



INNOLDERS' COVID 19 NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4

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

FROM THE MASTER

Dear Innholders,

Having left the hall Mid-March, and like all us not knowing quite what was going to happen, it was most pleasing to return briefly at the end of July. London City was very quiet, hardly any traffic, and rush hour very minimal, almost eerie! Our Beadle John was able to show me round all the preparations for when we are at long last able to start some events, although they will be much smaller, and rather different than normal. John also very kindly catered for me in the evening. During this lockdown, we are doing some much-needed maintenance and repair work on the Hall, as well as a survey of the whole property. Currently it seems that when we do start events they will be limited to a maximum of 30 people only, so there is much discussion over how we will then proceed to try to eventually get some normality.

Thanks again to everyone who has taken the time to send us articles and updates. It's most pleasing to see all of the work that the charities have been able to do, and further news of those Innholders who have been helping out during this crisis.

I'm really hoping for us all that there is now a light at the end of the tunnel, that we may soon have the beginnings of the return though to what now seems to be called a "new normal".

With my best wishes to everyone.

Keith Harrison

The now ubiquitous hand sanitiser features several times in this Issue. This 'Sweet Dram' hand sanitiser was made by Freeman Harry Mulligan, read more about his Covid project below.



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

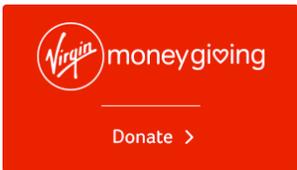
If you are, we want to hear about it. Please send news of any volunteering, fund-raising or other Covid-19 related projects to the Assistant Clerk, rebecca.tomlin@innholders.co.uk.

INNOLDERS' COVID-19 EMERGENCY APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who has donated so generously to the Innholders Covid-19 Emergency Appeal, which had reached the terrific total of £8,750 by 1 August 2020 (including Gift Aid).



£1,400 has now been given from the Appeal Fund to the Livery Schools Link Digital Divide Campaign, which featured in Issue 3 of this Newsletter. Along with those of other Livery Companies, Guilds and Livery Associations, our donation has been used to allocate grants to fourteen schools to buy devices and/or connections for their disadvantaged students. The devices will be provided with the Livery Schools Link sticker on them to ensure ongoing awareness of the Livery, and school engagement and support.



The Emergency Appeal remains open and if you would like to make a contribution please click on the button on the left or go to [Virgin Money Giving](#) and searching for the Innholders' Covid-19 Emergency Appeal. All donations received will be distributed to Covid-19 related causes.

NEWS FROM INNOLDERS' HALL

From the Clerk: Taking things in our stride

The Clerk's Office gives the impression of taking everything in its stride, and since March we've managed with lots of hard work to keep pretty much on top of things. As I said in a previous newsletter, having made improvements to our equipment late last year, we tested our systems in January. Initially this was to improve our ability to work more flexibly from home from time to time, but also, and on a more serious note, as disaster planning in case the Hall should be unavailable for use through fire, terrorism etc. That planning had the obvious benefit that when the time came with Covid we were able to function quickly and effectively wherever Rebecca and I, and indeed at times John, were at any one time.

John spent the early days of lockdown monitoring the new and improved CCTV system which gave him real-time remote access with nearly complete visibility of the Hall. We could also "see" if anyone was in the Hall but out of sight by remotely accessing our Wifi system which picks up the presence of any mobile

signal within the Hall. This was very useful in keeping tabs on the Beadle who often said he was busy working.....actually he was and I could see him moving around the Hall and which device he was using, which did spook him at first, as it would anybody. These improvements were welcomed by our insurers as you can imagine.

The next challenge was how to continue with committee business and we soon got to grips with the ubiquitous Zoom which we now use 3-4 times a week. The best weekly meeting is on Friday at 10 o'clock with the Master, Beadle, Assistant Clerk and Clerk where we each sum up what has happened and what's next and this is now very much the norm. I have to say there is some competition on gardening matters between the Clerk and the Beadle. What you may not know is that there are 11 committees and about 40 meetings across the year, including Court meetings of course, all of which have to be kept on the road. It did take a while not to rely on having the paper files to hand, but it was all made considerably easier with Office 365 and SharePoint.

As with all businesses, the finance function is crucial and last year we improved our book-keeping and banking infrastructure, which had been causing us some issues. The finance systems have worked very efficiently remotely which has kept our creditors and banks very happy indeed. As you can imagine, this becomes a very serious issue when getting out payments to those charities to which we make grants and I think what they have said in return rather says it all. Rebecca has taken the opportunity presented by having fewer Company events to organise to take on fully the financial record-keeping and budgeting previously carried out by our now retired Treasurer Tony Lorkin. We have also completed the audited accounts and are tendering for new auditors, just to pass the time. Rebecca has of course also been compiling this Newsletter which we hope is keeping you entertained and informed as the crisis has rolled on.

In terms of Patronage and Charity, you will have seen from the many excellent articles in previous newsletters that the activity has increased exponentially and it has been quite an effort keeping on top of the requests whilst re-casting budgets on a pretty regular basis. We have worked very hard to keep in touch with all our charities and to give them whatever support we can, while also making sure that the Innholders' charitable funding is put to the best use it can be during the crisis. Setting budgets in the current circumstances, especially with dividends fluctuating, is a bit like Bernie the Bolt on the Golden Shot – now there's a trip down memory lane for some of you.

We're tremendously excited about the prospect of opening on 1st September

As lockdown starts to lift, we are taking the opportunity to have a comprehensive mechanical and electrical survey of the Hall conducted. This is not the cosmetic stuff but very much a "what lies beneath?" type survey (hopefully not so far beneath that we unearth the latrines which were here many years ago!) Court Assistant Jason Essenhigh has been an exceptional lead in this project, and it is all systems go after a very

thorough tender process. This is hugely important as we need to know the true state of the Hall to formulate a preventative/corrective maintenance plan based on professional expertise and this is now already well underway. Under John's beady eye we are arranging the usual summer maintenance for the Hall and starting to fit some PPE to ensure the safety of our staff and visitors. Some decorating works will be completed including the west side elevation overlooking the park. If you see scaffolding, that's why it's there.

We're tremendously excited about the prospect of opening on 1st September and look forward to being able to say and very warm welcome back in due course.



So whilst I may have given the impression of only gardening the entire time, I thought you ought to know how busy Rebecca and John have been on my behalf, for which I am very happy to take the credit. I have though only broken one laptop but quite a few fingernails. And here is one of the dinner plate Dahlias I prepared earlier....

Pip pip!

Charles



[From the Beadle: Establishing the New Normal](#)

The picture on the left shows our Beadle John Cash at the wide-open door of Innholders' Hall, ready to welcome people back again. John writes 'As the weeks have progressed here at the Hall, we are now turning our attention to re-opening and what the new normal will be with social distancing. So, what might you expect the first time you step back into the Hall? Hopefully, I can paint a picture so you will have very few surprises. While I might be the man in the Hall now, it has been very much a collective Zoom/email/phone effort with the Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Assistant Jason Essenhigh, Herbert, Elena and Sylvain to reach this point. We have even allowed the Master to have an opinion on the

way ahead and used him to test the system, but more of that later.

Firstly, you may be asked to time your arrival quite precisely to avoid overloading the reception area, or to remain outside to allow your fellow guests in front of you to make their way in. As always you will be greeted by a friendly smile, but that will be from behind a screen by someone wearing PPE, face mask and gloves. You will probably have your temperature taken, while being politely asked to use the sanitiser dispenser by the front door. As usual you will collect your menu from the Assistant Clerk who will be behind a screen on the reception desk. Coat racks will probably be situated in the Reception Area/Old Court Room and after leaving your belongings there, you will be asked to make your way to your place at

the table, remaining socially distanced as indicated by the one-meter distance tapes on the floor in reception. You will find your reception drink awaiting you at your table setting.

The capacity of the Great Hall has been reduced from 87 to 30 for your comfort and safety and you will find that you are sitting diagonally across from your fellow guests, with plenty of space around you should you wish to leave the table at any time. All the Ladies and Gents facilities will be open and will be regularly sanitised throughout the event.

This might all appear somewhat discomfoting on paper, but please be assured only last week we tested the system. Little did I think in March that the first meal back in the Hall after lockdown would not only be served, but cooked, by me. Having the Master, Rebecca and Jason in the Hall at the same time was too good an opportunity to miss. So, we all enjoyed a very comfortable, socially distanced lunch. While Herbert's position was never seriously under threat from my chicken salad the service was good, as you might expect from a Beadle who was in a former life the Senior Steward in the Royal Navy.

Little did I think in March that the first meal back in the Hall after lockdown would not only be served, but cooked, by me.

So, it is going to be different at first, however Innholders' Hall radiates warmth and fellowship and that is still here in abundance. The food remains the best of any Livery Hall in the City and the wines, thanks to PM Pope, are still amazing, so we are looking forward to seeing you back. On the plus side, until further notice, the Beadle will be making all his announcements "quietly" from behind his mask! All these measures are in place to build confidence and for your comfort and safety as we return to doing what Innholders' do best.

PS I may have announced my last ever "Loving Cup" unless in the future we pass them around full of hand sanitiser!



Thank you to John who has been working very hard to make sure that we all feel welcomed back to the Hall when we can finally do that, despite all the new requirements. On the left you can see the first post lockdown lunch being enjoyed by the Beadle, the Master, Court Assistant Jason Essenhigh and the Assistant Clerk.

PUTTING INNOLDERS' SKILLS TO GOOD USE



We were delighted to hear from Harry Mulligan, one of our younger Freemen, about how he has been applying his skills and knowledge to produce urgently needed hand sanitiser. Harry writes: 'Having recently graduated from studying Brewing and Distilling at Heriot Watt in Edinburgh, I was unable to return home to help my family and keen to help during this pandemic in any way I could. I was contacted by Sweetdram distillery, who were asking for help making hand sanitiser for NHS frontline staff and care workers.'

It was a pleasure to be a part of and great to see the drinks industry stepping up to the crisis in hand

In conjunction with close neighbours Edinburgh Beer Factory, we were able to produce, bottle and distribute 3,500L of sanitiser, the cost of which was donated by the local community. Having reached its £10,000 target, and with sanitiser production in line with demand, the project has now finished, but it was a pleasure to be a part of and great to see the drinks industry stepping up to the crisis in hand.'

Freeman Tom Lister has also been in touch to say that he has been volunteering by helping to open up the kitchens at The Blacklock to cook over 500 shepherds pies to support a variety of homeless charities and food banks including Spitalfields Crypt Trust in Shoreditch and St Martin in the Fields.

Well done to Harry and Tom, what a great way to use your food and drink skills to help others.

If you have news to share about Covid-19 related projects, do get in touch.

NEWS FROM OUR CHARITIES



The Big Issue Foundation

In the early days of the pandemic, the Charity Committee gave an emergency grant to the Big Issue Foundation. We were pleased to receive a recent update from Sam Wakeford at the Big Issue about how they have been responding to the pandemic.

'Since all Big Issue offices were forced to close on the 23rd March', Sam writes, 'our collective frontline team have to date established contact with 1,665 vendors (70-75% of the total vendor population) UK wide and distributed £500,975 in the form of food/supermarket vouchers and hardship payments to provide emergency relief to vendors. Demand for health, housing and financial support has been unremitting and so - in response - our teams have switched to an exclusively remote service delivery model which is ensuring vendors continue to receive expert financial and emotional support in response to any

health, housing and/or any other support needs they are encountering as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Types of interventions have included:

- Gary has long standing mental health needs which are being exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. His phone has not been working – currently Gary’s only connection to the outside world – so our Service Broker arranged for delivery of a new phone. Gary also has no means of cooking for himself and so had been wholly reliant on food parcels. An oven has now been ordered – funded by the Vendor Support Fund – which will enable Gary to prepare his own meals.
- Nicolas has sold The Big Issue for over five years and depends on his sales as his sole income. He is not entitled to any benefits so is struggling to keep up with his bills during lockdown. Financial support from the Vendor Support Fund will ensure Nicolas is able to pay his gas and electricity for the next four weeks.

If it wasn't for your calls every day, I simply wouldn't be coping

- Kennington based Paul found himself in dire straits having been burgled during lockdown. With his wallet and money tin stolen, we supported Paul to access the Vendor Support Fund to buy food and other basic essentials. “I’ve recently come off the streets just as Covid hit. I’ve been very overwhelmed and feeling unable to cope i.e. paying bills electric, doing food shopping, being by myself. This is my first flat ever. I was scared I won’t lie to you, I’m adjusting to what the public call a normal life. If it wasn’t for your calls every day, I simply wouldn’t be coping. The Big Issue means the world and I just can’t wait to get back out there to my customers and you lot, know what I mean girl?”



Post Lockdown Developments

Sam has also given us a detailed report (which will go to the relevant committees) about how the Big Issue is developing its services as the lockdown is easing. As a service traditionally built around face to face engagement with vendors the Covid-19 pandemic has challenged the charity to engage and effectively respond to their needs in new ways. At the beginning of crisis, they created a central Vendor Support Fund which is being used to provide urgent financial relief to vendors (utilities, rent, arrears) following lockdown. It will also provide starter packs (10 complementary magazines, face visors, PPE), and contingency provision (e.g. digital skills training, contactless card readers) that will keep vendors safe and assist them adjust to a ‘new normal’ as they begin to return to the streets from the 6th July.

Sam concludes with the following message from John Bird, founder of the Big Issue: ‘Please look out for your local vendor and buy a copy of the magazine. You may have to look twice, as they are coming back with a slightly new look; kitted out in full PPE and carrying contactless card readers to ensure they and their customers’ safety.’ The image shows Jane, who sells the Big Issue at Wimbledon Station, with her dog Caz.



Samaritans City Hub

Inholders will recall that the Patronage committee was very pleased to award a substantial grant to the Samaritans in 2019 for their new venture, the City Hub.

Besides helping an incredibly worthy cause, we also plan to encourage members of the Livery to engage as volunteers and thereby get involved with the charity - a win/win situation we believe. Following a recent Zoom catch up meeting, Julia Sibley kindly

provided this summary of the latest news from Samaritans:

‘Coronavirus is impacting all of our lives. There is no doubt that these uncertain and challenging times will affect our mental health and wellbeing. Samaritans is needed now more than ever. We have been working tirelessly to minimise disruption to our helpline and continue to still be here for anyone who needs us, 24 hours a day. We are currently providing emotional support over 6,000 times a day.

What Samaritans has done so far to support people:

- Provided a bespoke support line for NHS staff and care home workers at a time when they are facing increased pressure on their own mental health.
- Created a coronavirus-specific hub on our website with guidance on looking after ourselves and supporting others. This has been viewed over 140,000 times.
- Launched an online self-help app to help us reach groups who may find it difficult to discuss their feelings with someone else when they are struggling.
- Fast-tracked getting new systems in place for volunteers to answer emails and calls from home ensuring we can continue to remain open round the clock.
- Adapted our training to enable new volunteers to be trained remotely at a time when increasing our volunteer capacity is critical to meeting the demands on our service.

The current climate has accelerated our need to increase the number and diversity of our volunteers. The new generation of volunteers who will be recruited to City Hub will be critical in ensuring we can support everyone who needs us in the coming months and years. We are experiencing and anticipating the biggest mental health crisis in a generation so City Hub will help us be ready for this challenge.

So many other services are closing their doors and the public are struggling. We had people last night who have never spoken to us before reaching out, including a consultant paediatrician who had come to the end of his tether. He was begging us to do all in our power to keep being there for his fellow NHS colleagues who he feels will be our biggest callers over the coming weeks. Last night there was over a 15-minute wait to get through to us but the people who did were so appreciative that we were there.

Samaritans listening volunteer, March 2020

Despite being unable to formally open City Hub due to lockdown, we have wanted to keep the momentum going for new volunteers so have been delivering training sessions digitally. This has been a careful

undertaking to ensure the quality of training is maintained and, to date, 72 new volunteers have been fully trained. As things start getting back to more normality, volunteers will have the option to either come into City Hub or volunteer from home.’

If you are looking for a way to make a difference to people’s lives, London City Hub offers a flexible approach to volunteering for Samaritans. Register your interest here: <https://www.samaritans.org/support-us/volunteer/samaritans-city-hub/>. Samaritans are hoping to restart training for volunteers at City Hub soon but anyone who registers will get an email updating them on the current situation.



Jamie’s Farm

‘We are delighted to report’ writes Jamie Fielden of Jamie’s Farm ‘that that the chatter, shouts and laughter of children are once again being heard at Jamie’s Farm: after three and a half long months, our phased re-opening means we are hosting visits again.’ The Bath and Lewes Farms hosted their first post-lockdown visits in June and July, and a busy summer is anticipated focusing on at-risk families from the locality who do not require overnight stays.

The chatter, shouts and laughter of children are once again being heard at Jamie's Farm

‘The therapeutic engagement we offer will help unearth some of the hidden experiences of recent months that might affect children’s ability to reintegrate successfully into the school environment, and we will signpost this to schools where relevant. With each day on Jamie’s Farm focused around the need of each child’s development, and the balance between nurturing and building resilience, these visits will seek to improve children’s confidence to re-engage successfully with school life.’ Meanwhile, the Hereford and Monmouth farms remain closed for visits but the charity is seeking to bolster its finances by letting out these properties, consistent with government guidelines. It is planned to bring these sites back into operation for visits from September.



Run Your River for Teach First

Teach First’s annual event, Run the River (left), usually sees 3,000 people run 5k or 10k around the River Thames to raise vital funds for their work supporting the UK’s most disadvantaged schoolchildren. This year, when Teach First’s work is more crucial than ever, the Thames is out of reach for many and the mass gathering can’t go ahead as normal. Instead, Teach First is asking its supporters to take on their own version of the run, wherever they are. Individually, you can run

5k or 10k anywhere in the world during the same week that the 2020 event was due to take place (7-13

September) There is a £15 fee to register and then you can organise your fund-raising among family and friends in various ways, you will find lots more information by clicking [here](#).

Teach First has focused its response to the pandemic in three areas: catch-up support for pupils; helping schools rebound; pushing for action from business and government on access to the internet, technology and free school meals. All programmes have been updated to digital delivery so that Teach First can continue to train and support teachers during this crisis. Russell Hobby, the Chief Executive of Teach First has recently written to say: ‘The Worshipful Company of Innholders has been a crucial supporter of our work since 2014 and your generosity has made a huge difference to our programmes. Thanks to your support of the Accredited School Leaders Programme over the past two years we have been able to train school leaders who will go on to become inspirational leaders and transform their community [...] which will help us ensure that even more young people have access to the high-quality education they deserve, moving us ever closer to our mission of a fair education for all.’

If you decide to participate in the ‘Run Your River’ event to help raise funds for Teach First, do let us know.



The Clink Charity

We hear good things about the newly launched ‘Clink @ Home’ service which allows the public to order meals from The Clink online with a home delivery service, if they live within a 5-mile radius of HMP Brixton. Clink students are training to gain their City and Guilds level 2 National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) in Food Preparation and Cookery in a real-life working environment, getting them work ready for when they are released in order to gain fulltime employment. The vegetables, salad and eggs used by the Clink come from The Clink Gardens located at HMP Send where the women in training work towards gaining their City and Guilds NVQ level 2 in horticulture.

To order from Clink @ Home, click [here](#).

Our last newsletter reported on donations made by the Charity Committee to several small charities. We received a lovely thank you note from **Just Kidding**, which included the following: ‘It is not very often that I am speechless. Can words do justice to express our gratitude? You have never met us. You don’t know the children we are helping. But you care deeply about children who ... are so lonely and isolated as they lack social skills which most children innately learn.’

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)



CAN YOU HELP THE ROBES PROJECT?

Our Company Chaplain, The Very Reverend Andrew Nunn has contacted us about the Robes Project, which operates across Southwark and Lambeth to provide shelter for people who find themselves homeless in London, and which the Innholders have supported over the last few years. Planning is now beginning for winter 20/21 and

Covid is changing how projects like Robes can work. Dormitory accommodation is no longer allowed whilst the virus is with us, which presents a huge challenge as it seems unlikely that the Government will step in again to open up hotels to the homeless. Andrew has passed on this appeal for help from Nick Faraday, Charity Manager of the Robes project:

‘Despite COVID-19, we here at Robes are so proud of our work this season. We hosted 98 guests into our winter night shelter. We have managed to provide accommodation for 58 Robes guests and 25 guests were assisted into emergency accommodation. We have continued our work beyond shelter season, adapting our services to be more COVID friendly and providing emergency relief support to both our ex and current guests. Our advice workers are also currently working with each guest in emergency accommodation to find a sustainable solution out of homelessness.

We are looking for a 24/7 static shelter with individual rooms with ensuite bathroom facilities and a communal kitchen and laundry facilities

Our mission to provide relief of poverty among people who are homeless in the London boroughs of Southwark and Lambeth is a massive undertaking! We need your help to continue our work. Our winter night shelter is at the heart of what we do here at Robes Project, with the help of 31 churches and over 750 volunteers. Due to the COVID-19, we have been advised by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government that communal night shelters remain closed. We are currently seeking alternative shelters to host 10-35 Robes guest next shelter season. Our shelter season starts from 1st of November 2020 till the 1st of April 2021. We are looking for a 24/7 static shelter with individual rooms with ensuite bathroom facilities and a communal kitchen and laundry facilities. We are a volunteer-led organisation, and we completely rely on community support. None of our efforts would be possible without the help of donors, volunteers, and supportive community members like you.’

If you know of any buildings that fit the above criteria, please do contact nick.faraday@robes.org.uk.

ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT

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 to 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.

SAMARITANS

Anyone can contact Samaritans for free at any time from any phone on 116 123, even on a mobile without credit. This number won't show up on your phone bill.

Or you can email jo@samaritans.org or visit <https://www.samaritans.org> to find details of your nearest branch, where you can talk to a trained volunteer face to face.

Support for members of the hospitality industry



LICENSED
TRADE
CHARITY

Helping licensed trade people

[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**
— EST. 1886 —

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**.

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 4 70 80 90**



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

You can find out more about Hospitality Action's **Golden Friends** befriending and support network for hospitality retirees by clicking [here](#).

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

NEWS FROM THE CITY



The Lord Mayor

Please click [here](#) for the latest Bulletin from the Rt Hon The Lord Mayor (1 August 2020). This includes the news that ‘plans are being made for a Lord Mayor’s Show in November, adapted to the situation in which we find ourselves. While the traditional parade through the streets will not take place, we hope that the special event will nevertheless provide us with a fantastic platform to thank key workers and all those who have kept the country going during the pandemic.’



Sheep Drive & Livery Fair postponed

The Worshipful Company of Woolmen has announced that the annual Sheep Drive and Livery Fair due to take place on Sunday 27 September 2020 has been cancelled for this year. This event, which celebrates the ancient tradition of a Freeman’s right to drive their sheep to market over London Bridge, tariff-free, is now scheduled to take place next on 26 September 2021. Click [here](#) for more information about next year’s Sheep Drive.



Calling all Knitters

Are you looking for something to do while social activities remain restricted? Why not join Past Master Julia Sibley and rekindle past knitting expertise, or learn a new skill? Julia is knitting blanket squares for a “Knit for Community” project by the Liverymen of The Framework Knitters Company and residents of their Cottage Homes. They are creating knitted squares that will be formed into blankets, with assistance from the Framework Knitters Museum (Nottingham), for distribution to charities in Leicester, Nottingham and London. You can find the flyer with the specifications [here](#) or contact the project organiser Liz Green on liz@lizgreen.co.uk



City Churches update

The Very Revd Dr David Ison, the Dean of St Paul's has sent news from the Cathedral which opened for private prayer on 15th June. From 4th July there has been a lunchtime Eucharist each weekday, while on Sundays at 11.30am the service has included the organ and cantor. On weekdays from 13th July opening hours will be 8am to 6pm (tourism will begin again with entry

8.30am to 4pm, with pre-booking for tickets, but prayer is always free) and there will be daily services under the Dome.

The Dean also invites us to explore more of what the Cathedral has been doing during the lockdown - see for example the reflections and leading thinkers engaging with Hard Questions that people are asking, or try out a virtual pilgrimage, all available at the new St Paul's Resource Hub:

(<https://www.stpaulsresources.co.uk/>). And if you feel able, the Remember Me book

(<https://www.rememberme2020.uk/>), is the online book of remembrance for those who have died as a result of the pandemic, which St Paul's has worked hard to create and host with the help of a number of partners. The Dean comments that it is very moving to see over 5000 people commemorated there.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR ALMONER

I subscribe to an "Email Card Company" which I find is a great help in getting greetings to the right people at the right time. It also saves having to send apologies after missing important events in friends' lives, something I had to do quite frequently in the past. It is also a much easier way of sending bulk mailings at festival time such as Christmas and Easter - and, of course, a lot cheaper with postage as it is. Please note - I am not an agent for the card company, nor is this an advertisement.

During lockdown they came out with a new card which incorporated the poem *Leisure* by William Henry Davies. It is a favourite of mine and I used it one year at an installation service. Given present circumstances with lockdown, I sent the card to a few friends and from the responses I received, it was quite clear that it was enjoyed by the majority of them. So, with that in mind, and despite the lockdown and the accompanying hardships and difficulties continuing, I would like to contribute this reflective poem:



Kamikochi National Park, Japan taken by the Assistant Clerk last summer

Leisure

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare?
No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.
No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.
No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.
No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance.
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.
A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

Should you need to get in touch for a chat my mobile number is 07792 924488 and my email is:
bill.christianson@btinternet.com. Best wishes, Bill.

FAREWELL AND KEEP WELL

We look forward to welcoming you back to the Hall with the Innholders' usual hospitality soon. In the meantime, don't forget to stay in touch, and do keep safe and well.

Charles Henty, Clerk

Rebecca Tomlin, Assistant Clerk