

Livery Initiatives Update

Common Hall, Friday, 29 September 2023

The Pan Livery Steering Group (PLSG), established in 2017, has been an active and successful body in promoting inter-livery working in the areas of communications, shared philanthropic endeavour (No Going Back), collaboration and knowledge sharing, matters of governance, and (at a particular point in time) the coordination of support and mutual aid during the Covid-19 pandemic. Having largely achieved its ambitions, it has been agreed that the PLSG will fold into/amalgamate into the Livery Committee. Below is an update on many of the sorts of inter-Livery initiatives underway in which the PLSG has had an interest, and on which the Livery Committee, with the 3 co-opted members from PLSG, shall continue to seek to support and report back on:

1. The Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund (70 livery companies)

Set up in 1808 by the Sheriffs of the City of London to help prisoners held in appalling conditions in Newgate prison and to assist the families of prisoners, the Fund's purpose remains roughly the same today. Through targeted grants for welfare, education, training and tools of trade and the funding of rehabilitation projects, the Fund helps to break the remorseless cycle of reoffending to turn around the lives of prison leavers. Based at the Old Bailey, the average grant size to a prison leaver is £200 with the top end of funding being £1,000 for a course/training, for example, digital skills work.

<https://sr-fund.org/>

2. The City and Guilds of London Institute (32 livery companies)

Founded in 1878 by the City of London and 16 Livery Companies to develop a national system of technical education, City & Guilds helps people, organisations and economies identify and develop the skills they need to thrive. We understand the life changing link between skills development, social mobility, prosperity and success. Everything we do is focused on developing and delivering high-quality training, qualifications, assessments and credentials that lead to jobs and meet the changing needs of industry. City & Guilds operates in over 80 countries worldwide and as a result offer worldwide recognition of your skills combined with qualifications that are based on the competence required to get the job done.

www.cityandguilds.com/about-us

3. Livery Companies Skills Council (40 livery companies)

The Livery Companies Skills Council promotes excellence in skills, maintains a dialogue with policy makers, and seeks adequate funding for apprenticeships and vocational training. Particular recent concerns are the delivery of T-levels (the new technical equivalents of A-Levels) and the threatened de-funding of Applied General Qualifications (such as BTECs). The highlight of the past year has been the successful completion of a pilot project to demonstrate the application of City & Guilds Professional Recognition Awards across the Livery and to test the necessary assessment procedures, which rely heavily on the role of Livery Company mentors.

<https://liverycommittee.org/charities-and-education/education/livery-companies-skills-%20council/>

4. The Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch (64 livery companies)

Founded in 2008, LMBCL has raised over £3.3 million to support veterans of the Armed Forces of the Crown. The 2023 Lunch had a capacity attendance of 1,650 members of the City community and raised the record sum of £435,000. Our particular focus is on helping veterans into sustained, rewarding employment. Most veterans make the return to civilian life without a problem but, for a minority, it can be a difficult experience on leaving the military family. We support two specific programmes that have a strong track record in successfully helping veterans make the transition; we know the outcomes are transformational for the veteran and for his/her family. The next Lunch, hosted by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress will be on Thursday, 18th April 2024 at Guildhall. The all-in ticket price is £100 including an array of delicious curries and unlimited wines and Cobra beer, military music, Livery Companies running stalls, authors signing and selling their books, a 60-lot Silent Auction and champagne and cocktail bars.

<https://events.soldierscharity.org/lordmayors>

5. The Lord Mayor's Appeal (93 livery companies)

The Lord Mayor's Appeal has raised millions of pounds for charities and good causes. The Appeal's purpose is to be an illustration of the philanthropy the Square Mile has to offer and to this end has a multi-year strategy to create A Better City for All through its four pillars – Inclusive, Healthy, Skilled and Fair. Its ambition is to help one million people thrive through the charities it is supporting, National Numeracy, MQ Mental Health Research and The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, and through its impactful initiatives Power of Inclusion, This is Me, We Can Be and City Giving Day.

<https://www.thelordmayorsappeal.org/>

6. Livery Schools Link (65 livery companies)

Livery Schools Link's mission is to assist children from less advantaged backgrounds to receive an enhanced educational experience at school and to have their personal aspirations raised, thereby increasing their employability and career options. We work with multiple livery companies and state-funded schools to benefit young people in education through the provision of mentoring programs, career guidance, and governance training. We seek to act as the link between schools in need of help and members of the Livery who wish to offer assistance in any form; as a forum for the exchange of ideas and best practice in the field. We run events for members on relevant topics ranging from one day events to ongoing partnerships with a school.

<https://liveryschoolslink.org.uk/>

7. Pan Livery Steering Group

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<https://liverycommittee.org>

8. No Going Back (40 livery companies)

No Going Back (NGB) of working collaboratively to reduce re-offending through training, support, employment and housing, and impacting on the £18bn it costs the taxpayer every year. Its team of caseworkers provide a route for men and women leaving prison back into society, supported by 150 volunteers many of whom are members of the participating Livery companies, as well as a group of outstanding Ambassadors who are previous NGB success stories. The project has reached over 1,000 men and women at different stages of their rehabilitation journey and 250 are now in employment, operating in 6 London prisons. For every £1 spent on NGB, an impressive £12.64 of social value is generated through economic benefits, avoided public spending, and health and wellbeing gains for those involved. Its re-offending rate is now 5% against a Government estimate of 25-40%, dependent on the length of sentence. A separately funded Social Enterprise (CIC) Company supported and driven by NGB and the Worshipful Company of Environmental Cleaners provides cleaning services to the construction and property management sectors.

<https://nogoingback.uk/>

9. Livery Companies Apprenticeship Scheme (40 livery companies)

The pilot was managed by the Livery Companies Apprenticeship Scheme Ltd (LCAS), originally set up by LCSC to deliver a £1m government-funded apprenticeship programme. A representative cross-section of 10 Livery candidates were assessed, with 9 successful completions and one deferred for the time being. A holder of a Professional Recognition Award is entitled to use the appropriate designatory post-nominal letters for City & Guilds. Another successful outcome is that City & Guilds has now granted LCAS 'direct-claim' status for the assessment of PRA at Level 4. The pilot is currently being evaluated, with a view to offering PRA assessment more widely across the Livery. Meanwhile, LCAS continues to support the delivery of some 10 Livery-funded apprentices.

<https://lcas.co.uk/>

10. Pollinating London Together (PLT)

PLT started in early 2020 as a partnership initiative between two City Livery Companies - the Wax Chandlers and the Gardeners. Subsequently, further support has been received from 46 livery companies, plus a number of City-based companies, alongside important entities such as the Chelsea Physic Garden and Historic Royal Palaces. PLT started its ecological work in Spring 2020 with reviews of City spaces for pollinator-friendly planting. PLT is now in its fourth season of habitat and pollinator reviews, covering 25 sites in 2022, and will cover 60 or more in 2023, feeding back proposals for habitat improvement where possible. PLT has received support from the City of London Corporation, through a two-year grant in 2022 from the Community Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Fund (CILNF) of £230,000. Working initially under the Wax Chandlers Charitable Trust, PLT now operates as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) from 1 April 2023, allowing more stakeholders to become directly involved in supporting its aims and objectives. PLT has agreed three 'green corridors' across the City. These corridors link spaces at and above ground level. PLT is working with the owners and managers of existing spaces and with others along the routes to create pollinator-friendly sites, as well as pit stops for smaller insects. These corridors have been adopted by City of

London leadership as a key and visible objective to help tackle biodiversity loss and tackle adapting to climate change.

<https://www.pollinatinglondontogether.com/>

11. Livery Climate Action Group (91 livery companies)

The Livery Climate Action Group (LCAG) was formed in October 2021 to engage the City's Livery Companies in meeting the City Corporation's expectations of a net zero City by 2040. Each Company is encouraged to create its own climate action plan and LCAG has created templates and guidance notes to aid this. Our YouTube site hosts interviews and videos by individual Livery Companies talking about their ambitions. We have held two in person annual Conferences and many online and in person seminars ranging from topics such as Almshouses to Sustainable Eating. Our enthusiasm is matched by that of so many Liveries who are creating their own groups to engage with their industry (e.g. Green Aviation Task Force) or data gathering such as the Constructors with an offer of a free Livery Hall carbon data measurement and the Carmen with a QR code to collect travel and accommodation information which is so essential in measuring our carbon footprint.

<https://liverycag.org.uk/>

12. Livery Charity Chairs Group & Livery Food Initiative (87 livery companies)

The Livery Charity Chairs Group (LCCG) was founded just two years ago but already has 103 members from 87 Livery Companies and Guilds. It is very much living up to its purpose of 'sharing and learning' with a programme of quarterly hot topic sessions, drop ins on Zoom, a WhatsApp group and a summer conference at Ironmongers' Hall. Any Livery Charity Chair is invited to join and membership is free of charge. '*Hearing how other Companies deal with the issues we all face*', '*sharing best practice*' and '*knowing there's a support network and a wealth of knowledge to learn from*' were just three of the benefits cited by LCCG members in a recent survey. Last September LCCG decided to address the pressing food poverty crisis in London and launched the Livery Food Initiative, raising funds for City Harvest, a charity that rescues food that is going to waste and delivers it to over 375 charities across London. The first aim was to raise the £190,000 needed to enable a City Harvest Van to deliver food for 2.4 million meals over the next three years. By March the Lord Mayor was able to hand over the keys of the van to City Harvest. Already 50 Livery Companies and Guilds have contributed to this three-year initiative and over £200,000 has been raised.

liverycharitychairsgroup@gmail.com, <https://cityharvest.org.uk/livery-food-initiative/>

13. Pan-Livery Pro-Bono Interest Group (40 livery companies)

Established in January 2022 PLPB Group's aim is to increase the scale and impact of the £6.8m annual value of volunteer and pro-bono support to charities and individual beneficiaries: by sharing experience and good practice, identifying and tackling common challenges, and facilitating inter-company working. Four meetings of the PLPB Group have been held over the past year. Full details of these meetings, along with contact details and the future calendar, can be found in the PLPB section of the Livery Committee website. As the website develops, it will also facilitate knowledge sharing and contain practical guidance.

<https://liverycommittee.org/charities-and-education/charities/the-pan-livery-pro-bono/>

Pan-Livery Steering Group

Mr Rob Abernethy; Ms Penny Graham; Mr Jonathan Grosvenor; Mr James Gurling; Dr Bob Harris; The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor Alderman Nicholas Lyons; Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli (Chairman); Ms Kate Pink; Mr Johnny Robertson; Colonel Richard Winstanley; Deputy Philip Woodhouse.