



WCCSA NEWS

Keeping our members and friends in touch...



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WELCOME!

Keith Povey, Clerk

Karen and I have been busy this month preparing for our Annual Banquet, which took place earlier this week. It was a lovely event and we'll provide details and the link to photos in the next Newsletter.

We were also fortunate to have Sir Jan du Plessis, Chair of the Financial Reporting Council speak to a small group of members in our offices. Catherine Odigie, one of our newest Freemen, did a fantastic job of engaging Sir Jan in a wide-ranging discussion (see below).

In July we hold what is called our 'Elections Court' when the Court (effectively our Board) considers who should hold high office from the date of the Annual Assembly. We also consider, at that meeting, whether any Liveryman of three years standing should be invited to join the Court.

We want that process to be open and transparent, so if you are interested in becoming a member of the Court (you will need to be able to dedicate sufficient time) and in due course possibly becoming Master of the Company, please do let me or the Master know and we can arrange a discussion about the role/time commitment etc. If there are too many applicants for the places available, we will assess members against the skills needed, and hold those who were not successful this time on a waiting list. It is your Company, and this is one of the most impactful ways of getting involved.

Let's hope we have a prolonged period of sunshine soon - meantime while it's wet, sit back and enjoy the newsletter.

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WCCSA NEWS

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.

Election of Sheriffs - Monday 24th June 2024

The Election of Sheriffs takes place on Monday 24th June 2024 and as usual, eligible **Liverymen** are entitled to attend Common Hall at Guildhall, London EC2V 5AE. Eligible Liverymen are those who appear on the 2024 Common Hall Register, i.e. have been Liverymen since May 2023. If you haven't been before, you can get a feel for what happens via the [ceremonial information](#).

If you would like to attend and vote, passes to Common Hall are available from [Karen](#) upon request. As usual, Liverymen without a pass can be admitted, but will be required to verify their name and company, which will be checked in the Common Hall Register. This can cause hold-ups on the door, so it is preferable to attend with a pass. Attendees will need to be seated by 11.45am.

We have secured a table at Armourers' Hall for lunch after the Election. Those who wish to dine should book [HERE](#) please. We have eight places reserved at £80.00 per person and these will be offered on a first come - first served basis.

Sheep Drive & Livery Fair Sunday 29th September 2024



As previously mentioned, 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.

We have booked a very precisely timed slot for WCCSA at 11.44am, so please register your interest in taking part with [Karen](#) as soon as possible. The cost of taking part this year has remained the same, at £65 per person.

David Marwood Award

The David Marwood Award for 2023 was won by Sub Lieutenant Charlotte Rudd RN and presented to her by Vice Admiral Andy Kyte CB at a Passing Out Parade at Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth on 18th April.

The Master Mr Christopher Edge attended, along with Past Master Commander Rory Jackson, Royal Navy. (See *photo at the top of this newsletter*)



Chelsea Physic Garden Visit



On 2nd May, the Master's consort Mrs Christine Edge led a small group of enthusiasts on a visit to the Chelsea Physic Garden.

This lovely oasis on the Chelsea Embankment was acquired by the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries in 1673 and planted with examples of medicinal plants as a means of educating their apprentices in the identification of those which were useful (rather than dangerous).

Its greatest benefactor was an erstwhile student apothecary, Hans Sloane, whose name may sound familiar. He became very wealthy and acquired the whole manor of Chelsea, then donated the Garden to the Apothecaries at a fixed annual rent of £5 in perpetuity! Even so, the garden has experienced many financial vicissitudes and it's a bit of a miracle it's still there, now owned by a charitable company that still pays £5 a year to Sloane's descendants. It's a fascinating story from many perspectives - not just botanical and medicinal, but historical and geographical as well. The cafe is good too!

A reminder that Mrs Edge will be hosting a Batwalk at the Barnes Wetland Centre on 5th September. Anyone interested in attending should email [Mrs Edge](#) directly as soon as possible please.

A Successful In-Person Networking Event!

The keen foresight of the Company's Engagement Committee (previous known as the Membership Committee) and the generosity of Sir Jan du Plessis, Chair of the Financial Reporting Council, culminated in a scheduled Fireside Chat on the future of the Financial Reporting Council hosted by Catherine Odigie of the Engagement Committee, at Plaisterers Hall on 15 May 2024.

The event was well timed given the issue of the revised UK Corporate Governance Code (Revised Code) earlier this year; the expected revision of the Stewardship Code and the proposed changes to FRC to become the Audit Reporting and Governance Authority (ARGA).



The audience of the well attended event included representatives from the general commercial institutions, banking and asset management institutions as well as the charitable sectors. The event gave us the opportunity to hear from Sir Jan du Plessis on the philosophical shift that underpinned these pivotal changes.

The year began with the Revised Code following a consultation period spanning a significant portion of the preceding year. The results of which confirmed an appetite for revision to mitigate the public and government concerns given significant corporate failures.

In summary, Sir Jan noted that whilst the Revised Code remains largely unchanged in its overarching principles it has improved accountability reporting on compliance with the Code. Sir Jan highlighted the valuable contribution of institutions stakeholders in the revision consultation process to ensure the revised Code reflected effective regulatory framework as well as proportional regulatory reporting burden on institutions. This approach would ensure the continued domestic and international value of the Code in continued productivity.

The UK Stewardship Code governs asset managers that manage over \$400 trillion in asset value; a majority of which are domiciled internationally. Sir Jan noted that the consultation process on the revision of the Stewardship Code will begin shortly it is expected that the improved accountability and proportionality that underpinned the Revised Code could also be reflected in revised Stewardship Code. The discerned expectation is that this will continue the significant value of corporate governance at home and abroad; keeping the UK on the forefront of corporate governance values.

On the subject of the proposed change of the FRC to the new regulatory authority, ARGA, Sir Jan considered there may be steps towards this change in the new future but this was not expected this year.

With special thanks to Sharon Constancon, previous Chairman of the Membership Committee now renamed, Engagement Committee and Shirley Creed, current Chairman of the Engagement Committee.

Catherine Odigie - Freeman

Congratulations!

Congratulations from all at the WCCSA, to Freeman Joseph Mercer who has been made a Fellow of the Chartered Governance Institute UK & Ireland.

Joe has been a Freeman of our Company since 2023 and hopes to become a Liveryman very soon.

Feedback from Rokeby School

It may interest members to read an article that features in a recent edition of the Rokeby Recorder, about the experience of one pupil at the school. It is an inspiring read and direct confirmation of the excellent job the school is doing. See page one of the newsletter [HERE](#).

Rokeby School has been supported by WCCSA for many years, and we supply governors (John Ainsworth was Chairman for many years. The late great PM Ian Richardson gave enormous time and attention as a governor, as has David Lock more recently). The WCCSA Charitable Trust is funding various initiatives currently.

Past Master Christina Parry OBE
Newham Community Learning Trustee

Quarterage rates for the year beginning 1st July 2024

I am sure all of you have noticed that prices are still rising generally, and like any other organisation we are seeing our costs continue to increase. As a small company we have limited options to raise income and so the Court has taken the difficult decision to increase Quarterage slightly this year.

The new rates from 1 July 2024 will be:

- Full Liveryman or Freeman - £370 (was £360)
- Freeman or Liveryman over the age of 70 - £295 (was £290) *Please note that you need to inform us if you would like to move to this rate when eligible.*
- Overseas-based Freeman or Liveryman - £175 (was £170)

For those of you who pay by direct debit, the annual call on funds will be made at the start of July 2024. If you have made a change to your bank account in the last 12 months please let us know so we can ensure the Direct Debit details are correct. If you would like to set up a direct debit, please email Karen.

Members are able to pay Quarterage monthly or quarterly should that be of assistance, but would need to set up a standing order. Please contact Karen if you'd like more information.

If you are already paying by standing order please adjust the amount accordingly with effect from 1 July.

COMMITTEE AND GROUP UPDATES

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

School Governance Webinar 3 - Wednesday 10th July 6 - 7.30pm SAVE THE DATE

The third 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 Wednesday 10th July. Registration will open shortly.

The application of good governance in a range of settings: as a Non-Executive Director in corporate governance, on an Independent School Board, on a Multi-Academy Trust Board and on a Local Governing Body.'

What are the similarities between governance in the corporate world and governance in schools?

James de Sausmarez, Past Master WCCSA (2022-23).

What does governance look like in practice for a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) Board?

Emma Hawker, Vice Chair of the Trust Board for Southend East Community Academy Trust

AND How does governance play out at a Local Governing Body level?

Speaker - tbc

The webinar will be moderated by Liveryman Dr Anne Punter.

Please 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.

Sylvia Tutt Award

Thank you to everyone who has 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 [HERE](#).

We are still looking for one person to join the Judging Panel. The requirement would be a bit of your time mid-August to early September to read and score a maximum of 10 x 1000-word articles. If interested in being a Judge, or you'd like some further information first please email the Education Committee at education@wccsa.org.uk.

Brigantes Association, Summer Event Thursday 20th June, St George's Hall, Liverpool

Living in Cheshire/Greater Manchester, I will be attending the Brigantes event in Liverpool. If anyone else from WCCSA is going do please [let me know](#). It would be great if any of us can meet up in the course of the day.

Sheila Lumsden OBE FCG

Chair, Education Committee

ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Our next networking coffee morning at The Hilton Hotel, Seven Hills Road, Cobham, Surrey KT11 1EW 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. Buy your own drinks. Ample parking. Helpful if you are coming to advise via membership@wccsa.org.uk

The next monthly networking drinks at The Golden Fleece, 9 Queen St, London EC4N 1SP is on **Wednesday, 12th June 6pm onwards**. Please do drop in, 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. Helpful if you are coming to advise membership@wccsa.org.uk to ensure we have sufficient space!

CGI Awards 2024 - Tuesday 5th November 2024 at the Royal Lancaster Hotel, Hyde Park, London.

WCCSA plan to take one or more tables, if you would like to join a WCCSA table please email membership@wccsa.org.uk and we will then contact you when bookings 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. Pricing to be advised when announced by CGI. Thanks to those who have already expressed interest.

Junior Warden Shirley Creed
Chair, Engagement Committee

FROM OUR MEMBERS

WCCSA Liveryman and the Lord Mayor's Abseiling Challenge!



Liveryman Suzanne Davidson has decided to accept the above challenge as advertised in the April edition of "WCCSA News", and will be abseiling down the Leadenhall Building, aka the "Cheesegrater", 122 Leadenhall Street, London EC3V 4AB, on Friday, 7th June 2024. The funds she raises for the Lord Mayor's Appeal by doing so will benefit three charities: MQ Mental Health Research, Homewards and National Numeracy.

Please do support Suzanne via her [JustGiving_page](#) and for more information about the Lord Mayor's Appeal visit [the website](#).

Good luck Suzanne!

OTHER NEWS FROM THE CITY & THE LIVERY

Lord Mayor's May Bulletin

Please find attached a [bulletin](#) from the Rt Hon The Lord Mayor.

Please also find attached an [accompanying document](#) on Expectations of an Adult Volunteer in a London Uniformed Youth Organisation (this document is referenced in the bulletin)

Net Zero Delivery Summit - Tuesday 4th June 2024



The Net Zero Delivery Summit is a milestone in the sustainable finance calendar. At the midpoint between COPs, it is a key moment to maintain momentum in financial and professional services as they work to meet global net zero goals.

The City of London Corporation are delighted to host the third annual Summit at Mansion House in London on 4th June 2024. The event will be in person for senior invitees and livestreamed to a global online audience.

The Summit will take stock of progress since COP28 and look forward to COP29, putting the need for innovative approaches and products at the heart of the agenda.

Discussions will explore the critical need for implementation across:

- the evolution of carbon markets;
- leveraging financial resources, expertise, and innovation to unlock nature finance flows;
- the role of transition finance in reaching net zero;
- the crucial contribution of green tech - from clean energy sources through to digital technologies.

[Register now](#) at no cost, to join this critical event exploring the essential, practical steps towards addressing the climate crisis.

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.

Full details of the Brigantes Breakfast can be found [HERE](#) and a booking form [HERE](#). See note above from the Chairman of the Education Committee if you intend on attending. The Brigantes May newsletter is available to read [HERE](#).

The Massed Bands of HM Royal Marines Beating Retreat - 11th & 12th July 2024

A spectacular evening of outstanding military music and pageantry, featuring over 200 of the world's finest military musicians, the precision drill of the 40 strong Corps of Drums and a 100 strong Royal Navy Guard of Honour. This historic parade, including the emotive Naval Sunset ceremony, is performed on Horse Guards Parade in front of the beautiful backdrop of St James's Park.

Tickets range from £15.00 - £40.00 [Book here](#)

London Symphony Orchestra Annual City Livery Concert and Reception - Thursday 19th September 2024

Alderman Sir Andrew Parmley and Graham Barker, the Master Art Scholar, are delighted to invite you and your family and/or associates to the Annual City Livery Concert and Reception. This occasion is a key event in the City of London calendar, marking a special event both to celebrate the wealth of art and culture taking place in the Square Mile and for the LSO to express gratitude to the companies, clubs, and guilds of the City that support the world-class music-making happening on their doorstep.

The concert will start at 7pm and during the interval, you are warmly invited to attend a reception with your fellow Liverymen and Freeman. Tickets cost £60 per person, or £50 per person for a group booking of ten or more guests. Please make sure to book your tickets for this event through [this link](#) on the LSO website.

On booking, you will be sent confirmation of your places, but please note that concert tickets will be available for collection on the evening of the concert at the Barbican Centre. Seats will be allocated in the centre circle of the Barbican Hall. Full details about the Annual City Livery Concert and Reception, ticket collection and other details will be emailed to you closer to the date.

Sheriffs' Ball 2024 - 20th September



Join the Sheriffs of the City of London and dance the night away! Alderwoman and Sheriff Dame Susan Langley DBE and Alderman and Sheriff Bronek Masojada are hosting the eighth Sheriffs' Ball at historic Guildhall on Friday 20th September 2024 in aid of The Lord Mayor's Appeal.

This fun evening of wining and dining includes a drinks reception in the atmospheric Crypts, three-course dinner with wine in the stunning Great Hall, the ever-popular dancing and a fundraising auction. The theme is London Calling: celebrating the best of London and Britain. Dress code: Black Tie.

Tickets are £250 per person and can be booked [HERE](#). For a preview of what to expect, please view a short [video](#) of last year's event.

FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

31st May - Engagement Committee Coffee Morning, Cobham (details above)

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

12th June - Networking Drinks at The Golden Fleece (details above)

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

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

4th July - City Beerfest, Guildhall Yard

10th July - WCCSA Education Committee Webinar (details above)

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)

20th September - Sheriff's Ball Guildhall

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

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

9th October - Annual Assembly and Installation Dinner, Saddlers Hall

5th November - CGI Awards

11th December - WCCSA Carol Service

