

LIVERY BRIEFING

April 2016



NEWS

New Chief Commoner

On 21 April, Michael Welbank MBE was installed as Chief Commoner for 2016-17 by the Court of Common Council. He is a Common Councilman for the Ward of Billingsgate and is a liveryman of the Chartered Architects' Company.

The Chief Commoner is elected annually from amongst the City Corporation's Common Councilmen and is traditionally a senior Member who has contributed significantly to the City Corporation's activities over their time on the Court. The Chief Commoner plays a leading role in relation to all matters of City Corporation hospitality and provides counsel to other Members, as well as overseeing their training and development programme. For more on the role of the Chief Commoner, [click here](#).

Election of Common Councilmen: Wards of Tower and Lime Street

On Wednesday 16 March, a by-election was held in the Ward of Tower, following Gerald Pulman's retirement from the Court. The result was as follows:

- BATES, Lady Xuelin Li - Independent - 46 votes
- FAIRWEATHER, Anne Helen - Independent - 172

Anne Helen Fairweather was duly elected as a Common Councilman for the Ward.

Separately on the same day, a Wardmote was held in Lime Street to appoint a successor to Robert Howard (who was recently elected Alderman for the Ward of Cornhill).

The election was uncontested and Dominic Christian Gerard was returned as Common Councilman for the Ward.

So, Farewell then

To two past Lord Mayors who died in March:

- Sir Richard Nichols, Lord Mayor 1997-98. b. 26 April 1938 d. 14 March 2016.
- Sir Robert Finch, Lord Mayor 2003-04. b. 20 August 1944 d. 31 March 2016.

Earlier in the year saw the Thanksgiving Service for the life of Sir Christopher Walford, Lord Mayor 1994-95. b.15 October 1935 d. 20 October 2015.

And the Apothecaries' report the death of their longest serving Liveryman, Dr George Bullmore, on 9 April aged 105. This was 85 years and six months after his being apprenticed to his father, and 81 years and six months after his Admission. Many liveries have long-serving Liverymen – but is this a record in modern times?

City Livery Club's "Root & Branch Award"

The 2016 Award for an individual who has made a noteworthy contribution to the Livery has been won by Paul Jagger of the Information Technologists. On joining the Company in 2011 he soon realised that there was a story to tell about the City Liveries and their traditions, and set out to write [The City of London Freeman's Guide](#), which now goes hand in hand with an informative website and twitter handle @CityandLivery.

The standard of entries this year from so many Livery companies led the judging panel also to award a Highly Commended prize to Bob Heathfield of the Constructors. Showing a very different element of Livery commitment, Bob runs a scheme for young professionals in the industry to carry out research and enhance their knowledge and that of the industry as well as mentoring these young people in their careers.

"Paul Jagger has shown how modern communication can showcase the best of what Livery Companies do. The Root & Branch Award seeks to recognise exceptional Liverymen with initiative and innovation and hard work," said Alderman Alison Gowman, head of the Club's judging panel. "Paul has not stopped with a new enthusiasm for a second book and with a knack to explain in an interesting, sometimes funny and always informative way."

Mr Jagger will receive his award, which consists of a medal and a cheque for £1,000 to a charity of his choice at the City Livery Club's annual Civic Lunch on 24 May in Carpenters' Hall. More at the [City Livery Club website](#).

Leathersellers' Company return to St Helen's Place

After over five years in the wilderness, on 18 April the Leathersellers' Company returned home. The new Hall is their seventh, and the sixth on this, the site of a Benedictine priory and nunnery, acquired by the Company for £380 in 1543, following the Reformation. Curiously, the ward boundary runs down the middle of St Helen's Place and, since the new hall is now on the opposite side of the road from the old, the Company's votes have moved from Bishopsgate into Lime Street ward. The architect is Eric Parry Associates. The first Court meeting in the new hall is on 4 May. The address is 7 St Helen's Place, EC3A 6AB.

Zurich Guilds Sechseläuten celebrations

The third Monday in April traditionally marks the start of summer for the guilds of Zurich, and is celebrated with a parade that takes over the city - not unlike the Lord Mayor's Show. For the Zurich guildsmen, however, there is no Lord Mayor - instead they have a giant snowman - the Böögg. He is atop a giant bonfire (so now think Guy Fawkes).

For many years warm friendships between the London Liveries and their Zurich Guild counterparts have been established, and City companies were represented at the 2016 Sechseläuten on 18 April. Among them the Cutlers, Gold & Silver Wyre Drawers, Joiners & Ceilers, Pattenmakers, and World Traders, as well as a large number of individual liverymen and delegations from other companies.

Despite appalling weather, the Zurich guildsmen welcomed their London colleagues with warm generosity. However the heavy rain meant that the Böögg head took a record breaking 43 minutes to blow off in the fire, which in local folklore indicates a bad summer ahead.

Brewers' Company admits HRH The Prince of Wales into the Livery

On 25 February at the clothing ceremony at Brewers' Hall for their first ever royal liveryman, the Master, Miles Jenner, drew attention to the work of His Royal Highness in the brewing industry through the "Pub is the Hub" initiative.

As well as brewing Duchy Original Ale using malted barley from the Highgrove Estate, the Master observed to the Prince: "It would be true to say that you burst upon the brewing scene with the dawning of the new millennium and have maintained a sustained presence ever since". Expressing his gratitude for being made a Liveryman, the Prince replied: "Nothing could make me more proud if I may say so." And he reminded those present of a quotation by Benjamin Franklin, "Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy."

Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch

On 7 April this annual event at Guildhall (held in aid of ABF The Soldiers Charity) was attended by HRH Prince Harry together with many Livery masters and other VIPs, serving soldiers and reservists, and their predecessors. With generous sponsorship from many liveries and corporations, an attractive raffle and auction, and other fund raising activities, a record amount was again raised for The Soldiers Charity.

Livery Showcase Event

Apprentices and professionals, Liverymen and students, mingled at Guildhall on 15 March where 30 widely differing career paths were showcased. Over 600 students from 25 schools across London were able to chat to shipwrights and saddlers, information technologists and medical students. They discovered how to plan a career in hospitality, ophthalmology and tested their aptitude for flying. They sampled the work of basketmakers and calligraphers, footwear designers and leatherworkers, trying their hand at decorative paint techniques, upholstery and baking. Advice could be found on surveying and banking as well as architecture and the construction industry. A massive Scalextric track drew students in to a discussion about the automotive and aeronautical industries and apprentice butchers enthused students about the thriving meat trade.

The Livery Showcase Event, held annually, is a key opportunity for Livery Companies to engage with students inspiring them to consider career paths and job opportunities in the wide range of skills, trades and professions they represent.

Lynn Painer-Stainers Art Prize

The 2016 Winner of the £15,000 prize, awarded at the Mall Galleries on Monday 7 March, was *The Cowgate* by Henry Kondracki. For full details and all winners, [click here](#). Next year's prizes will be presented on Monday 6 March 2017.

Inter-Livery Bridge Competition

The Winners of the 2016 event, held on 7 March and organised by the Makers of Playing Cards, were the Actuaries Company. For full details and all winners, [click here](#). Next year's competition at Drapers' Hall will be on Monday 6 March 2017.

Livery Live

Livery Live was another Livery-related newsletter, hosted on the City Corporation's website. With the Livery Committee website (and this *Livery Briefing*) now well established (www.liverycompanies.info), the two newsletters have merged into the one bi-monthly *Livery Briefing*.

DIARY DATES

Friday 13 May

Livery Masters & Wardens collection for the Red Cross

For many years now, the Masters and Wardens of many City Livery Companies have come together to kindly support the annual Red Cross Week Flag Day collection on London Bridge. This historical event, which has seen several hundred Liverymen and women take to the streets in support of the Red Cross, has raised over £100,000 to date. The Red Cross are looking for people to join them on Friday 13 May to collect either first thing in the morning from Fishmongers Hall (followed by a 'bacon butty') or during the evening rush hour from Mansion House (followed by something fizzy). Please contact Claudia Baxter on 020 7877 7602 or email ClaudiaBaxter@redcross.org.uk

Friday 20 May

Northern Liverymen Brigantes Breakfast

Following the success of the inaugural event last year (attended by some 230 Liverymen and their guests), the annual "Brigantes" Breakfast of Northern Liverymen will take place this year on Friday 20 May at Cutlers' Hall in Sheffield.

Around 1200 City of London Liverymen are resident in the North of England which, for this purpose, runs from Leicestershire and Staffordshire to the Scottish border – an area which coincides with the territory of the Celtic Brigantes tribe, hence the group's name. The breakfast was conceived as a way of allowing those based in the north, who may find it difficult to attend City-based events, to maintain their Livery engagement. Interested Liverymen are asked to contact Past Master Baker [David Bentley](#).

20-22 May

Inter livery Regatta

This year's Inter livery Regatta will take place at Cowes on 20 – 22 May. The event is organised by the City Livery Yacht Club; please click [here](#) for further information.

24-26 May

Pewter Live

The winners of this year's Pewter Live competition will be announced on 26 May in an event at Pewterers' Hall. This annual competition, organised by the Worshipful Company of Pewterers, asks entrants to produce pewter items that could be used by the Company in its day-to-day activities. For more, [click here](#).

Wednesday 29 June

Jailed & Bailed by invitation of The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress

Clerks who think your Master or Prime Warden has enjoyed their time in office a little too much, now is the time to get your revenge and send them to the Tower of London on 29 June 10.30am – 2.00pm for a Lunch of 'bread and water' courtesy of Pol Roger. This year is the thirteenth 'Jailed & Bailed' event which to date has seen 203 normally upstanding members of the City Of London arrested for heinous crimes. These have included falsely impersonating Robin Hood, concealing 3ft pokers and the very public misdemeanour, which brought the 2012 Lord Mayor's Show to a grinding halt.

With room for up to 30 felons in this year's line-up, the British Red Cross would very much like to see as many of the City Liveries and Institutions represented as possible. Since 2004 felons have raised over £409,000 to support the work of the Red Cross and from the kind comments they have received from previous felons, can promise you a day that will be a real highlight of your year in office.

For more information please contact Laura Deacon on 020 7877 7606 or email LDeacon@redcross.org.uk

1 – 4 September

Great Fire 350

In early September across the Square Mile, an artistic response to the history, heritage and effect of the 1666 Great Fire of London will see an extraordinary number of commemorative events and activities, and will tell the stories big and small of London's Great Fire. With founding support from the City of London Corporation, creative producers Artichoke, known most recently for Lumiere London, the light festival that took over the West End and King's Cross in January, will present a four day programme of free spectacular outdoor installations. Londoners and visitors will be invited to explore the City and see its history and what the Great Fire means today through the vision of contemporary artists. Further information will be available in June.

Monday 26 September

Wardens' City Course

The all day Course for future livery masters is on 26 September. Spouses and consorts are also welcome to attend the day at Guildhall. The programme and online booking is now available at <http://www.liverycompanies.info/briefings--courses/>. It is particularly aimed at those expecting to take office in 2017.

Tuesday 27 September

City Giving Day

City Giving Day is a day when businesses across London act at the same time to promote and celebrate their charity and community work. It is a fantastic chance for the whole of the City (and beyond!) to showcase the vast amount of time given and people supported through its Corporate Social Responsibility work – it's a chance to show the Good the City does. Last year over 200 businesses took part, holding a whole host of different activities in each of their offices, some of whom were visited by the Lord Mayor, the Lady Mayoress and the Sheriffs. In addition it is estimated that over £350,000 was raised on the day for the charities that the City supports.

The Lord Mayor's Appeal, who co-ordinate the event, are striving to double the numbers this year and already have managed to get over 120 businesses signed up. Liverymen are encouraged to visit the Appeal's [website](#) to see if your organisation is on the list – and Livery Companies too are encouraged to sign up. You can help by introducing your own business or Company and asking others to join in.

For more information, either contact the Lord Mayor's Appeal team or attend an information breakfast at the Mansion House on Thursday 16 June. Places are limited and must be booked by Friday 20 May. If you are interested in getting involved please contact Sarah Hinchley on 020 7332 3177 or by email at cgd@thelordmayorsappeal.org
