



INNOLDERS' COVID 19 NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3

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.

FROM THE MASTER

It is most heartening to read the many stories in this edition about both the help that the W.C. Innholders has been able to provide during the pandemic, and also that given by our Innholders members, either themselves or through their businesses. At last we are seeing the government able to loosen regulations especially for hospitality businesses. As you can read below, our Beadle John Cash has been at the Hall overseeing maintenance work ready for re-opening, and measuring up for social distancing etc. There will have to be changes to the way we work, but I'm looking forward to the day we hold our next event. It has been a long time since we were last there in March and I hope it is not too long before The Master and Wardens welcome Innholders back to the Hall.

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

Keith Harrison
Master

ARE YOU CONTRIBUTING TO A COVID-19 RELATED PROJECT OR VOLUNTEERING?

If you are, we want to hear about it. Please send news of any volunteering, fund-raising or other Covid-19 related projects to the Assistant Clerk, rebecca.tomlin@innholders.co.uk.



Preparations for social distancing in the Hall, left.

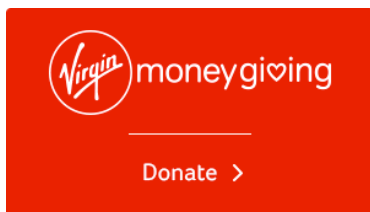
INNOLDERS' COVID-19 EMERGENCY APPEAL

The Innholders Covid-19 Emergency Appeal has raised £8,012.50 (including Gift Aid) by 9 July 2020. We thank everyone who has donated so far, especially as we appreciate that many of you will have contributed to multiple fund-raising campaigns, and that others in the hospitality industry will have been badly affected personally.



Distributions from the Innholders Covid-19 Emergency Appeal have now been made to the [Salisbury Hospice Charity](#) (£2,000), which is supporting Sally Dowling (pictured) and her family; [Hospitality Action](#) (£1,500), in support of its 20,000 Miles fundraising campaign; and [The Clink](#) (£1,500). All of these have featured in previous issues of this newsletter and you can read more below from them about how our donations will be used. Following a donation from the Patronage Committee to Age UK we received their thanks and this message: 'Sadly, the needs of many older people have now skyrocketed and they are reliant upon our services more than ever before.'

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The Appeal remains open and you may donate by clicking on the button on the left or going to [Virgin Money Giving](#) and searching for the Innholders' Covid-19 Emergency Appeal. All donations received will be distributed to Covid-19 related causes.

Innholders' Charitable Foundation

The Company's Charity Committee, which deals with grants of less than £5,000, met on 16th June chaired by Middle Warden David Brann. Over 100 applications had been received since the last meeting, which were whittled down to about 30 for consideration by the Committee.

The Committee gave a large donation to MARS Org which has been running a homeless shelter staffed by medical professionals, to accommodate rough sleepers and others discharged during the pandemic from hospital with nowhere else to go, and also elderly people who need to quarantine away from their families. It also gave donations to groups supporting older and younger people in their communities in Fulham, Lambeth, Southwark, Deptford, Hackney, Haringey, Rotherhithe and Bermondsey. The groups that the Innholders were able to help are already active in their communities but have pivoted to providing Covid-

19 related support such as food parcels, children's educational activities and on-line exercise classes for the elderly, as well as support and advice for their clients.

These are some of the messages of thanks that we received from the groups who received donations:

Thank you for reducing food insecurity. Thank you Innholders-because of you 100 children will not have to worry where breakfast will come from for 2 whole weeks!!!! (Young and Inspired)

Thanks for the generous donation of the Innholders to our work, which will be invaluable at this time (Fulham Good Neighbours)

Many, many thanks...we are really thrilled (Free to be Kids)

Thank You! Thank You and again a BIG Thank You! This means so much to us especially now during such trying times! (Just Kidding)



The image shows a volunteer for [Time and Talents](#) one of the chosen charities, using a cycle rickshaw to deliver food parcels. In all, £12,500 was distributed.

A donation has also been made by the Company to the Livery Schools Link in lieu of the annual fund-raising golf event that the Company would usually have supported in July, but which was cancelled due to Covid-19.

Once the lockdown is lifted, members of the Charity and Patronage Committees will be resuming visits to charities which the Innholders are supporting. If you would like to become involved in these visits, which are hugely rewarding, and get an insight into how the Innholders' Charitable Foundation's funds are put to good use, do contact the Assistant Clerk (rebecca.tomlin@innholders.co.uk)

ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT FOR INNOLDERS

We recognise that some members and friends of the Company will be experiencing real economic and social hardship because of isolation, bereavement and the effect of the Covid-19 movement restrictions on the hospitality industry and the economy generally. Several of the charities with which the Innholders are associated are offering help and support in these difficult times. Collected below are some of the places to which you can turn if you need some advice and support. The Reverend Canon Bill Christianson, our Almoner, is also available to talk to members of the Company, his mobile number is 07792 924488 and his email address is bill.christianson@btinternet.com.

Support for members of the hospitality industry



‘I am delighted to have this opportunity to highlight the work of the Licensed Trade Charity, my employer for the past 28 years’, writes our Renter Warden, Ian Mullins. ‘The Charity has been supporting licensed trade people for over 226 years and never before has that support been more needed by so many.’

The Licensed Trade Charity’s support can be accessed in three ways:

1. The helpline **0808 801 0550** offers practical advice and emotional support 24/7, 365 days a year. Comparing January to May 2020 to 2019 the helpline has seen an increase of over 270% in the number of calls made.
2. The [website](#) offers over 60 free downloadable help-sheets with practical advice and useful links and gives access to a free benefits calculator for visitors to check that they are receiving all the benefits to which they are entitled at this difficult time. The website has received over 470% more visits in the first five months of 2020 compared to 2019.
3. The Charity offers grants to people who have been in the licensed trade for 5 years or more and since March 2020 have prioritised those impacted by COVID-19, receiving an over 200% increase in applications for grants.



The Charity has recently worked closely with a number of pub companies to deliver their emergency grant campaigns and has managed just under 4000 applications since those funds launched in early May 2020. It continues to work with those companies to support their people as they begin to look at their re-opening plans and think about the continued help they will need during that time. As part of our process they asked applicants how COVID-19 has affected them. As well as stating they were extremely anxious about finances, a large proportion said that not being in the pub, missing their colleagues and not being part of the wider hospitality family had negatively affected their mental wellbeing.

To support mental health for the trade the Licensed Trade Charity has issued a 'Mental Health during COVID-19 help-sheet' giving useful tips and guidance for anyone to download: click [here](#) or look on the LTC website. The Charity has also offered access to Woebot, a mental wellbeing app, free of charge, to the trade for three months. The app 'checks-in' with users daily to support mental wellbeing and if it detects crisis language will ask the user if they'd like to talk to one of the BACP trained counsellors on the Licensed Trade Charity helpline.'

Thank you to Ian for that update on the tremendous work being done by the LTC, and do take a look at their website which is full of valuable information and guidance.

Hospitality Action

The Innholders have long supported [Hospitality Action](#) which was established in 1837 and has since offered vital assistance to all who work, or have worked within hospitality in the UK. Hospitality Action has created a Covid-19 hub to collate the best of its advice to help you navigate these uncertain times and to connect you with organisations who can help. You can also call the Hospitality Action Helpline 24/7 on **0808 802 028**. You will find more later in this newsletter about how Hospitality Action has been helping people in the crisis.



The [Drinks Trust](#), formerly 'The Benevolent', has been supporting the drinks industry since 1886 and has invested additional resources into its helpline which will provide specialist mental health support and advice. To speak to one its advisers, please call **0800 915 4610**.

Helplines for Older People



[The Silver Line](#) operates the only confidential, free helpline for older people across the UK that's open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days of the year. Call **0800 470 8090**.

[Age UK's](#) advice line is a free, confidential national phone service for older people, their families, friends, carers and professionals. The Age UK team will give you information that is reliable and up to date and help you to access the advice you need. Call **0800 678 1602**, lines are open 8am-7pm, 365 days a year.

Hospitality Action's **Golden Friends** is a befriending and support network for hospitality retirees. You can read more about it later on in this newsletter and find out more by clicking [here](#) for its website.

The Innholders Charitable Foundation is proud to support the Licenced Trade Charity, Hospitality Action, The Silver Line and Age UK.

INNOLDERS' RESPONDING TO THE PANDEMIC

We have more news in this Issue about how Innholders businesses have been responding to the challenges presented by the pandemic.



The Athenaeum: a story of support

‘The toll coronavirus has taken on individuals, communities and businesses has been significant and, in some cases, devastating’ writes Freeman Joanne Taylor-Stagg MI, ‘But if there’s been one silver lining to the global pandemic, it’s the extraordinary love and support shown by so many. True to the ‘home from home’ essence of our brand, The Athenaeum’s family spirit has never been stronger. Whilst the vast majority of our colleagues have stayed safely at home, a handful remain holed up at the hotel. Dubbed the ‘lockdown team’, this group has shown unwavering supporting for our guests, colleagues and neighbours throughout this challenging time. Their desire to help serve our hotel’s local community has not only driven deeper existing relationships but developed new ones too.

To show our gratitude for those keeping our country going, we’ve kept our doors open for those who needed a place to rest their head. From doctors to police, transport workers to the armed forces, we’ve had over 50 guests take up our offer so far, and we’re continuing to see numbers rise. With an award-winning chef at the helm of our kitchen, we couldn’t let Ian Howard’s expertise go to waste during this challenging time. Under his watchful eye, the lockdown team have rallied round and put their skills to the test, preparing over 250 meals (and counting) to feed the army of volunteers from Christ Church Mayfair, who are busy supporting the local community.

Having learnt – first-hand – of the devastating impact the crisis is having on the hospitality industry, and with many workers forced onto the streets due to job losses, we were desperate to help any way we could. A newly launched initiative ‘Hospitality Against Homelessness’ launched by ‘Only A Pavement Away’ brings together a number of charities to support those facing financial hardship with meals, equipment and accommodation. Being part of this support network, we’ve donated over 1,000 units of toiletries to Crisis who are offering vital help to those who have fallen on the hardest of times.

The team continues to apply the same dedication, care, and energy to our long-term residents

But in addition to these local and national efforts, the team continues to apply the same dedication, care, and energy to our long-term residents. Not only through thoughtful gestures but emotional connections too, by checking in with those who might be feeling a little lonely, from sitting down for a spot of lunch and a catch up to surprise pick-me-ups left in guests’ rooms to brighten their day.’



Oggy Oggy: adapting and surviving

Liveryman Malkolm Park writes with news from the South-west and reminds us that sometimes things have a way of working out even though all around you things look glum.

‘I remember the 23rd March and informing our staff that we were closing for business due to Covid 19 very well. That was 11 weeks ago which seems an age ago. I remember coming into the shops the next day to clean down and work through stock and see what we could salvage and to think how we could work through this. Thinking “Wow, what next, how do we survive and cope, what about our staff, here at Armada Way and in Plympton Ridgeway?” Between both shops we have 18 staff. It was a bit of a daze at first and then thankfully the Government announced it would help us with a payout and furlough to help business through these difficult times. “Did that really happen?” we heard ourselves saying and then I thought “Well, if people can’t come to us then we can go to them”.

Then I thought “Well, if people can’t come to us then we can go to them”.

So we started our frozen pasty delivery service from both shops where we take orders by phone, email, social media or from our on line shops. Soon it became quite popular and you can still order from us ([click here](#)), we deliver free in the Plymouth area and are posting our Oggies country wide. We decided to keep our shops open for take away only, self-distancing by closing off the door way with table so customers could buy frozen and cooked pasties from us at the shops and we added Uber Eats and Just Eats along with Deliveroo which kept us ticking over.

We have also donated pasties and meals to the NHS, Shekinah Mission (a Devon/Cornwall charity supporting people out of homelessness, drugs and alcohol) and will donate more to those deserving causes. The strain on myself and Lesley has been great as we have had to run both shops single handed for many weeks. However, the customers have rallied around and indeed two of them now look like they may join our organisation full time after helping out for some weeks. So even in this time of strain, lockdown and difficulty we have been able to stay solvent and even introduce a new angle to our businesses and some new exciting staff. My father’s words have come true “even a dark cloud can have a silver lining”. From the South West we wish all our colleagues in the Innholders’ well.’

NEWS FROM OUR CHARITIES



The Clink Charity

We have received an update from Christopher Moore, Chief Executive of The Clink Charity about how their work has changed through the crisis:

‘Over the past few months, our fulltime Clink Support Workers based in the community have all had to developed new ways of working with each other and The Clink Graduates. This includes online meetings, video calls and use of resources such as ‘E-mail A Prisoner’ ensuring that we have continued contact with our learners and graduates still in prison. Thanks to the generosity and understanding of our supporters and funders such as the Innholders, we have been able to help our Graduates navigate these challenges more effectively and have averted many crisis situations developing due to financial hardship or the potential risk of having no accommodation. To date we have raised over £60k in order to help us provide financial support and payments and we could not do this without your generous support, Thank you.

The Clink continues to change attitudes, transform lives, and create second chances which ultimately reduces reoffending

We have been purchasing £50 supermarket vouchers, helping secure accommodation, paying utility bills, paying for additional training in order to gain employment and we have even bought a bicycle so that one graduate could take food daily to his grandmother who lives 10 miles from him. A Clink Graduate will never be left without accommodation upon release or thereafter. We do everything we can to ensure that they do not reoffend and to date we have had no reoffences this year so far due to the level of support provided. The graduates are so grateful for the help and support that we are able to offer. We have had many thank you e mails, texts. This one came in today – “Thank you so much for the vouchers I can’t explain how much they will help I appreciate everything you do, thank you, you are amazing.”

In other news we are still operating at Brixton producing take away lunches and also ready-made meals to take home which we have called Clink and Collect. Due to the success of this we will be launching Clink at Home for the public to order online with a home delivery service if they live within a 5-mile radius of HMP Brixton.

Thank you once again to the Innholders for your continued support of our work as The Clink continues to change attitudes, transform lives, and create second chances which ultimately reduces reoffending.’

The Innholders have funded a support worker at the Clink for the past three years and are very pleased to have been able to make a donation from our Emergency Appeal, see above.



Hospitality Challenge

Further to the article in Issue 2 of this Newsletter, about 38 current and alumni Master Innholders Aspiring Leaders came together as ‘MIALDMiles’ to support the Hospitality Action 20,000 Mile Challenge. Liveryman Adam Hersey MIH writes:

‘Our initial goal was to harness the power of group effort and drive in order to raise as much money as possible for the cause as well as contributing 5% of the total mileage (1,000) and a minimum of £150 per person in sponsorship (£5,700). We soon raced past the 1,000-mile target, so upped this to 1,500 and revised our sponsorship target to £10,000.’ In the end the team contributed 2,300 miles (11.5% of the total mileage) and raised an amazing £12,175 (nearly 16% of the total donations). As Adam says, for a group who made up 7% of the total participants of 551 people, ‘this goes to show the power of group effort, purpose and determination. Attributes as an industry we will need to rely on to get back on our feet in the future.’

This goes to show the power of group effort, purpose and determination

There were some outstanding efforts individually both in miles completed and money raised, a special mention to Robert Ledward-Smith who raised over £1000 on his own. ‘However,’ Adam writes ‘I’m so proud of every single contribution from the team, including our four-legged canine members who really were an inspiration for everyone!’ Adam thanks the Worshipful Company of Innholders for its donation of £1,500 from the Emergency Appeal (see above). ‘It is humbling to have such generous support, and speaking personally as a Liveryman, it is a proud moment to link our Company, of which I am immensely proud to be a part, with the MIALDMiles initiative.’ We also heard from Jane Renton MI who took part in the Challenge with a Weymouth version of the triathlon: golf, sailing and cycling over the course of the weekend. She has also been sewing and delivering surplus linen cupboard items for NHS kit bags, head bands etc via Weymouth Golf Ladies group and volunteering for deliveries from her local shop.

Joe’s Story: from Mark Lewis of Hospitality Action

Besides hearing from Liveryman Adam Hersey, we have also received a message from Mark Lewis, the Chief Executive of Hospitality Action: ‘When lockdown began and hotels, restaurants, pubs and bars across the UK were forced to close, we at Hospitality Action knew we had to act fast to support those people who suddenly found themselves in acute financial need. We realised that we couldn’t help all of the hospitality people affected by the virus; but we were clear that we’d rather help some, than none at all. The response to our Emergency Appeal was humbling. By the middle of May, we’d raised well over £500,000, meaning we were able to disburse £250 grants to more than 2000 families and help them put food on the table and pay essential bills.’

As I write, we have spent approaching £800,000 on grants this year – more than we’ve ever spent in a calendar year. That we’ve been able to achieve this level of support, is thanks entirely to the generosity of kind people like the Worshipful Company of Innholders, Master Innholders, St Julian Scholars and Master Innholders Aspiring Leaders.’



Past Master Julia Sibley wrote in Issue 2 about volunteering for Hospitality Action’s Golden Friends network and Mark gives a moving example about the network has been able to help in this time of extra need: ‘As well as supporting hospitality families in need, we’ve been reaching out to our Golden Friends - our network of industry retirees, who receive bi-monthly newsletters and winter fuel grants thanks to the generosity of the Innholders. Our calls to Golden Friends have unearthed some humbling stories. Here’s one man’s story – I’ll call him Joe.

Joe is in debt and in crisis by our standards. When we called, he told us he had £9.01 in his bank account and couldn’t afford to top up his electricity meter. He said he rations his gas so that he only uses 10p’s worth each day to cook his one hot meal. And he described how, to make his money stretch, he would buy one potato, one tomato or one onion at a time. Joe was delighted that someone cared enough to pick up the phone and check in on him. He said: ‘Just knowing you’ve taken the time to call me shows that someone cares about me. That’s priceless.’ He’s a proud man and cuts his cloth to suit his needs. He said he didn’t want anything from us and would only ever go to a food bank as a last resort. We awarded Joe an emergency grant, to enable him to get his electricity back on, and pay for gas and groceries.

Just as we were closing the call, Joe started singing and dancing around his kitchen.

When he heard the news, Joe was delighted. He told us he was going to rush out and put £40 on both gas and electricity, and was looking forward to being able to switch on the lights and watch TV. He said he planned to buy some ‘proper food’, including a leg of lamb, which, he said, will last him days because he’ll use the meat to make many different meals. He sent his blessings to everyone who made this possible and said this act of kindness from people who don’t know him meant more to him than words could say. Just as we were closing the call, Joe started singing and dancing around his kitchen.

You helped us do that – helped us put the lights back on in Joe’s house, helped us buy him some food and helped us get him singing and dancing. From the bottoms of our hearts, thank you.’

From the bottoms of our hearts, thank you

Would you like to know more about volunteering with Hospitality Action to support the Golden Friends scheme? Please email Scheme Coordinator, Cathie Brennan at cbrennan@hospitalityaction.org.uk for more information.

FROM INNOLDERS' HALL



The Clerk's Office: Working Remotely

In the (virtual) Clerk's Office we continue to work hard to keep the Company operating, to support our charities and, with the Beadle, to facilitate welcoming everyone safely back to the Hall as soon as we can.

The Court and Committees have (mostly) mastered the use of Zoom, which although an efficient way to meet, is not quite the same without a glass of champagne and one of Herbert's delicious dinners to look forward to afterwards! The image shows the Court getting ready to start its July meeting.

Having been unable to meet at the Hall as usual, this Newsletter has been part of our efforts to maintain contact with the Company and its friends. *If you have any feedback or stories to include in the next Issue, please contact the Assistant Clerk Rebecca.tomlin@innholders.co.uk. Do stay in touch, we look forward to hearing from you.*



The Beadle: Back to Business

Our Beadle John Cash (shown with his PPE kit and St Julian) has been enjoying his gardening during his enforced absence from the Hall but has been glad to get 'back to business' recently. Here is his account of preparations for re-opening the Hall:

‘After eleven weeks, or to be precise seventy-eight days, son-in-law Joe and I once more set off from home for the Hall. Only this time Joe would be returning to Somerset on his own, as I once more took up residence at the Hall. One small step for the Beadle, but the first indication that we are finally heading

back to what will be a new type of normality.

The plan was to take the perfect opportunity of an empty Hall to get some maintenance jobs achieved. Firstly, on arrival I had to put all the necessary things in place to keep me safe and just as importantly the visiting engineers and electricians who would be working in the Hall. These measures include:

1. A safe route into the building.
2. Signing in to trace exactly who has been in the building.
3. 2 sanitiser stations, one in reception and one in the kitchen.
4. Hand washing facilities.
5. Disposable face masks for visitors.
6. Lots of signs!

So, on the Monday morning at exactly 07.00 for the first time in far too long, the shutters opened, and the lights went on.

Each day saw different contractors in the Hall: Monday, kitchen service engineers, Tuesday and Wednesday electricians with Thursday kept as spare day to avoid having to many people in the Hall at once. It was interesting to watch four service engineers social distancing in the kitchen, they were well practised having worked throughout the lockdown. I have never seen engineers wash their hands and use so much sanitiser, which bodes well for the immediate future. For the electricians, it was their first day back to work from furlough, but they equally took things seriously and I feel fully appreciated that we had gone to lengths to consider their safety.

The icing on the cake was the visit of Assistant Jason Essenhigh who is leading on a project to do with the Hall so needed to visit on the Tuesday and Wednesday. Jason is the font of all knowledge when it comes to resolving structural problems and building problems in general, even to devising how to allow the Master to sleep soundly in his flat! During his time at the Hall we were able to discuss different ideas regards social distancing within the Hall of which there will be more later. Most importantly, he brought coffee from Pret, and as he did this on more than one occasion it is established as a tradition so the Clerk and Assistant Clerk will look forward to their coffee in due course!

It was great to be back in the Hall and while on this occasion we only welcomed back our regular service people it was the first step in the right direction. A Livery Hall without people, no matter how fine or grand the building, is just a building. I look forward to seeing you all back at the best Livery Hall in the City soon.'



Herbert Berger: 'We Shall Cook Again'

'When I went skiing on Friday the 13th of March, I should have known better!' remarks Herbert Berger, writing from Hampshire. Those of us who are missing Herbert's fantastic cooking at the Hall (a little reminder on the left) will be interested to hear about his Coronavirus experiences:

'My friend Dave and I were looking forward to a fabulous 10 days skiing in one of my favourite resorts, Les Trois Vallées. Saturday's skiing was brilliant, glorious weather, great snow, lovely lunch, and a good bottle of wine on top of the mountain. I was a very happy and contented chef, Mountain Man Reborn. We got up early to another bright sunny perfect skiing day. However, there were rumours and mumblings in the breakfast room, guests looking lost and speculation about the French government closing the ski slopes, then the news we didn't want to hear; the ski resorts are closed with immediate effect. Corona virus hit us like an avalanche! We were told we had to leave the hotel that morning. Luckily, we had driven, so we, packed up and headed home. Many were not so lucky, depending on planes, buses, and trains; what a nightmare. During the long drive back, we had plenty of time to discuss the looming crisis and listen to the news feed. It became clear that lockdown was going to come to the UK too. We spoke about the immediate effect on the business, the clients, all the parties we had booked, cancellations and our policies

and what about all the team, finances, payroll and how to survive no business for possibly many months to come? What future?

Once home and speaking to my team it was straight forward in a strange and eerie way, we just had to shut shop, no other option. There were many concerns and some stresses from the team about their work, jobs, wages, mortgages, financials, family, and their future. Once furlough was announced there was much relief and I could see some hope for the business. Implementing furlough was not straight forward, being a boss is sometimes a very lonely place. On the bright side, despite all the problems with coping with an unprecedented situation the team is in good form, well and looking forward to returning.

I would like to thank the Master, Andrew McKenzie and the Catering Committee, the Clerk and WCI for their great support, concern, understanding and help they have generously given, it is very much appreciated and will help us to return once it is safe to do so, but I am also aware that the really tough times are still to come.



Now it is interesting and encouraging that in every disaster there is light and opportunity for someone else. Hayley's fishcake business '[Catch](#)' has had an incredible upsurge; demand for her products and the business is looking very good with lots of new customers. Thank you to Tim Mellery Pratt for introducing her to his butcher who now is a big customer. The increase in production has allowed her to buy some great new equipment which in itself will improve the production and save on costs. I am of course helping (slaving away making thousands of fishcakes) in my capacity as a chef.

What else have I been up to? I dyed Hayley's hair purple! Scary, and I even put some dye on our 59kg monster dog Bertie (a cross between a boxer and a cow, or maybe even a Gloucester old spot....) who is really a great big slobbering softy. I played around with not shaving for a week or two, but you'd be pleased to know it's not for me and it had to come off – mind you with my long white hair I'm starting to look like an old hippie! Great memories! It has been nice to catch up with friends and using Zoom. I think we will all value things a little more from now on, look at things differently and hopefully the world will be a better place. Certainly, the lack of pollution is very welcome, and people may change their eating habits for the better and buy local, fresh and healthy stuff. But most of all we are looking forward to returning to Innholders Hall and the people and do what we like and do best.'

And Herbert finishes with the encouraging message 'We shall cook again'. We all very much look forward to enjoying the hospitality and great food of Herbert and his team at the Hall again as soon as possible.

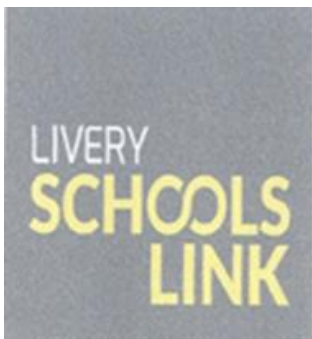
NEWS FROM THE CITY



The Lord Mayor

Click [here](#) for the latest Bulletin from the Rt Hon Lord Mayor Alderman William Russell (24 June 2020)

The Lord Mayor of the City of London and Lady Mayoress are leading The Lord Mayor's Appeal team in the Samarathon, a virtual marathon organised by Samaritans taking place over the whole of July. The challenge involves completing the distance of a marathon (26.2 miles) over July at your own pace and in your own time. To join the Lord Mayor's team, please click [here](#) or if you would prefer to sponsor their efforts, please click [here](#).



The Digital Divide

Livery Schools Link has launched a fundraising campaign to help buy devices and connections for the most disadvantaged students in secondary schools who are suffering device poverty.

Working in partnership with Livery Companies, Guilds and schools, the campaign is not just a response to help during the time of Covid19. The issue of device poverty has existed for a long time and Covid19 has simply shone a light and shown the world the scale of the issue and its' impact on the future education of the disadvantaged and vulnerable. The Livery Schools Link campaign is to help students while long-term permanent solutions are identified and implemented and is intended to work with those groups not already covered by other schemes and the Government's initiatives.

Supported by a number of Livery Companies, the scheme has already been able to provide devices to pupils at schools in Southwark, Lambeth and Camden. In addition to corporate donations, a crowdfunding page setup on Virgin Money Giving where any individual can donate, and you can also find out more about the campaign: <http://virginmoneygiving.com/fund/the-digital-divide>



Virtual Concerts at Drapers' Hall

We hear from Freeman Gillian Croxford, who is now Assistant Clerk to the Drapers', that they are streaming a series of concerts broadcast from Drapers' Hall, with performances from musicians of the London conservatoires.

Members of other livery companies are invited to join them. Tickets are free of charge, although viewers are able to make a donation to the conservatoires' hardship fund. The next concert, by pianist Ke Ma (pictured) will be broadcast

on Thursday 16th July at 7pm on the Drapers' YouTube channel, a flyer with more details can be found by clicking [here](#).



WCMPC Commemorative playing cards

Some Innholders may have worn out their playing cards whiling away the lockdown so why not replace them with one of these special packs? The Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards has announced the imminent arrival of a very special pack of Playing Cards to commemorate the Covid-19 World Pandemic and our medical heroes. These cards have been designed by talented designer Stacey Kelly, with the profits from their sale being donated to the Lord Mayor's Appeal 2020. Packs of the cards will be available for purchase for just £7.50 including postage and packing, If you would like to purchase some, please fill out the form which you can obtain by clicking [here](#) and send it with your cheque to the Clerk of the WCMPC at the address shown on the form.

COVID-19 SYMPTOM STUDY



Those of you with smart phones or tablets may be interested in joining the COVID-19 Symptom Study which uses an app that has been developed by health science company ZOE. Endorsed by the Welsh Government, NHS Wales, the Scottish Government and NHS Scotland, nearly 4 million participants have downloaded the app and are using it to regularly report on their health, making it the largest public science project of its kind anywhere in the world. App data is being analysed in collaboration with King's College London researchers.

The project's website says 'By using this app you're helping the NHS and contributing to advance vital research on COVID-19. By combining your reports with software algorithms, we are able to predict who has the virus and so track COVID infections across the UK and now other countries (see COVID Data). Your daily reporting is also being used to generate new scientific understanding of the very different symptoms the virus causes in different people. We are also studying the way that risks vary between individuals because of their own personal characteristics.' You can access the website to find out more about the project and upload the app by clicking [here](#).

A MESSAGE FROM OUR ALMONER

The Reverend Canon Bill Christianson, our Almoner writes: 'I am pleased to be asked again this month to contribute to the relatively new and most welcome newsletter. During lockdown, there has been little news from the liveryies in general, so to have this newsletter has been a joy. Apart from the obvious signs of lockdown being eased, I'm sure many of us are experiencing our own personal aspects of that, and of course, one assumes we are enjoying those changes in our lives.'

Immediately prior to lockdown I was in the throes of being appointed Honorary Chaplain at the Royal Alfred Seafarers Society Care Home in Banstead. Despite having kept in contact with staff during lockdown it was good to receive a call from the CEO this past week, inviting me to coffee at the Home - a clear sign of things on the move there and in that sector as well. That is particularly good news given the great sadness that has affected and engulfed so many with their loved ones at such a vulnerable time in their life.' For those who need some extra support, Bill adds 'Despite the positive changes these are, as we know, extremely difficult times for so many, if you wish get in touch for a 'natter' at any time, my mobile number is 07792 924488 and my email is: bill.christianson@btinternet.com.'

FAREWELL AND KEEP WELL

If you know of someone who would like to read this newsletter but cannot access the digital version, please let us know and we will arrange to send a printed version to them. We look forward to welcoming you back to the Hall with the Innholders' usual hospitality as soon as possible. In the meantime, don't forget to stay in touch, and do keep safe and well.

Charles Henty, Clerk

Rebecca Tomlin, Assistant Clerk



Calculating one metre spacing in Innholders' Hall