



ANNUAL REPORT

1.4.20-31.3.21

Introduction

This report covers the period from the start of April 2020 until the end of March 2021. At the start of the year although we were into the start of the first lock-down I think like many people we all thought we would be back to the old normal by the autumn 2020. It has certainly been an interesting 'virtual' year.

Livery Schools Link (LSL) as an organisation has worked hard during the year and we are pleased that we have been able to deliver our activities in various ways.

Purpose

The purpose of LSL is:

- 1. To support schools in developing young people's employability skills for work and life.
- 2. To make young people aware about the wide range of employment and training opportunities which are represented by Livery Companies and their members.
- 3. To help to raise the aspirations of young people.
- 4. To positively encourage Livery Companies and their members to get actively involved in helping achieve links between them and schools.

(The word 'schools' includes schools, academies and colleges for students between the ages of 5 and 18. The phrase 'Livery Companies' includes Companies seeking Livery Status and Guilds.)

Schools are now planning their careers activities alongside the Gatsby benchmarks which require young people to have contact with those in employment of different types. The work of LSL can be of help to schools.

Membership

During 2020-21 we had 70 members plus one donation. We continue to look to attract more members as our income comes mainly from subscriptions. My thanks again are due to Maureen Marden who as our Livery Liaison Director has worked long hours keeping in touch with Livery Companies during this period.

Digital divide campaign

As lock-down was looming two of our Directors, David Barker and Maureen Marden began to think about a campaign to raise money for helping disadvantaged secondary schoolchildren become connected to the internet. The campaign was launched last summer and we began identifying schools to receive devices and connections to help students at both primary and secondary level who were struggling with on-line schooling. The subsequent lock-down over the first months of 2021 emphasised again the need for this campaign. By March 2021 we had raised about £150,000 and had helped 58 schools some outside London. This represented 835 students. We registered with Virgin Money which allowed us to accept donations from individuals which attracted Gift Aid. Money has continued to arrive after the year end. Several schools have told us that they do not want to lose the on-line learning skills which the students have developed and blended learning is now part of the curriculum. The need for devices and connections will still be there going forward.

Volunteer platform

We decided that the best way forward on the volunteering platform was to join with two established Charities 'Speakers for Schools' and 'Inspiring the Future' both of

which were also offering career talks to young people. The two charities were pleased to welcome volunteers from all Livery Companies and Guilds to engage with and support students in schools and colleges across the UK. Many of the schools and colleges are in areas where the young people come from socially disadvantaged backgrounds. By signing up through the LSL scheme each Livery Company is to be given an annual report about the amount of time spent in this volunteering by their members. As well as careers awareness courses, mock interviews and help with CVs the platform also has opportunities of virtual work experience and we are planning to develop this aspect in the coming months. By the end of March 2021 101 Livery volunteers were enrolled on the platform.

Livery Education conference

The 2021 conference took place by Zoom on 9 March 2021. We followed our standard format and invited 50 senior staff from London schools and 50 Masters of Livery Companies to discuss issues of common interest on preparing young people for the future. The theme was 'Preparing young people for the changing future'. Sheriff Chris Hayward gave a welcome to start the conference off. The first talk was 'Earn as you learn Apprenticeships in 2021- How is the City of London meeting the challenge?' Given by Past Lord Mayor, Alderman Sir Andrew Parmley and Caroline Haines CC, Chair City of London Education Board. This was followed by Sarah Counter, the CEO of Canary Wharf College, talking on 'Spinning plates into the future A CEO's view of preparing pupils for the future now'. This gave a fascinating picture about how schools are changing as a result of the recent year. The final talk was on the careers app for young people HELP which was developed by the Horners and SACU, a software company, together with the Educators and LSL. We made the conference shorter than usual because we missed the chance for breaks to mix and chat. However, we did break into rooms for one discussion session where we were able to mix school and Livery representatives to talk about the current issues in education. Unfortunately, the date of the conference coincided with the week that schools opened up again after the lock-down early in 2021 which meant a number of school attendees could only logon for part of the session. LSL were pleased however that the event did take place and we might consider some future events in this format going forward. The conference is organised in conjunction with the Actuaries' and Educators' Companies.

Livery in Education

The 2021 Livery in Education booklet was published in March 2021 and presented to all Clerks. It was sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths who have kindly also sponsored previous editions. We continued with the principle that the entry for each Company should be decided by the Company itself. Because of the uncertainty with the Covid situation we did not ask for revised entries for 2020 as usual in March 2020 but left it until autumn 2020.

Livery Showcase

The Livery Showcase is now part of the larger London Careers Festival (LCF) and unfortunately the LCF had to be run as a virtual event in summer 2020. A number of relevant Webinars were offered to schools and a lot of careers resources were put on the LCF Website where they are available for consultation all through the year. The Showcase was not offered in 2020 but we have spent time preparing for a virtual Showcase in June 2021. The decision was taken at the end of last year that the

2021 LCF would be virtual so that time could be spent in preparing for this. We would like to thank the Livery Companies who have been working on this this year.

Careers app

We continue to promote HELP the careers app to support young people in Years 8 and 9 as they make their choices for GCSE in Year 9. It is based upon proven, existing technology. The app can be downloaded free of charge from www.sacu-student.com/help.

The Board

We welcomed two new directors at the 2020 AGM: Richard Kottler, Pattenmakers' Company and Christopher Chivers, Joiners and Ceilers' Company. One director is leaving at this AGM: David Barker from the Information Technologists' Company. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank him for the work he has done for LSL. David helped in the development of our volunteering platform and on the Digital Divide campaign. He also was the IT 'go to' person for all our events! One new Director is being appointed today: and we look forward to their contribution to the Board going forward.

We need more people to volunteer to work with us in this interesting and rewarding charity. We would like to encourage a wider range of involvement from members and to help spread the load as we continue to offer more support and services to our membership and local schools. Please contact Lis Goodwin on lis.goodwin@liveryschoolslink.org.uk

Lis Goodwin Chairman

ANNEX A: LIST OF MEMBER LIVERY COMPANIES AT 31 MARCH 2021

Worshipful Company of Actuaries
Honourable Company of Air Pilots
Worshipful Company of Apothecaries
Worshipful Company of Arbitrators
Worshipful Company of Armourers and Brasiers
Worshipful Company of Arts Scholars
Worshipful Company of Bakers
Worshipful Company of Barbers
Worshipful Company of Basketmakers
Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths
Worshipful Company of Builders Merchants
Worshipful Company of Butchers
Worshipful Company of Chartered Accountants
Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects
Worshipful Company of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators
Worshipful Company of Chartered Surveyors
Worshipful Company of Clockmakers
Worshipful Company of Clothworkers
Worshipful Company of Coachmakers
Company of Communicators
Worshipful Company of Constructors

Worshipful Company of Cooks
Worshipful Company of Coopers
Worshipful Company of Cutlers
Worshipful Company of Distillers
Worshipful Company of Educators
Worshipful Company of Environmental Cleaners
Worshipful Company of Farriers
Worshipful Company of Fishmongers
Worshipful Company of Fletchers
Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters
Worshipful Company of Fuellers
Worshipful Company of Gardeners
Worshipful Company of Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers
Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths
Worshipful Company of Grocers
Worshipful Company of Gunmakers
Worshipful Company of Haberdashers
Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers
Worshipful Company of Horners
Worshipful Company of Information Technologists
Worshipful Company of Innholders
Worshipful Company of Insurers
Worshipful Company of International Bankers
Worshipful Company of Joiners and Ceilers
Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards
Worshipful Company of Management Consultants
Worshipful Company of Masons
Honorable Company of Master Mariners
Worshipful Company of Mercers
Worshipful Company of Merchant Taylors
Company of Nurses
Worshipful Company of Painter-Stainers
Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers
Worshipful Company of Paviers
Worshipful Company of Saddlers
Worshipful Company of Salters
Worshipful Company of Scientific Instrument Makers
Worshipful Company of Scriveners
Worshipful Company of Shipwrights
Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers
Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers
Worshipful Company of Tin Plate Workers
Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers
Worshipful Company of Upholders
Company of Watermen and Lightermen
Worshipful Company of Weavers
Worshipful Company of Woolmen
Worshipful Company of World Traders
Worshipful Company of Drapers (donation)

ANNEX B: TRUSTEES 2020-21

Lis Goodwin, Chairman	(Educators)
Jonathan Legat	(Air Pilots)
Maureen Marden	(Environmental Cleaners)
Chris Chivers	(Joiners and Ceilers)
Paul Cole	(Barbers)
Susan Fey (also known as Susan Squire)	(Educators)
David Barker	(Information Technologists)
Richard Kottler	(Pattenmakers)
Philip Woodhouse	(Livery Committee, ex officio)

ANNEX C: LEGAL COUNSEL

Nick Hutton	(Solicitor, Holman Fenwick Willan LLP)
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