



INNOLDERS' COVID 19 NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1

Due to the movement restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic we are unable to meet as usual at Innholders' Hall. We plan to use this newsletter to share information about the Innholders' response to the extraordinary situation in which we find ourselves. We would like to hear from you, please contact the Assistant Clerk

Rebecca.tomlin@innholders.co.uk with your Covid-19 related news and stories for the next issue.

MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER

Welcome to the first Innholders' Covid-19 Newsletter. We all had no idea just a few months ago how enormous the impact of this pandemic would be. I am very sorry that, along with everyone else, we have had to cancel all the regular Innholder events that I was looking forward to enjoying as Master. As I write, it looks like we will not be back in the Hall enjoying Innholders' hospitality and fellowship until at least September and probably later, but the Court is keeping the situation and government advice under regular review.

What is immensely heartening is the way people have pulled together to help, fund, and support those who have been affected, and needed assistance. We thank all those Innholders who have been involved. I'd also like to thank Rebecca, our Assistant Clerk for all her work assembling and preparing this newsletter, which we will use to try and keep you all in touch with progress. Finally, if you would like to donate to our Innholders' Covid-19 Emergency Appeal, please see page 8.

Keep safe and well, and I look forward to seeing you soon,

Best wishes

Keith Harrison

Master



The Master on the last Innholders' trip before lockdown, to RAF Northolt on 27th February 2020 (photo: Jason Essenhugh)



The Clerk's peonies have enjoyed the lovely weather during lockdown.

(Photo: Charles Henty)

From the Clerk's Office

The week before the lockdown was implemented, we organised running the Clerk's Office from home, expecting at that time that our absence from the Hall would only be for a month or so. Fortunately, our systems have all been moved on-line in the past few years, so that we can operate as usual from our homes in Cheltenham and North London respectively. Sadly, as it has become clearer that the usual Innholders' activities would not be taking place, organising social events has been replaced by rewriting budgets and dealing with the many appeals for assistance from charities and good causes impacted by the pandemic. Court and Committee meetings are now taking place by Zoom and conference call, which has proved to be quite efficient if not as convivial as usual!



Cannon Street deserted during the lockdown (Photo: John Cash)

From the Beadle

Driven by Joe (future son-in-law), I have been making regular trips to the Hall to check that it remains secure and in good condition. On our first trip we left Weston at 06.30 on the dot, to avoid the traffic! What traffic? Very strange, travelling on basically empty motorways, never mind when we went through Trafalgar Square with no one about! It is rather sad to see the Hall with all its special objects securely tucked away, not able to offer its usual hospitality.

Our ship's Company is Captain Carol, First Mate Reanne and two general dogs' bodies, me and Joe. Ship's dogs, Dudley and Daisy seem to get treated better than the other dogs' bodies! While not on sorties to the Hall I have been making good use of my time in the garden and the allotment, the Captain runs a tight ship!

INNOLDERS' RESPONDING TO THE PANDEMIC

The Cutting Crew and The Press Gang



In early May Liveryman Emma McEwen wrote to the Clerk's Office 'I have found myself organising a project to manufacture plastic gowns for the NHS - Southampton Hospital was getting desperate - so today we will produce over 500 gowns - I would never have imagined this last Tuesday when I asked a friend 'how can I help?!' Emma has arranged purchase of polythene to supply the 'Cutting Crew', a group of boat builders and sail makers with fabric cutting machines. After the gowns are cut, the sleeves are

closed by careful use of a domestic iron which is done by a group of volunteers at the New Forest Sewing for the NHS team called the 'Press Gang'. Many local businesses and volunteers have been involved in the process and have, by 14th May produced over ten thousand gowns.

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As the pandemic continues more companies with cutting capability are needed to assist in the production of these gowns for use by our frontline NHS workers. So, if you think you can help or know someone who can, please get in touch with Emma and her team. More information on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/sanderssails/posts/3228608027159799>

Calcot Manor Feeding the Community

Liveryman Richard Ball MI, Chairman of Calcot Manor & Spa, and his Executive chef Richard Davies, have launched a community food project which has so far delivered 2,200 meals to the community. With the support of the hotel's principle shareholders, the Stone family, the Calcot team is working with local councils and volunteers in Gloucestershire to safely prepare and deliver complementary home-cooked meals to 600 vulnerable people in the local area. The innovative food distribution service is supplying nutritious two-course meals to those in need every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, staffed by furloughed Calcot employees and council volunteers. Meals are designed to be reheated and are carefully packed up into hearty portions including a main and a dessert. All ingredients are sourced with the kindness and generosity of local suppliers. Some of their delicious meals are shown below, ready to go.





Contributions from two generations of Wylde

Terahertz, the family business of Assistant Dr Richard Wylde FREng, is working on its first Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) injection mould so that its client Air Control Entech can manufacture frames for face visors. Liveryman Dr George Wylde and Freeman John Wylde are also busy during the pandemic, working respectively as an F1 (house officer) at Gloucester Royal Hospital and on the Dyson ventilator project.

Business Insurance Advice

Liveryman Damian Cleary offered his experience and expertise in business interruption insurance, pro bono to the City of London Club, Leander Club and his local pub, donating some 50 or so hours of advice to these businesses, which is ongoing. He says that ‘I hope they succeed in recovering some urgently needed insurance funds as a result.’

Are you contributing to a Covid-19 related project or volunteering?

If you are, we want to hear about it. Please send news of your project to the Assistant Clerk, rebecca.tomlin@innholders.co.uk.

NEWS FROM OUR CHARITIES

Schools and Education

The Innholders are proud to support City of London School, the City of London School for Girls, The Guildhall School of Music and Drama and the London Academy of Excellence. Each has been sending regular updates about how they are meeting the challenges of continuing to support their students’ education through the lockdown. The school pupils that we support are from low income families and many will have parents who are key workers.

Our scholar at **City of London School** is working towards his A levels this spring and summer. We received a very thoughtful message in which he thanked the Company ‘which has been the longstanding cornerstone of my development as a person and academic for the last few years.’ Perhaps contrary to expectations he went on to add that ‘remote learning, albeit challenging, has proved to be excellent, with a greater opportunity for personal growth. [...It] has allowed for me to enjoy greater time to read more niche resources -articles or books- that may not necessarily cater directly toward my exams but give me a greater understanding for my subjects and help me choose a course to undertake at university. Away from the

classroom, I have offered my aid to the local community in the form of pedalling groceries and various items to my elderly neighbours.’ We are hoping that this resourceful and bright young man will join the Company as an Apprentice in due course.

‘remote learning, albeit challenging, has proved to be excellent’



Students at **City of London School for Girls** have been taking part in the 2.6 Fundraising Challenge, including one energetic young lady who completed 2.6km of cartwheels in her back garden - 325 laps! The witty photograph on the left was made by a pupil as part of an art project reflecting on the Covid-19. You can see more of the evocative images they have created [here](#).

The students at the **London Academy of Excellence** face many challenges and a message from Scott Baker, the headteacher, stated that ‘the priority has been to ensure the academic and pastoral care of every student... Supervision at the school has been made available for the sons and daughters of key workers, and those students eligible for free school meals will continue to receive their allowance during the school closure period ... All students without access to their own laptop or desktop were able to sign out one of the school’s laptops to ensure that they have the tools that they need.’ Students at the Academy are aiming for top universities and Mr Baker added that ‘I am in no doubt that our students will receive the academic recognition that they deserve, and will gain access to their chosen universities.’

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At the **Guildhall School of Music and Drama**, the training of performers has been especially difficult under the lockdown. An update from the School remarked ‘As you can imagine, moving a community of artists and creative thinkers online, from all corners of the globe, has been a momentous challenge - one which calls on our staff and students to reach deep into their creativity and imagination to adapt to new realities, and to the new technologies that are, at present, our only choice for communicating and creating’. Online seminars, masterclasses and performances have been devised by staff, students and visiting teachers. You can access remote performances and recorded productions from Guildhall’s archive on its new hub [here](#).

Young People

In addition to schools, the Innholders support young people through the work of [Jamie's Farm](#) and [Teach First](#). Residential stays at Jamie's farms have had to stop and most staff have been furloughed. The charity is trying to continue to support vulnerable children while maintaining the farms and of course the welfare of the animals on them. Costs have been cut as much as possible to meet the dramatic fall in projected income, but they are optimistic about the future: 'Ultimately, we want to be in as strong a position as we possibly can, come the time we can reopen, to re-instate as many aspects of our core programme in order to carry out our transformative work. Indeed, the need for our programme will be greater than ever, bearing in mind young people's mental health is likely to be hugely affected in the coming months, and this is the outcome we have the greatest impact on.'

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Teach First is responding to the current situation by focusing its work on recovery and leadership support. It is developing a programme to give long-term strategic support to leadership in highly vulnerable schools to ensure that pupils are not further disadvantaged by the pandemic. Unsurprisingly, a reduced number of applicants for the leadership programmes supported by the Innholders is reported, although it expects that this will pick up again once the immediate crisis is over and training and support for school leaders to help them deal with the challenges of the current situation becomes a priority.

The Elderly

The Innholders support [Silverline](#) which is a free confidential helpline (0800 470 8090) providing information, friendship and advice to older people. As staying at home will severely limit the social interaction of many older people who might not have considered themselves lonely until now, the Helpline service has been re-engineered to ensure that it can both receive more calls from lonely older people, and that Helpline staff are able to work from home. It was disturbing to hear that 'the Connects service has seen a particularly troubling increase- on Monday 24th March alone, we received 23 referrals from older people who had no food in their cupboards and did not know how to get any more.'

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The Connects service is now working to prioritise calls from older people struggling to get food into the house and is working closely with foodbanks across the UK. The service has been asking volunteers to take increased cases to ensure it can contact older people within two days of referral. The Innholders fund a Silverline Connects co-ordinator who is working hard to deliver these essential services during this difficult time.

Hospitality

Many of the hospitality industry courses and career events supported by the Innholders, including the Springboard Graduate Mentoring Scheme, Kickstart Programme, and Hospitality Showcase have been cancelled or deferred. The Innholders Aspiring Leaders programme, which is also supported by the Master Innholders, The Savoy Educational Trust, and the Lord Forte Foundation is currently suspended.

While The Clink Training Restaurants, Café and Event Catering projects are closed, furloughed staff have volunteered to go back into the prison kitchens to cook prisoners' meals as sickness levels of the HMPS catering teams are expected to increase. Fulltime support workers are continuing to work in the community, remotely supporting The Clink graduates as they re-adjust back into society and full-time employment. In the last week of March, they supported 98 graduates across the country who have been released from Clink training projects over the last 6 – 9 months. Still very vulnerable, these graduates require daily collective support. The Clink reports that 'sadly quite a lot of our released graduates are struggling since the outbreak of COVID-19 having either lost their job/accommodation and also have little or no money for basic provisions.' The Clink's [COVID-19 Clink Graduate Emergency Support Fund](#) is being used solely to support those graduates most in need by paying for a night in a hostel or buy emergency food supplies by giving them a pre-paid supermarket gift card.

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INNOLDERS' CHARITABLE FOUNDATION AND COVID-19

Both the Company and the Innholders' Charitable Foundation are expecting a significant drop in income over the next few years due to the effect of Covid-19 on investment returns but the Court is confident that both have ample resources to see them through the crisis. The focus of many of the organisations supported by the Foundation is likely to shift and the Patronage Committee will be carefully reviewing applications to ensure that its funds are distributed where they can do most good. In March the Foundation gave £10,000 to [Hospitality Action](#) to fund emergency grants for 40 families of people in the industry in need of immediate support. £5,000 from the Foundation plus £1,000 generously donated by SPM Tim Wood was given to [The Big Issue Foundation](#) to support the sellers of the magazine who lost all of their business almost immediately. You can find a message from Stephen Robertson, CEO of the Big Issue Foundation by clicking [here](#).

Innholders' Covid-19 Emergency Appeal



On 8th May 2020, as it became clear that severe hardships were being caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Master launched the Innholders' Covid-19 Emergency Appeal Fund. Funds raised by this Emergency Appeal will be ring-fenced from our normal Innholders' charitable giving to the young, the elderly, and the hospitality trade, which we will continue to support during the financial difficulties caused by the pandemic.

We will distribute 100% of donations to the Emergency Appeal to Covid-19 related causes. We are currently assessing further projects and we would welcome suggestions of causes that this new fund could most to help, please contact the Clerk's Office by [email](#). In order to ring-fence funds raised by this appeal and to simplify the collection of gift aid, we are using Virgin Giving. Please donate generously by clicking [here](#). Alternatively, please go to the 'Make a donation' page of Virginmoneygiving.com and search for 'Innholders'. Once you have found the Innholders' Charitable Foundation home page you can click on 'Campaigns' on the left to find the Emergency Appeal.

HERBERT BERGER

The Innholders are keen to ensure that our esteemed associate, Herbert Berger, and his team, will be at the Hall to welcome us back when events can recommence. To that end the Catering Committee, led by Assistant Andrew McKenzie, has been working closely with Herbert to provide financial assistance to help ensure the continuation of the business and to support his casual and permanent staff. In the meantime we understand that Herbert has been hard at work for his fiancée's business, Catch Fabulous Fishcakes, those of you in the New Forest area might like to take a look at their website:

<https://www.catchfabulousfishcakes.co.uk/>

NEWS FROM THE CITY



The wonderful Captain (now Colonel) Tom Moore received the Freedom of the City on Tuesday 12 May in the first ever 'virtual' ceremony. You can find the Press Release on the Corporation's website [here](#) and watch the recorded ceremony on YouTube via this [link](#).

Click on the links below for recent updates received from the Guildhall:



May Livery Briefing
2020.pdf



Lord Mayor's
Bulletin 1 May 2020.

MESSAGE FROM THE ALMONER, THE REVD CANON BILL CHRISTIANSON



Dawn over London (Photo: Bill Christianson)

At the Court meeting immediately prior to the lockdown I was appointed as the Company Almoner, an appointment not unique to Innholders as a number other Livery Companies have historically appointed a member of their Court to hold such a position. The title almoner has to some extent fallen out of use in English, but not the role, which can best be described as a member of the Company appointed to focus on all aspects of the pastoral care of the members.

In some Liveries the Almoner and the honorary Chaplain are one and the same person, but where the chaplain is in full-time ministry in a busy parish or sector ministry a member of the Livery might be appointed to the role, as in our case. After our last “Zoom” Court meeting I was aware that the Past Senior Masters, who usually attend and “sit in the wings”, had not been present, so I decided to send them an e-card greeting. This was well received, and I had a number of calls as a result. In these difficult times, should anyone wish “to natter”, my mobile number is 07792 924488 and my email is: bill.christianson@btinternet.com

Hopefully you are all well and I am sure like me, you are looking forward to meeting at the Hall once again. All and every good wish as ever,
Bill

We trust that you have enjoyed this round up of news from the Innholders and that you remain safe and well. We look forward to welcoming you back to the Hall with the Innholders’ usual hospitality as soon as possible. In the meantime, do keep safe and well.

Charles Henty, Clerk

Rebecca Tomlin, Assistant Clerk