



WCCSA NEWS

Keeping our members and friends in touch...

APRIL 2024 | ISSUE 45

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WELCOME!

Keith Povey, Clerk

Welcome to the April Newsletter.

Where has the year gone, and indeed where has the pleasant weather gone? But at least we shouldn't have water shortages this year! Or will we?

Work is well and truly underway for the 2024 Banquet. Karen and I had a tour of Fishmongers' Hall recently and it is going to make a stunning venue for the evening. If you have not been to that hall before, do come along. You will not be disappointed.

Elsewhere, our new Engagement Committee is starting to get into it's stride. Our Junior Warden met a number of members for coffee at a hotel in Cobham earlier this month which seemed to go really well. There is a lovely photo further down in the newsletter

It is hard to believe we are already half way through Christopher Edge's year as Master. And he continues to be busy representing the Company at City events.

Recently, he held his second concert at the Oxford and Cambridge Club, this time featuring the Company Musician Gabriele Brasaite. Another lovely evening! If you didn't manage to go, there are some lovely photos courtesy of Professor Mark Fox, in the [photo gallery](#) of our member's area of the website

There is such a lot happening in the coming months, so please do keep reading the Newsletters. Hopefully you enjoy them as much as we do creating them!

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WCCSA NEWS

In-person networking event - Wednesday 15th May 2024



The new 'Engagement Committee' will be hosting an in-person networking event at our Plaisterers' Hall offices, 6pm - 8pm on Wednesday 15th May 2024.

They are delighted that Sir Jan du Plessis, Chair of the Financial Reporting Council (FRC), previously Chair of various public companies: BT Group plc; Rio Tinto plc; SABMiller plc; RHM plc; and British American Tobacco plc has agreed to speak. He has also served as non-executive director of Marks and Spencer Group plc and Lloyds Banking Group plc.

Sir Jan will be speaking to us on the subject: "Looking to the future of the FRC: The philosophy that framed the new Corporate Governance Code and underpin the approach to a revised Stewardship Code."

Come along for a topical conversation, with refreshments and finger food with other WCCSA members after.

There is a small £10.00 charge to attend and booking is essential [HERE](#) due to a strict restriction on numbers allowed in the building. Please book your place early to avoid disappointment!

The 2024 Annual Livery Banquet - Tuesday 21st May 2024

As previously advised, the 2024 WCCSA Livery Banquet will be held at Fishmongers' Hall. Fishmongers' Hall has an excellent reputation, offering superb surroundings, delicious cuisine and first-rate service.

Attending as our guest will be Alderwoman and Sheriff Dame Susan Langley, representing the Lord Mayor and the West Ham Sea Cadets, with whom the WCCSA has been associated with since 2005, will provide a Carpet Guard. There will also be some fabulous musical entertainment for your pleasure!

Tickets are priced at £150.00 per person and can be booked [HERE](#). You will also be able to read more about Fishmongers' Hall and view the all-important menu!

We look forward to seeing many members of the Company there on the night, along with their guests.



Webinar 'Service with integrity' - what does it mean to you? - Tuesday 4th June 2024

The Education Committee will host a webinar, 6pm - 7pm on Tuesday 4th June.

We all know the Company's motto "service with integrity" but how often do we pause to think about what it really means to us in practice?

At a recent research seminar at Leeds Beckett University, with which the Company is linked for its CGI qualifying programme and our values research project, Dr Karen Vollum-Dix shared findings from her research which could not be more relevant to our Company.

Karen says:

"Organisations which incorporate values at the core of everything they do are more successful and sustainable. Integrity is one of the values most frequently mentioned by organisations in their websites and annual reports, and also in professional codes of ethics. But what is integrity? Everyone knows what integrity is. Talk to anyone, and they will say they understand what it is. Why then is it so difficult to define? The concept of integrity is complex and understood in subtly different ways by different people."



In this webinar, which will be moderated by Past Master David Lock, we will explore this complexity, and invite you to offer your thoughts, to gain a greater shared understanding of what integrity really means. There is no charge to attend, but registration is essential [HERE](#) please, where you can also find out more about the speaker.

Sheep Drive & Livery Fair Sunday 29th September 2024



The Sheep Drive will be taking place again this year on Southwark Bridge and the Livery Fair will be located on Queen Street and Queen Street Place. Anyone who has their Freedom of the City of London (or who will have it by September), can take part.

In medieval times, sheep farmers drove their sheep across London Bridge into the City of London to sell them at market. Freemen of the City were excused the bridge toll that had to be paid by other people crossing the bridge, in recognition of their status as local traders.

Upholding the tradition of Freemen's rights, in 2013 the Worshipful Company of Woolmen arranged the first official Sheep Drive for Freemen of the City and their guests to 'drive' sheep across the bridge. The event has been so successful that it has continued ever since, with places selling out every year!

We have managed to sneak in early and book a very precisely timed slot at 11.44am, so please register your interest in taking part with [Karen](#) as soon as possible. The cost of taking part this year remains the same as last year, at £65.00 per person.

Keeping in touch - Almoner update, April 2024

One of my most pleasant activities is being in touch with members whom we haven't seen at Company events for a while. Some of our older colleagues are less mobile than before, or live too far from London to make a long trip, or are simply leading a much quieter life. With this in mind I wrote at the turn of the year to most of our over 80 year olds, to express how we value their interest, and appreciate their continuing support of the Company.

I received some lovely letters and phone calls in return, and some even screwed up the energy to venture to attend WCCSA events - how great it was to see members of an older generation meeting friends in civic splendour. Let's hope that if the weather improves in the Summer others will be tempted out.

I was delighted to re-establish contact with Marshall Murton, whom the Company had lost touch with. Marshall lives in South Africa, and for years made a point of visiting London to attend the October Installation Dinner. Marshall always sported the most colourful bow ties, and I enjoyed chatting to his wife Barbara, usually in the Ladies cloakroom at Saddlers' Hall, where she was waiting for the Assembly to conclude.

My life as a commuter between Malta and UK led to a fascinating exchange with Liveryman Daphne Jackson. Returning from fighting in the Far East, her father was stationed in married quarters in Malta immediately after the war. Daphne recalls the joy of Mediterranean life after the privations of wartime England. There was no rationing, and in return for the Island's staunch resistance to bombing and blockade, they were supplied with ample goods unobtainable back home. I recently sent Daphne some photos of Mtarfa, where she lived, where the buildings are now used for municipal housing.

Christina Parry - Almoner and Past Master

Scam emails, phishing and spoofing - a reminder to be vigilant!

A few members have received odd emails that appear to be coming from fellow liverymen. This is a reminder to be vigilant and remember that if something doesn't look right, it probably isn't! For example, If you receive an email from someone saying that they have 'a very sore throat/laryngitis and can't speak on the phone', it is almost certainly a scam, so **just delete it**. Anyone who replies to one of these emails will get a further email asking for money or Amazon vouchers most likely.

It's impossible to say how hackers get hold of our email addresses, or how they manage to impersonate friends. In a scam like the above, it's often down to a common acquaintance's address book that they have accessed. The hacker sends an email purportedly from someone in the address book, to someone else in the book with a spoofed sender's email address.

The [National Cyber Security Centre website](#) has lots of advice on what to do if you are hacked, or if you have received a scam email.

Karen Sylva - Assistant Clerk

COMMITTEE AND GROUP UPDATES

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

School Governance Webinar 2 - Monday 13th May 6pm - 7.30pm

The second in the Education Committee's sponsored series of webinars with the aim of improving school governance and developing the theme of 'service with integrity' takes place at 6pm on Monday 13th May.

If you haven't yet registered, it's easy to do so [HERE!](#)

Please also promote the webinar through your networks and on social media to encourage anyone who is a school governor or thinking of becoming a school governor to attend. Promoting such events helps to showcase the Company itself and ensure that WCCSA becomes more widely recognised as a leading space for governance professionals across all sectors.

The line-up of speakers will make for another informative session in which we hope there will also be good discussion through Q&A.

- Jo Doyle, Headteacher, [Rokeby School](#) (part of [Newham Community Learning](#))
- Rachael Davis-Featherstone, Vice-Chair, Board of Governors, [Elvetham Heath Primary School](#)
- David Lock, Past Master WCCSA and Secretary General of the [Magna Charta Observatory](#)
- Gabrielle Williams Hamer, Senior Warden WCCSA and Governor of [St. Francis Xavier Catholic Sixth Form College](#) in Clapham South.

Sylvia Tutt Award

Thank you to everyone who has mentioned that they've been promoting the Sylvia Tutt Award. Do please continue to promote to ensure we have a good batch of applications by the deadline 12th July. Full criteria and details available on our [website](#).

If anyone is interested in being on the judging panel, we will be seeking 3 people to be on the panel along with the Chair of the Education Committee and a representative from the Institute.

One of the judges will be required to do an initial sift with the Chair from mid-July, with the main judging panel required (virtually) sometime mid-August to early September to read no more than 10 x 1000 word articles and score based on set criteria.

If interested in being on the panel please email education@wccsa.org.uk.

Sheila Lumsden OBE FCG
Chair, Education Committee

ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Informal Social Events

The first of the monthly networking drinks at The Golden Fleece, 9 Queen St, London EC4N 1SP was held in April with a small but keen turnout and many promising to attend next month, when we'll meet on Wednesday, 8th May from 6pm onwards. Please do drop in and maybe bring a colleague! This is a six month trial, SECOND WEDNESDAY of the month, last one Wednesday, 11th September. Buy your own drinks. We are located in the alcove at the far end of the bar as you enter from Queen St. It would be helpful if you are coming to advise the committee via membership@wccsa.org.uk to ensure we have sufficient space!



On Friday, 26th April we held our first networking coffee morning at The Hilton Hotel, Seven Hills Rd, Cobham, Surrey KT11 1EW, again a small but keen turnout with other members expressing an interest in future dates. We were delighted that Past Master Bish Lis was able to join us with his wife Barbara along with Liverymen Fleming and McVey with Junior Warden Shirley Creed. We talked about everything from the benefit of smaller satellite events to company strategy.

Our next meetup is Friday, 31st May 9.30am onwards. Those living a little further away might like to combine this with a visit to RHS Wisley Gardens, 5 miles further down the A3, or Painshill even closer! This is a six-month trial LAST FRIDAY of the month, last one Friday, 27th September. Spouse/partners welcome. Ample parking. Helpful if you are coming to [email](mailto:membership@wccsa.org.uk) please.

Summer Family Day at Brooklands Museum, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 0SL

Entrance to the museum, free parking, hot fork buffet lunch followed by tea/coffee, use of a room for the afternoon to relax in. Cost: £42.85 (adult), £32.85 (child 4-17), an additional £6.50pp/£3.25 for the Concorde Experience. Weybridge Station (London Waterloo line) is within walking distance (1 mile). No dogs, except assistance dogs. Mercedes World is located next to the Museum complex. We are looking at Saturday/Sunday in late June or early July. Expressions of interest please by Friday, 17th May to membership@wccsa.org.uk.

Tour of Apothecaries Hall - Date to be confirmed. Some members have previously booked on this tour and will be contacted separately.

Informal Speaker and Networking Event

Wednesday, 15th May 6pm-8pm - we are delighted that Sir Jan du Plessis, Chair of the Financial Reporting Council (FRC), previously Chair of various public companies: BT Group plc; Rio Tinto plc; SABMiller plc; RHM plc; and British American Tobacco plc has agreed to speak. Sir Jan will be speaking to us at Plaisterers' Hall on the subject: "Looking to the future of the FRC: The philosophy that framed the new Corporate Governance Code and underpin the approach to a revised Stewardship Code."

Registration for this event is open (see article above) This is one not to miss!

Other Events

Friday, 12th July – we have managed to secure a table at Watermens' Hall for the River Thames Lunch Club. This is a 5 course lunch with matching wines £84.00 and includes a sparkling reception. Limited availability, please reserve your space by [emailing me](#).

WCCSA plan to take one or more tables at the CGI Awards 2024 - Tuesday 5 November 2024 at the Royal Lancaster Hotel, Hyde Park, London. If you would like to join a WCCSA table please [email me](#). We will contact you when booking and pricing are released by CGI, no commitment required at this stage. This is a great opportunity for those not part of a larger team attending the event to join with WCCSA colleagues and celebrate excellence in governance at this CGI flagship event.

Junior Warden Shirley Creed
Chair, Engagement Committee

FROM OUR MEMBERS

Profile: WCCSA Company Musician: Gabriele Brasaite

We hope that in 2024 most members will hear violin pieces performed by our Company Musician, Gabriele Brasaite. When I spoke to her, Gabriele kindly offered some background about her role, to share with the Company.



How did you and the Company find each other?

The Oxford and Cambridge Club advertised a competition for a music prize, and as a close runner-up I was invited to give some violin recitals at the Club. Master Christopher Edge heard me play, and it led to the role.

Your speciality is violin?

Yes, though I have also studied piano, during training in Lithuania.

How do you select the music and prepare for a recital?

I try and choose pieces which will stretch my technical and interpretive ability as well as delighting the audience. Debussy is welcoming as well as technically complex. Brahms challenges me as a musician and is stirring for the listener. I prepare by revising the score, considering the interpretive challenges, and, very importantly, rehearsing with the pianist to ensure we are musically co-ordinated and mutually responsive to the work. The pieces I played at the April WCCSA concert I learnt recently.

Your playing seems to challenge the instrument - an assertive command of the violin. Is that right?

My musical interpretation rests on building confidence in what I am playing and how I am performing at that moment, which implies being in command of the musical delivery. The venue and audience also affect how well a recital is received. A welcoming atmosphere in the room builds confidence, and there's nothing better than an appreciative audience to guarantee a musically satisfying experience for everyone.

Gabriele Brasaite, Talking to Past Master Christina Parry, April 2024

Mulberry Schools Foundation Fundraiser

On the 10th July, Mulberry Schools Trust is taking over Wilton's Music Hall in Shadwell for a fundraising event. It will feature a wide range of student performances including poetry, music and theatre, as well as some professional performers. It's already shaping up to be a fantastic night and they are now asking people to buy their tickets.

All proceeds from the event will go to the Mulberry Schools Foundation, which will use the money to provide hardship grants and financial assistance to Mulberry's communities, as well as to support other Mulberry projects. The schools in the Trust cannot give this kind of direct support so they want to launch the Foundation and get it ready to start helping people in the next academic year.

[A flyer is attached](#) with more details, which includes the link to book your tickets.

Past Master Ted Nicholl

OTHER NEWS FROM THE CITY & THE LIVERY

369th Festival at St Paul's Cathedral - Tuesday 7th May 2024



The 369th Clergy Support Trust Festival will be held on Tuesday 7 May 2024 at St Paul's Cathedral, starting at 5pm. The Service at St Paul's Cathedral is the oldest choral festival in the world. Free and open to everyone, it brings together three of the UK's finest cathedral choirs.

For more information and to book your free tickets, please go to their [website](#).

The Royal Fusiliers Annual Lecture - Wednesday 2nd May 2024

This year's Royal Fusilier Lecture will continue the theme of following the Regiment's part in the Italian campaign. The Lecture will be in two parts, with a short film screened on the battles of Anzio and Monte Cassino in between.

The Lecture starts at 6.45pm and will finish at 8.25pm, after which there will be an opportunity to carry on a more informal conversation over drinks. Before the lecture, All are welcome to join choral evensong at Holy Sepulchre from 5.15pm- 6.15pm. Book your place to attend [HERE](#).

The Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund Presents 'Dial Medicine for Murder' - Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 4th - 6th June, 2024

Following the sell-out show of the highly acclaimed 'Dial Medicine for Murder' Criminal Medical Consultation last November, the Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund is pleased to present three more dates at the Old Bailey in the iconic Court No. 1, scene of many famous criminal case trials that shaped modern Britain.



Online bookings are now open to attend the Central Criminal Court, Old Bailey. The offered dates are: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 4th – 6th June, 2024.

Timings are:

6:00pm Arrival for Drinks Reception, Presentation
7:00pm, conclusion 8:30pm following a Q&A session, leaving time for a nearby supper.

Book Online [HERE](#). Standard Court Seats £75, Premium Dock, Jury Box & Counsels' Row £110, Rear of Court & Public Gallery £40.

Very many thanks for your continuing support for the Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund, assisting prison leavers back into the community.

City of London Liverymen - Brigantes Breakfast - St George's Hall Liverpool - Thursday 20 June 2024

The 2024 Brigantes Breakfast, the ninth Northern lunch for City of London Liverymen and their guests, takes place in the remarkable St George's Hall in Liverpool on Thursday 20th June. Principal Guests include Sheriff Alderman Bronek Masojada, retired Old Bailey Judge and best-selling author Her Honour Wendy Joseph KC, The Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, Mark Blundell and the Right Revd John Perumbalath, Bishop of Liverpool.

Before lunch the Brigantes Lecture will celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Cunard Line. After lunch there will be music, including Past Lord Mayor Alderman Sir Andrew Parmley on the magnificent 7,783-pipe Willis organ.

Full details of the Brigantes Breakfast can be found [HERE](#) and a booking form [HERE](#).

From the Caribbean to Coventry: Plotting the rise of 2Tone

This free exhibition at [Barbican Music Library](#) is a journey starting in France and Belgium at the time of the Great War and ending in 1980's Coventry. It explores the hugely positive influences on British youth culture that Caribbean immigration has brought and continues to bring to the United Kingdom. Using music genres and fashion as the touch points, the show includes architecture, art and literature as well as direct contributions from fans and 'faces' alike. An exhibition for the fans by the fans going some way to explain not just what 2Tone is but why and how we got there!

This small exhibition tends to be very busy on Saturday afternoons. If you would like to view the exhibition at a quieter time they recommend visiting on Saturday mornings or throughout the week, again particularly in the mornings. Please note the Library closes at 4pm on Saturdays, and is closed on Sundays and bank holidays.

Now extended to 1 July 2024.

FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

7th May - The 369th Clergy Support Trust Festival (details above)

13th May - WCCSA Education Committee Webinar (details above)

15th May - Networking talk at Plaisterers' Offices 6-8pm (details to follow)

May (date tbc) - Visit to the Oval for the First Match of the Season (Master's Event - details to follow)

21st May - The Annual Livery Banquet, Fishmongers' Hall (details above)

4th June - WCCSA Education Committee Webinar (details above)

24th June - Election of Sheriffs followed by lunch at Armourers' Hall (*Liverymen only* - details to be circulated shortly)

3rd & 4th July - CGI Annual Conference 'Governance 2024'

4th July - City Beerfest, Guildhall Yard

17th July - Summer Service and Charter Luncheon, St Vedast Alias Foster and Saddlers' Hall (details to follow)

18th-21st July - The Master's Weekend (details provided previously)

29th September - Annual Sheep Drive and Livery Fair (details above)

30th September - Common Hall - Election of the Lord Mayor

5th November - CGI Awards

11th December - WCCSA Carol Service

