



BULLETIN FROM THE RT HON THE LORD MAYOR

18 September 2020

Fellow Liverymen

There is a distinctly back-to-school feel in the air. I have returned to Mansion House after my summer break and I very much hope that all of you, like me, were able to find some time for rest and recuperation over August. I trust that this bulletin finds you safe and well and ready to face the autumn of this unusual year.

With the ongoing circumstances of the Coronavirus, we have not quite returned to the fresh slate of a new term. But we in the Corporation are especially keen to see life in the City return to some semblance of normality and are focussed on facilitating a return and recovery for the Square Mile's businesses and communities. This reflects the Government's own determination to have people return to the workplace if it is safe to do so. We have therefore begun the process of doing this with our own elected Members and employees, in a way that maintains staff safety, keeps our spaces COVID-secure, and takes advantage of the flexible ways of working we have embraced so much this year. By doing so, we hope to encourage other City employers to do the same. My virtual engagement programme continues, and what is clear from these conversations with business leaders and investors is that they share our resolve to ensure that London remains resilient and competitive at this testing time.

I know that this is the shared hope of all of us in the Livery too. I have heard from so many of you that the lockdown and other limitations has not interrupted your ability to engage with your members, your trades or the communities you support. In the face of the current restrictions we will need to continue to look for imaginative ways to do so. The Lady Mayoress and I

have already enjoyed joining virtual events and Zoom banquets. I am sure these will continue through the autumn but that also in due course we will begin to see physical events taking place once more, when they can be staged safely. Please do let me know via email to LMProgOffice@cityoflondon.gov.uk of how you are doing so. I also remain keen to hear about the charitable and voluntary activities that Companies and liverymen are undertaking in response to COVID-19.

City Giving Day 2020, taking place on **Tuesday 22 September**, presents a wonderful opportunity to celebrate exactly these community and volunteering initiatives in the City and Livery.

The day is an annual celebration of philanthropy and giving, particularly everything that City organisations are doing for local communities and charities. This year that will be more important than ever, and will give all of us the chance to reflect on the last few months and applaud the way the Livery, businesses and their employees have come together to support each other, their communities and, of course, frontline workers. Last year 424 companies got involved, raising an estimated £500,000, and recruiting around 5,000 volunteers for a host of good causes. This year we have already exceeded the number of companies involved, and we look forward to welcoming businesses from across London and beyond.

This year workers in the Square Mile will be able to take part in online and offline activities to demonstrate how businesses of all kinds can make a difference. City Giving Day champions activities - whether corporate social responsibility, philanthropy, or volunteering initiatives - that companies, including the Livery, undertake as part of their commitment to supporting charity, society, the community and the environment in which they work.

I will kick start the day's activities by virtually opening the London Stock Exchange. My Lord Mayor's Appeal team has helped participating firms develop a programme of exciting events to engage employees and raise money. Events include the annual Treasure Hunt and City Walk – this year with an online spin, as City Guides will offer interactive guided walks via Zoom through the byways and alleys of the City and its rich history.

I am keen to build on the success of last year and get even more businesses and organisations involved. Many Livery Companies have already registered to take part, but it is not too late for those that have not yet done so!

Participation is a great way to celebrate the transformational impact that the Livery makes to charitable causes, particularly this year. It should be huge fun too. More information can be found here:

<https://www.thelordmayorsappeal.org/a-fair-city/register-and-get-involved/>

To enable even more to get involved, we are encouraging people to sign up and nominate colleagues, friends and networks to take part in an activity to raise money for The Lord Mayor's Appeal's partner charities Place2Be, Onside YouthZones, Samaritans and DofE. I'll be getting involved - watch out on social media to see exactly what I get up to!

<https://www.thelordmayorsappeal.org/charity-challenge/>

As you will be aware, this month also traditionally marks the gathering of the Livery in Common Hall for the Election of a Lord Mayor for the year ensuing. The current circumstances, and in particular Government social distancing and public health requirements, present limitations on the manner in which the proceedings for the Election might be conducted this year. Careful consideration has been given to the most appropriate format, and details of the streamlined event, which will necessitate a smaller number of attendees, can be found on the Livery Committee's new website

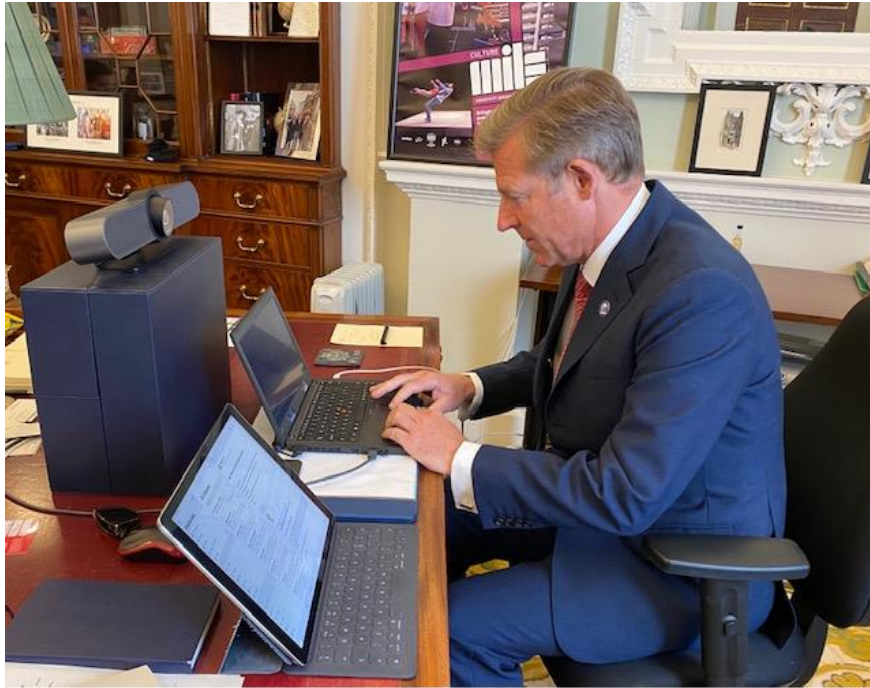
<http://www.liverycommittee.org/> (Incidentally the new website contains a wealth of additional information and I recommend that you explore it). I am grateful for the understanding that Livery Companies have shown in this respect, given the unprecedented situation, and I look forward to what will nevertheless be a key moment in the Livery calendar.

I hope that despite these present difficulties we will have many other opportunities to meet, virtually and actually, in the coming months. The Lady Mayoress and I are anticipating doing so with much enthusiasm. Thank you for your continued support.

With best wishes from me and Hilary.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William Russell', written in a cursive style.

Alderman William Russell
The Rt Hon the Lord Mayor



The Lord Mayor back at work in the Venetian Parlour at Mansion House.



With the First Sea Lord, welcoming HMS Tamar, the Royal Navy's newest warship, to London.