



# INNOLDERS' COVID 19 NEWSLETTER

## ISSUE 6

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](mailto:Rebecca.Tomlin@innholders.co.uk) with your Covid-19 related news and stories for the next issue.

## FROM THE MASTER

Dear Innholders,

I think the photograph of me on the left sums up the year so far. It must be the only picture taken of an attempt to run a Court meeting while zooming at the same time. Sadly, not too successful, despite our Clerk doing his best, and battling with insufficient equipment. However, a good lesson and we have a much better knowledge how to proceed, I am sure that we have all learned lessons during lockdown. Now, as I write, we are all in a second lockdown, but hoping it will end in early December. As a result, we expect no events right through to March, but we are all waiting to see how the virus control succeeds and will act accordingly.

As you can read below, we have work proposed for the Hall, on which wear, tear and time have all taken their toll. The plan is to do some work while we cannot hold events in the Hall in order to minimise disturbance yet be ready to start events as soon as circumstances permit.

We continue to support our charities as you can read in this newsletter. In particular our thanks to those Innholders who freely give their own time to run our Patronage and Charity committees, not to forget all our other committees, also run by volunteers, who help with all aspects of a smooth-running Livery company.

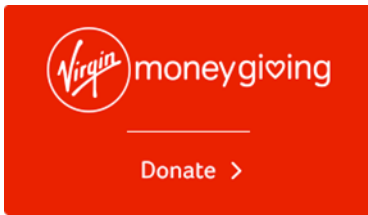
I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter, with all the interesting articles, and I hope you are all keeping well clear of Covid-19.

With best wishes

Keith



## INNOLDERS' COVID-19 EMERGENCY APPEAL



We are grateful for the generous contributions that many of you have made to the Emergency Appeal. It is now clear that people who are in a much worse position than many of us need to make greater and very deserving calls on our limited funds. Many members of the Company already support the Innholders' Charitable Foundation very generously by direct regular financial contributions (standing orders). If you do not yet make a regular financial contribution, and are in a position to do so, please consider setting up a regular donation so that we can continue to support those most in need. Contact the Assistant Clerk [Rebecca.tomlin@innholders.co.uk](mailto:Rebecca.tomlin@innholders.co.uk) for a standing order form and Gift Aid declaration which will take only a few minutes to complete. Should you find you have something to spare for a one-off donation, the Emergency Appeal remains open. Click [here](#) to donate.

## DOWGATE CHALLENGE 2020



*Chris Watson (right) seeking to save par on the 5th*

From the depths of another lockdown it's hard to think that just a couple of weeks ago we were able to enjoy this year's Dowgate Challenge. With the Dyers unable to field a team it came down to a battle between the Skinners, Tallow Chandlers, Fan Makers, Turners, Fuellers and the Innholders. Could we recapture the glory from 12 years ago when we won?

Joining your reporter in the effort were Robert Seabrook, Chris Watson, Nick Luddington and Steve Jewell. Teams were restricted to five to bring the total field within the 30 permitted with additional rules such as those coming from tier 3 should only eat in the marquee whilst tier 2 residents could be in the dining room! Social distancing on the course was not an issue and, on occasions, a group of three nominally playing together could be found deep in the abundant heather or even on different fairways. Heavy overnight rain made the course play longer than usual and the occasional squall didn't help although, by and large, the weather was kind.

The result? We finished in silver medal position to the Tallow Chandlers. A fine effort and much kudos to the organiser, James Loch, for ensuring it happened at all and to the team at Worplesdon Golf Club for running a very efficient day on and off on the course. First and foremost, the day is one to enjoy the company of our livery neighbours and we are all grateful to the Court for its continued support of the event which is well cemented in the calendar.

With any luck, and suitably vaccinated, we'll be back next year for another effort.

Charles Attlee

*Thank you to the participants who have made a donation to the Innholders' Covid-19 Emergency Appeal.*

## A VIRTUAL LONDON MARATHON

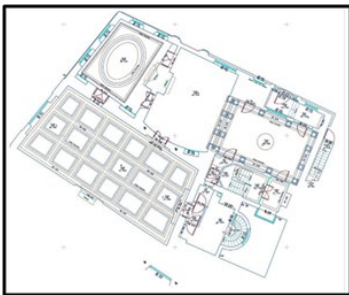


On a rainy day in October Liveryman Jamie Brewer completed the ‘virtual’ London Marathon, running the 26.2 miles near his home in lockdown conditions to raise money for the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice. ‘The virtual marathon was still an amazing experience, even though we missed the crowds and usual London route,’ says Jamie. ‘I did receive the kindness of strangers from one lady who stopped to offer water and a packet of mentos, which I thought was wonderful. I also had lots of congratulations and hoots from passing cars.’

Jamie thanked members of the Company who supported his fund-raising. As he has been given the chance to run again next year in London, he will be keeping the charity page open. You can contribute [here](#).

## NEWS FROM INNOLDERS’ HALL

We are very sorry that the annual Beckford Lunch for widows of liverymen, and apprentices will not be held this year. Similarly, with regret, the December Freemens’ Dinner has been cancelled. We look forward to resuming both festive traditions in December 2021.



### From the Clerk

We had all hoped that we’d have a successful re-opening, with Herbert’s Dining Club stealing a march on other Halls in the City. Sadly that lasted but a few seconds before the current lockdown came into force and all the hard work putting us back on the stage went back into the cupboard. I felt very sorry for John and definitely shared his frustrations, about which you can read more below. Nevertheless, we’ve made progress on some things as we dig rather deeper into the structure of the Hall with the new Keeper of the Hall Fabric Jason Essenhigh and a clutch of engineers, surveyors and Beadle closely in tow. We aim to get a lot of the more safety focused works done before the Hall swings back into full on action but, as in all things, we need to cut our cloth to what we can afford. This project will probably take around 5 years to complete all told, but as we all know Herbert’s success has drawn in the crowds, so the use of the Hall and consequent wear and tear needs to be addressed. This is in addition to the unexpected leaks which we initially thought was John fitting a new bathroom such was the torrent which came down the walls. Fortunately, quick action and clever repairs seems to have done the trick for now anyway.

We are starting work with our new Auditors following a successful tender exercise in August and the team Zoom chats continue every Friday with the home team. I am looking into better conference type facilities for the Hall as it looks very likely the mix of in-person and remote presence on-line seems to be the way of the future and we are hoping to have this facility up and running shortly. The Blue Book nears publication

as does the Company Review and my thanks to the Assistant Clerk for her perseverance and skill in achieving this – it's a 2-year issue, so definitely a good Christmas read.

Aside from that work, we are still receiving very many heartfelt pleas from a variety of charities during this terribly difficult time for so many. The Court approved over £130,000 worth of grants at its last meeting alone and we plan to deliver all of our ambitious commitments over the coming year. It is something to be very proud of indeed and is so appreciated by those who need it. We have three main aims of the Company; to look after the hall and fabric for generations to come, to support our charitable giving and to foster our friendship through the Livery. Despite the challenges of Covid, we never lose sight of them. You should see the feedback from the charities we've helped – truly very moving indeed. Thank you for your support and feedback on these newsletters which we hope you enjoy.

Bye for now and keep safe.

Charles Henty

*Members of the Company will shortly receive a digital copy of the Blue Book. If you would like a paper version, please contact the Assistant Clerk who will be able to supply a copy.*



### From the Beadle: Frustrated of Innholders' Hall!

In Stephen Coote's *The Innholders: History of the Worshipful Company of Innholders* (2002, p.111) you will find an extract from Daniel Defoe's *A Journal of the Plague Year* that illustrates the horrors faced daily by London's innkeepers in 1665, just before the Great Fire and the re-building of our Hall. 'If the human suffering was ghastly, the effect on trade was disastrous. The City

became a waste land. Grass grew in the once busy streets where there was hardly a cart or a coach to be seen, save for a few country wagons that brought meagre but necessary supplies of beans and peas, hay and straw, to sustain the lives of men and beasts.' The consequences for the City's inns were particularly severe since, far from welcoming an influx of visitors, they watched an exodus fleeing the capital as fast as it could. The summer plague in the capital was common and indeed most of the ancient Livery Companies, as we do, install their Masters in the autumn for good reason. If, post plague season, you are elected and still alive you're in for the ensuing year - or two, as in our current Master's case!

Over a hundred years on from the last major pandemic, the Spanish Flu which followed the Great War, COVID-19 has rocked our modern society to the core. Nowhere is that more evident than here in the City. However, having come out of Lockdown One, recovery was possible and from the start of July work began at the Hall to get us back to something that resembled normality.

From July until October, re-opening the Hall had three major objectives: -

1. Ensure that all maintenance is completed, and any defects are rectified.

2. Oversee a full structural survey of the building.
3. Implement all Government guidelines to ensure the Hall is COVID Safe.

So, on the 6th October 2020, the day of the Installation, we had Herbert and his team back in the kitchen, Elena buzzing around the place as usual and Cedric and Paul running the front of house. All was perfectly socially distanced and in tables of six. Gowns re-appeared from where they had lain dormant in the wardrobe for over six months. The Upper Court Room was back in use for a zoomed Court Meeting and Herbert's food once more graced the Great Hall, supported by Innholders' magnificent wines. All safe, all distanced, small scale but making the first steps back to recovery.

Herbert's team returned from furlough at very short notice, and it was never going to be easy to re-open commercially as the 'Dining Club' experience from a standing start. However, Elena quickly started to work her magic and after a slow first week, week two looked promising. On Thursday of the second week, we hit all our targets and more, and with healthy bookings for November, it was looking hopeful for the new dining venture. Then on that very same day came the announcement that London was moving to Tier 2. Having achieved everything that we could hope to within all the constraints, which we quite rightly implemented, we had to shut up shop once more.

The team at the Hall had a glimpse of what we used to call 'normal' and what we could have done under the new restrictions: a busy Hall, seeing our regular members and clients, people laughing, enjoying the food, the wine, the Hall, and socialising (distanced of course). Probably because of what we achieved in such a short time, it is even more disappointing and frustrating that as quickly as we opened, we had to close once again!

Again, the Hall has fallen silent and all the silver and pictures are secured once more in the safe. As I have said before, 'a Livery Hall without people is just a Hall'. Still, on a positive note, we proved all our systems and delivered a Covid Safe environment, and we are poised for a rapid return as soon as it is safe to do so.

John Cash

*The image shows The Master, Jason Essenhigh, and friends enjoying a socially distanced lunch at the 'Dining Club'.*



#### From the Almoner:

As I write this during the 2nd lockdown, with the present and incessant conversation surrounding Christmas, I have been reflecting on this period which, for many, feels very different from the first; apparently not quite as severe, but with hardship for many being so much more acute than the first-time round. During this second lockdown I wonder why I have found myself more anxious and less positive than during the last one. During the first, I like others, took the opportunity to do things that had been set aside due to daily "busyness". When however, a second

lockdown was announced, there was a collective sigh of disappointment and resignation to further tough times ahead. It has, I believe, been a greater test of resilience, and as reported, there is increased loneliness along with increased difficulty and hardship.

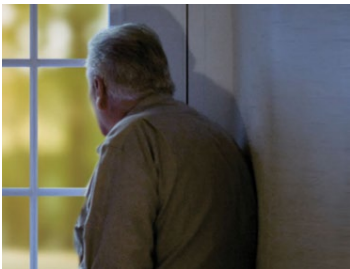
It seems too that alongside this there is either a loss in confidence and more anxiety with fewer seeking help where and when needed - quieter A&E's reported in the press, fewer calls to doctors, visits to dentists, and other medical services. In the meantime, we hear of increased reliance on food banks, while there has been a dramatic fall in charitable donations when these are so sorely needed.

We are also hearing at this time from the media how hard people find it to ask for help. Throughout my ministry and in my experience, I have found that, for various reasons, people do seem to find it incredibly difficult to ask for help. Because of that, I have always tried in my ministry to create a climate where those in need would feel able and enabled to seek assistance when needed. When I think of the Liveries in this regard, I am reminded that the climate of care and availability should prevail, not only in these desperate times, but always. It is good to remember this and to be thankful that this is the case within our Company of Innholders, especially now.

Bill Christianson

*The Almoner is available to members of the Company on 07792924488*

## NEWS ABOUT OUR CHARITIES



### Age UK Telephone Friendship

Earlier in the year the Innholders Covid-19 Emergency Appeal made a donation to Age UK. They have recently sent us an update on how that donation has been used: 'Before the start of the pandemic, we knew that 1.4 million older people often felt lonely. However, with lockdown restrictions in place, so many older people found themselves feeling isolated and cut off from the world. As a result, we saw a 290% increase in demand for our award-winning telephone friendship services at the start of the pandemic.' Our funding has helped Age UK's telephone friendship to make calls to older people before they were matched with a longer-term volunteer. These short calls were sometimes the only social contact that the older person had all week – but just hearing a voice and having someone to talk to made a huge difference. 'Our team provides some welcome relief and reassurance for people who are faced with incredibly challenging situations during the pandemic.'

You can reach the Age UK Advice Line on **0800 678 1602** or sign up for the friendship calls through their website by clicking [here](#). In Issue 2 of this newsletter, Past Master Julia Sibley wrote about telephone volunteering for Hospitality Action's Golden Friends scheme, and you can find out more about becoming a member of this scheme for retired hospitality workers by clicking [here](#) to go to their website.

The Innholders also support The Silverline, which is a free confidential helpline providing information, friendship and advice to older people, open 24 hours a day, every day of the year. You can call the Silverline on **0800 470 8090**.



### Jamie's Farm

Jamie Fielden of Jamie's Farm writes that 'the sudden announcement of the second national lockdown at the end of October raised concerns and questions as we wondered what it might mean for our programme. Would we have to close our farms again as happened back in March? We were hugely relieved that that wasn't the case: government guidance allowing organisations delivering therapeutic organisations to operate means we can

continue delivering our day visit programmes. In fact, last week all our farms were running visits for the first time since March and we're busy right up to Christmas. All the feedback we're getting is suggesting these visits are more valuable than ever, given the extra challenges children are facing right now. We're delighted to be fully operational again and bringing some much-needed joy, space for reflection and support to vulnerable children at this time.'

Jamie's Farm had a double celebration in October as Lead Therapist and co-founder of Jamie's Farm, (and Jamie's mother!) Tish Feilden's book was published and Jamie won a national farming award. Tish's book, *Creating Change for Vulnerable Teens: Lessons from a Therapeutic Farm Making a Difference to the Lives of Young People* captures some of the experiences of the last ten years and seeks to share the learning behind the Jamie's Farm methodology. Further details can be found [here](#). Jamie was delighted to win this year's National Farming Award for an Outstanding Contribution to British Agriculture about which you can read more [here](#). Jamie writes 'We're both so pleased that the charity's work has been highlighted so positively through these two very different pieces of news.'



### Livery Schools Link Digital Divide Campaign

Over the summer we made a contribution from the Emergency Appeal fund to the [LSL Digital Divide Campaign](#) to help buy devices and connections for disadvantaged students in schools who have limited or no possibility of working online. The digital divide has been around for a long time and the Covid-19 crisis has highlighted the problem with many students from disadvantaged backgrounds being unable to access online schooling. The

LSL recently advised us that the campaign has attracted over £51000 in donations from 20 Livery Companies and 18 individuals and this has enabled it to support 15 schools to help 267 of their students who cannot get online at present.

## SUPPORT FOR MEMBERS OF THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY



[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.
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 they are receiving all the benefits they are entitled to at this difficult time.
3. The Charity offers grants to people who have been in the licensed trade for 5 years or more.

### Hospitality Action

[Hospitality Action](#) was established in 1837 and has since offered vital assistance to all who work or have worked within hospitality in the UK. It 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**.



The [Drinks Trust](#), formerly the Benevolent, has been supporting the drinks industry since 1886 and its helpline provides specialist mental health support and advice. To speak to one of its advisers, please call **0800 915 4610**.

The Drinks Trust is now also offering emergency End of Furlough grants to those who work in the drinks and hospitality industry. Click [here](#) for more details.

## THE MASTER INNHOLDERS



Congratulations to Assistant David Morgan-Hewitt FIH MI. It was announced at the Master Innholders' AGM on 10 September that he has taken over the reins from Danny Pecorelli FIH MI.

Following his time studying at Durham University, David moved to London to begin his hospitality career, where he worked with the likes of Robin Shepherd before joining The Goring in 1989 as restaurant manager. David was quickly promoted through the ranks to the position of general manager by the late George Goring before being appointed managing director in 2006.

David was one of the first recipients of the Innholders Scholarship and has been recognised with esteemed accolades throughout his career, such as Top General Manager worldwide by Luxury Travel Advisor, Manager of the Year 2010 at the Catey Awards and Outstanding Contribution Award 2017 at the Hotel Catey Awards. He was made a Liveryman of the Company in 2007 and joined the Court in 2018.

The following have been admitted to the Master Innholders in 2020 and we at the Innholders' Company hope to meet them at the Hall soon:

- |                               |                 |                       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| • Andrew Brown FIH MI         | General Manager | Fairmont Windsor Park |
| • Hilary Cooke FIH MI         | Director        | Merlin Consultancy    |
| • Ian Edwards FIH MI          | Chief Executive | The Celtic Collection |
| • Andy Roger FIH MI           | Resort Director | Cameron House Hotel   |
| • Rohaise Rose-Bristow FIH MI | Owner           | The Torridon          |
| • Tom Waldron-Lynch FIH MI    | General Manager | De Vere Orchard Hotel |
| • Knut Wylde FIH MI           | General Manager | The Berkeley          |

## CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS



### Gifts and deliveries from The Clink Charity

With its restaurants all closed and the majority of the staff on furlough, the Clink Charity is relying on its retail outlets to raise income to continue supporting its work to reduce re-offending which we have featured in previous issues. You can buy cookbooks, mugs, aprons and Christmas cards at [the Clink Charity shop](#), which also features tea towels (pictured), perfect for that post-

Christmas lunch washing up session! Gift vouchers are also available.

And if you have had enough of cooking for yourself in lockdown, [Clink@Home](#) can deliver freshly prepared and chilled meals for you to heat up at home if you live within a (now extended) 10 mile radius of HMP Brixton. This service allows the Clink Charity to continue to train their students working towards their City and Guilds NVQ's in hospitality.



### Merchant Taylors' Luxury Christmas Hampers & Gift Boxes

With events being cancelled, the brigade of chefs at Merchant Taylors' Hall have turned their talented hands to Taylor make preserves, and scrumptious Christmas treats. With 700 years' of experience, they aim to help you spread a little Christmas cheer with their luxury Christmas Hampers and Gift Boxes.

'Wines have been handpicked by our wine merchants, deli produce sourced from the best of British suppliers, artisan coffee, boutique teas and the ubiquitous homemade Christmas Pudding are all included' say the Merchant Taylors. There are six different hampers and gift boxes to choose from, and you can find more information on the [Merchant Taylors' website](#)



## The Worshipful Company of Fan Makers Commemorative Fan

A special 2020 Commemorative Fan designed by Stewart Parvin, HM the Queen's couturier, is now for sale with all profits going to the Lord Mayor's Appeal. Stewart has been inspired by themes of resilience, hope and a brighter future. There is a movement from darkness to light with a rainbow of promise and blue sky of hope arising from the dogged determination of the key workers throughout the pandemic. The design includes flowers of London Pride, the first plant to appear on the rubble of the Blitz bombsites. The fan leaves are made of silk woven in Suffolk. You can find more details by following this link to the [Fan Makers' website](#).

## NEWS FROM THE CITY AND THE LIVERY



### Bulletin from The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor

Please click here to read the latest Bulletin for the Livery from the Rt Hon the Lord Mayor Alderman William Russell.



Lord Mayor's  
Bulletin November 2

*The Lord Mayor signs his Statutory Declaration for a second term of office, in place of the usual Silent Ceremony.*



### London Recharged

The City of London Corporation has recently released *London Recharged* which details the Corporation's plans for recovery, following Covid-19, and its long-term competitiveness. You can read the report by following this [link](#).



### Framework Knitters 'Knit for Community' Charity Blanket Auction 9 – 22 November 2020

In an earlier issue we featured the 'Knit for Community' initiative began as a result of lockdown earlier this year. We hear from the Framework Knitters that 'the response from over 400 volunteers across the UK has been fantastic, including residents of our Almshouses in Leicester and members or friends of 32 Livery Companies. Over 12,000 squares have been donated and to date over 130 blankets and 30 lap blankets have been completed. Charities in Leicester, Nottingham, Calderdale, Watford and London will benefit from this project and we have already presented 55 blankets to three of our charities.'

From 9th until 22nd November the Framework Knitters are holding a Charity Blanket Auction and you may support them by bidding for a blanket via <https://www.lizgreen.co.uk/blanket-auction>. For any queries please contact Liz directly: [liz@lizgreen.co.uk](mailto:liz@lizgreen.co.uk).



### Online Inter-Livery Bridge

A message from Jeremy Willans, Chair, Inter-Livery Bridge Committee:

‘Many thanks to all those who took part in our first ever Online ILB last month, and for all of the positive feedback. Based on all of your comments, we plan to host an Inter-Livery event at least once per quarter, and wanted to let you know the dates well in advance.

**Monday 7 December:** All on-line events will be Duplicate Pairs, starting at 2.15pm, but we may introduce some variations such as Swiss Pairs, and so please feedback to us your preferences. An online booking form will be sent round for each event nearer the time - please look out for the invitation for October 12th. This will also be visible on the home page of the Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards website.

### 39th Annual Inter-Livery Bridge, Drapers’ Hall, 1 March 2021

Our annual event is currently booked for the normal bridge evening and dinner, and we are considering how this may be organised. If the event has to be cancelled or postponed, we will definitely replace it with an Online Inter-Livery Pairs competition on that evening.

We look forward to your participation in these events. As with the first Online Inter-Livery Pairs competition last month, all online events are open to any member of any Livery Company and, in order to make the event more inclusive during the pandemic, we are continuing to relax the normal ILB rule that your Partner must also be a Livery Company member. Accordingly, you are most welcome to join us and play with any partner of your choosing.’



### Carols for the City 8 December 2020

As Livery Companies and businesses will not be able to hold their traditional Christmas Carol Services in 2020, the Lord Mayor of the City of London, Alderman William Russell, invites you to a very special Carol Service, organised by The Lord Mayor’s Appeal, The Worshipful Company of Information Technologists and the VOCES8 Foundation, to be held at 5:30pm Tuesday 8 December 2020.

This unique carol service will include traditional readings by a host of very distinguished readers (including HRH Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex KG KCVO) and well-known carols which you can sing along with at home. The singing will be led by VOCES8 who, along with Apollo5 and the children of a local school, will also perform some wonderful choral pieces. The live-streamed service is for the whole City and as the event is online, there is no limit to the number of people who can attend. All donations and the net proceeds of the tickets will be shared by The Lord Mayor’s Appeal, The VOCES8 Foundation, The Worshipful Company of Information Technologists’ Charity and The Friends of the City Churches. Information about how to buy a ticket and make a donation can be found at [carolsforthecity.org](https://carolsforthecity.org)



### United Guilds Service and Lunch 2021

We are advised that the United Guilds Service scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021 has been cancelled, a key factor being the lead time required for organising an event on this scale against the high potential for restrictions on gatherings and movement remaining for some months yet.

Consequently, there will be no associated lunch planned at Innholders' Hall.



### A date for your diary: Beckett Pageant 18-19 June 2021

The Becket Pageant for London will take place on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June in Guildhall Yard with the Lord Mayor as Patron and with the active support of the Corporation.

The event will consist of four performances of a new piece of musical theatre celebrating the life of Thomas Becket; a Livery Crafts Fair which will showcase the work of Livery Companies today; and medieval themed food and drink and street entertainment.

The pageant will bring together the civic City, the commercial City, the families and residents of the City and the local schools through an outreach programme. The organisers hope this will be a coming together of all the communities of the City of London as a positive antidote to the distress and dislocation brought about by Covid-19.

## FAREWELL AND KEEP WELL

We hope that you have enjoyed reading this newsletter. Do get in touch if you have any news to share, and until we meet again do keep safe and well,

With warm wishes,

Charles Henty, Clerk

Rebecca Tomlin, Assistant Clerk