



LIVERY SCHOOLS LINK REPORT 2017-2018

LSL membership

We are pleased to say we had 55 member Livery Companies and one donation by the end of the year on March 31. Our work is being done through our Board of volunteers. This year has been a smoother one than last year one as the teething troubles with bank accounts are behind us. Our AGM was held on June 20, 2018 at The City Centre.

2017-2018 Projects

The year has been another busy one with several activities.

The volunteer engagement platform (VP) now has the following additional new features; recruitment of school governors and inclusion of organisations closely associated with Livery Companies e.g. Guild of Young Freemen, the Honourable Artillery Company and the Association of Women Pilots. We have 26 organisations signed up and we are encouraging all Companies to consider joining. Currently, 67 schools have registered and we also have opportunities from local Education Business partnerships. With the VP we will continue to grow the number of schools with which we are in touch giving a wider geographical spread throughout the country. The development of the VP has continued under the leadership of David Barker of the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists (WCIT). A key challenge now is to get the volunteers to sign up for opportunities. Funding so far has been from Livery Companies but we are considering how to raise funding for the future development and for the administration of the site.

Our annual Careers Showcase held on February 6, 2018 at Guildhall was a great success again. Thirty Livery Companies from Basketmakers to Spectacle Makers were present and allowed students to ask questions and try out various skills in the professions and crafts represented. Over 900 students, typically aged about 15 years, attended at different times throughout the day and there was a real buzz all day. It was good to see there the Lady Mayoress, the two Sheriffs and many representatives from Livery Companies as well as the stall holders. We are grateful to the City of London Corporation who gave us funding to hold the event in Guildhall. We already have Livery and schools asking to book places for next year! The Livery Companies attending vary from year to year to some extent and we believe that with a bigger space we could encourage more to come. We had to turn away schools this year as we had the largest number attending since the Showcase began in 2010.

The 2018 Livery in Education booklet has been published and was given to all who attend the Livery Headteachers Conference, which this year took place on June 20 at Staple Inn Hall. Sponsorship for the booklet has again been given by the Goldsmiths' Company. We are circulating copies to all Livery Companies.

The Livery Headteachers conference is organised in conjunction with the Actuaries' and Educators' Companies. The theme was careers advice and guidance which is particularly relevant with the new government careers strategy published in December 2017. We had over 100 delegates and there was good interaction and engagement and lively discussion. The underlying theme of the conference is how the Livery Companies might help schools.

We have run three themed careers conferences in the last year on Jobs on the Water, Careers in Fashion and Careers in Medicine. All three events are planned again for 2018-19 with additional events being planned. The 120 places at the 2018 Barbers' event on Medicine were taken up within 72 hours. The event took place on February 23 and was again a great success.

We have continued with the responsibility for the delivery of the Livery Academy awards which this year involved four Companies again: Grocers, Mercers, Drapers and Haberdashers. The administrator, Wendy Turner, ensured that all ran smoothly and all who participated seemed to enjoy the experience. It is however a concern that the increasing costs of the Mansion House final means that the format may have to change in future years.

The funding for the World War One project 'Echoes across the century' has finished and a book has been published showing the art produced by all the school children. One picture won a prize in a competition run by a charity to help children understand about the First World War.

We have started working with some members of the Horners' Company and the Educators' Company to consider the possibility of a careers module which looks at careers education from the young person's point of view. Most careers material starts from the teacher or the industry point of view. The work is in an early stage of development and we will need to seek funding for this.

2018-2019

Livery Skills Link is very grateful to the City of London Corporation Education Board for the support we have been given over recent years. We hope to repeat the main activities next year. The Pan Livery project has been in the background of our work this year and we believe we can demonstrate that we are an existing example of cross Livery cooperation...

For 2018-2019 we would value support from the Education Board for the Showcase.

The Guildhall as a venue for the Showcase for the past two years has been excellent and we hope we might be able to have use of this again next year together with help in meeting the costs of coffee during the day and for the private view at the end of the day. This event is now well established with increased interest from both Livery Companies and schools and we wondered if a move to the Great Hall as the venue

might be possible. We understand the costs of the Great Hall to be £15,000 compared to the costs of the Old Library at £11,300. The Showcase could be adapted to fit in with the plans that the Education Board might have and we will work with the Education Board on this. We believe it would be possible to expand the event to cover more than one day, although we are aware of the demands on several Companies in getting teams of volunteers together, so an extension to two days might be possible as a first step.

We plan another Livery- Headteachers conference in 2019 together with a new edition of the Livery in Education booklet. The conference has been full in recent years and we need to look for a larger venue for 2019. We will look for sponsorship of these two activities.

Our themed events will continue, and further ones are being planned.

We are seeking further funding from Livery Companies for the volunteer brokerage platform and we are also considering setting up a social enterprise company for this. The Livery Academy Awards programme is likely to expand this year and we understand there may be another funding solution which does not involve LSL.

Lis Goodwin, Chairman
Livery Schools Link
June 2018