

**Livery Committee
Chairman's Report
10th September 2014**

Matters to report, some resulting from our meeting in June, include the following:

Committee Chairmanship – it is our practice to elect the chairman annually, at the September meeting. Hence I shall stand down at the start of our meeting on 10th September, and offer myself for re-election. Similarly, the Deputy Chairman, Ian Seaton, will do likewise, and also offers himself for re-election. Following discussion with Lorraine Brook I propose to streamline the process by which every eligible member of the Committee is asked in turn if they wish to stand for election (twice, for chairman and deputy), and instead simply ask those who wish to stand for either office to be invited to say so. A ballot will then ensue, as in the past, if necessary.

Committee Membership – at Common Hall on 24th June the following were elected to the Committee for a three year term: Robin Booth (past master Clothworker), David Cole-Adams (Master Tyler) and Philip Grant (Fellowship Secretary) to fill the vacancies of Great 12 nominated liveryman, Fellowship liveryman, and Fellowship Clerk respectively.

Committee Clerk – as I reported last time, Gemma Stockley's successor has left the Corporation. Our new committee clerk has now been appointed, Greg Moore, and he will be attending the meeting on 10th September. Greg previously worked in the Town Clerk's Department, and after a break from the City of London, he has now returned. I offer him a warm welcome back.

150th Anniversary of the Committee – 4th July 1864 was the date of the first recorded meeting of the Livery Committee, and as members know, the anniversary was marked by our annual dinner being held this year on 4th July, at Haberdashers' Hall. Our guest of honour was my predecessor chairman, Deputy William Fraser, and the retired Assistant Town Clerk, Peter Nelson, a good friend and supporter of this Committee and the Livery over very many years, was our guest speaker. Judging by the many thank you letters I have received, the event was a success.

Livery Schools Link – The Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee has instigated an initiative to create an Education Board to coordinate the various City of London and Livery educational activities. Our Committee has not been involved in these discussions, but I hope to be able to report further soon on this subject.

Livery Companies Apprenticeship Scheme Ltd – Peter Cook, the chairman of the Scheme, will be reporting at the meeting, and his presentation is included in your papers. I repeat my thanks to him and his fellow directors.

Livery Briefing – the newly styled bi-monthly email briefing is now established, and the next edition will follow and report on our September meeting.

The main problem continues to be persuading livery clerks to forward it on by email to their liverymen, and it is disappointing to realise how limited is its distribution. Contributions or suggestions for content are welcomed. Back copies are held in the Library area of the website (see below).

Website – the Livery Committee website liverycompanies.info is also now well established, and seeks to be the single source of information and links to other websites relevant to the livery. Additions, amendments and corrections are easily and quickly made, and the site aims to be live and up to date.

Diary – at the website is a Diary page listing livery related events over the coming 12 months. Dates to be included can be emailed to me. Of note is what aims to be a comprehensive list of all the various inter livery sport and social events.

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New Guilds – at our last meeting, the Clerk to the Chamberlain's Court reported that groups representing Entrepreneurs and the Human Resources profession had expressed an interest in forming guilds, with a view to eventual livery status. I now understand that the Court of Aldermen have given their approval for the former to create a Guild of Entrepreneurs. There is more on this subject at the Fellowship of Clerks pages of the website.

Sheriffs – the Livery Committee has always played a role in encouraging suitable candidates to stand for election as the non aldermanic sheriff. In modern times, the election at Common Hall has usually, but certainly not always, been uncontested. Views differ as to whether this is a good or a bad thing! But what may be of concern is what I perceive as a paucity of candidates coming forward over the past few years. Leaving aside the contests of 2009 and 2011, it is not so much that most of the elections of the past decade have been uncontested, it is the apparent lack of (almost) any interested alternative candidates that make me suggest that this matter may be a topic for our Committee's consideration. A list of past sheriffs may be found at the Lists section of the website.

Finally, I report that a surprisingly large number of matters and queries regularly come my way as your chairman, most of which though whilst serious and requiring considered response, do not merit being delayed for discussion by the whole Committee. I am grateful to our Deputy Chairman and the Chairman of our newly revived Livery Companies Working Group (Ian Seaton and Victoria Russell) for their advice and wise counsel on some of these issues.

Thank you for the support I have received as your chairman over the past year, and if re-elected I look forward to continuing to lead the good work of the Livery Committee for a further term.

Nigel Pullman

1st September 2014