in their area. The high level of contact with, and understanding of, the charity sector in their local area meant that they could deliver help quickly to the right places when the virus broke out, and could act as a focus for local donations.

Rosemary will relate pandemic case studies from her members, including the London Community Fund and tell us about delivering funds from the National Emergencies Trust, identifying what went well in 2020 and what didn’t.

**5.20 pm “Ten Top Tips for Charity Governance in 2021”**

***Mark Spofforth OBE, Past Master Chartered Accountant and Past Master Horner***

Mark currently chairs the Horners’ Company Charity, as well as chairing the Thalidomide Trust, the national Charity which supports those who were impacted by the delivery of the untested drug in the early 1960s. He will highlight ten areas of current concern in the Charity arena, signposting delegates to resources to help them optimise their Charity Governance.

**5.40 pm “2021, The Commission’s work in the Recovery phase of the Pandemic”**

***Helen Stephenson CBE, CEO of the Charity Commission***

This session will cover the Commission’s expectations for the year ahead – particularly how they are looking to support the sector during the pandemic recovery phase.

**6.00 pm Speaker Panel and Questions from delegates**

**Chaired by *Hilary Lindsay, Past Master Chartered Accountant*, and current Chair of their charity, their “Almoner”**

**Followed at around 6.30 pm** by informal breakout rooms, preferably over a glass of wine of your choice, unfortunately from your own cellar! Some or all of the speakers will visit each room for further discussions.