

THE LORD MAYOR'S PLATINUM JUBILEE BIG CURRY

A MESSAGE FROM THE RIGHT HON THE LORD MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LONDON ALDERMAN VINCENT KEAVENY TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE LIVERY

I am aware that many of you have supported the Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch in past years. Thank you for your support. I'm writing to let you know that the 2022 Lunch will take place on Thursday 7th April and is going to be an extra-special occasion.

A NEW NAME IN A VERY SPECIAL YEAR

My Co-Chairman and I are delighted that we have been given permission to call the 2022 Lunch 'The Lord Mayor's Platinum Jubilee Big Curry' in honour of The Queen's extraordinary service to the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth for over seventy years. Her Majesty is, of course, Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces and takes a great interest in the Lunch and how it has developed over the years. In every way we can, the 2022 Lunch is going to mark this happy anniversary and extraordinary milestone.

RESPONDING TO NEED

Since 2008, we have worked hard each year to develop the Lunch. From 2008 to 2017 the Lunch supported only veterans from the Army. In 2018, we widened the scope of the Lunch to include all veterans of all the Armed Forces of The Crown through their National Service Charities: ABF The Soldiers' Charity, the Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity and the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund.

A NEW FOCUS ON EMPLOYMENT

In 2019, three things came together quite rapidly to create a new focus for the Lunch. The first; the development of the new Civic and Mayoral long-term strategy of 'A Better City For All' and the strand within that to do with employment and employability. The second; the three national service charities' increasing focus on helping veterans into employment. The third; hearing about an impressive new initiative that helps prepare veterans for life in the civilian world.

As a result, my Co-Chairman, successive Lord Mayors including myself and our Committee agreed that the Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch was going to provide financial support for individual veterans to take part in a six-month programme - the Pain Management Programme (PMP) - at the King Edward VII's Hospital's Centre for Veterans' Health. This programme is designed for veterans suffering from physical or psychological pain or both, to learn to manage their pain and, as a result, be able to obtain and hold down employment.

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

In 2020 and 2021 we faced the challenges forced on us by the Covid-19 Virus. The 2020 Lunch was cancelled but still raised £167,000 through the generosity of sponsors and ticket buyers who

said ‘put our contributions to good use’. For 2021 we developed a completely virtual fundraising programme over three months; that raised £205,000.

In total, the Committee has handed over £2.55 million to the three national service charities since 2008.

WHERE NEXT?

These are still tough times for veterans, as they are for many in this country seeking re-skilling and employment. So, for 2022 we are continuing to focus our support on helping veterans into employment.

Alongside funding up to 15 veterans through the PMP at a cost of £100,000, we are supporting a new - to us - employment-related charity. It’s called LifeWorks.

LifeWorks’ sole focus is to find employment, education and training for veterans from all the Services and their families. It offers practical advice, guidance and support regardless of the length of service and is available nationwide, wherever veterans live. The LifeWorks team is made up of highly-experienced career coaches and vocational assessors, helping veterans decide on career and training opportunities and develop job search and cv writing skills. Each course costs £1,500 but is always free of charge to the veterans taking part.

Through the 2022 Lunch, we hope to fund 65 veterans through a LifeWorks course at a total cost of £100,000.

Anything else we raise will go to the three national service charities to further their work in veteran employment.

OUR TARGET FOR 2022

We have set a target of £270,000 for the 2022 Lunch. If we achieve that figure, the 2022 Lunch will have raised more than any other Lunch. Surely a most fitting tribute in the Platinum Jubilee year?

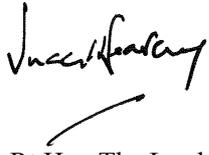
Do take the time to look at the Lord Mayor’s Platinum Jubilee Big Curry website. It contains more details about the 2022 Programme, including the 50-prize Online Auction and 10-item Draw, both of which were launched on 2nd February 2022, and how to buy tickets for the Platinum Jubilee Lunch itself.

There are many ways in which Livery Companies and Livery members can support the Platinum Jubilee Big Curry. Please support us in as many ways as you can.

The Co-Chairmen and the Committee are obviously aware of the current situation with Covid-19. It is of course our hope that the 2022 Lunch will be able to take place as planned. Should that not be possible we will issue full refunds.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vincent Keaveny". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor
Alderman Vincent Keaveny