

The Lamp

For the nursing profession, past present and future



Newsletter of the Company of Nurses

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Welcome to the Winter newsletter. The Livery world has certainly returned to “face to face” engagements and I have found myself representing the Company of Nurses on many occasions since September. October and November have been particularly busy with many invitations received. You can read about some of these in this newsletter with more on the website and on our social media accounts.

At my installation I said my prime focus is on preparing the Company for our progression to becoming the Worshipful Company of Nurses. We hope to achieve this in the next two to three years, but first we have to demonstrate that we are a thriving and sustainable organisation. A strong membership and a healthy bank balance are two key factors in ensuring success and we continue to encourage you to spread the word to colleagues and friends about joining us. Our core ethos is to be inclusive and affordable to all in our profession. As our main source of income is quarterage, we therefore rely on a sufficient number of nurses joining us. To help spread the word we have produced a leaflet that you can share with anyone who may be interested. Please also encourage them to visit our website where there is a great deal of information about the Company and the Livery world.

Another important aspect of progressing is the opportunity to petition for a Grant of Arms. Many of you joined me recently at a virtual event, and then for afternoon tea at the Old Bailey to learn more. We have launched our appeal and I would urge you to support this and be part of our history. It is a very exciting aspect of becoming a Worshipful Company and the eventual Coat of Arms will be in place for ever, representing our profession. Each Freeman contributing a small amount will help achieve our aim. Thank you to all who have supported this appeal so far.

I am pleased to report that we have had many responses to the confidential monitoring form for protected characteristics, and we are collating the information we have received. We also heard from many of you giving permission for your contact details to be shared on the members only part of the website to create a directory. This will allow Freeman to see if they have near neighbours from the Company who might wish to arrange some local get togethers. If you would like to be included in this, please let us know if you haven't already.

There is much to look forward to as a Company. We have a committed and enthusiastic membership, a thriving Charity which continues to make a difference, and a calendar of social and educational events that provides something for everyone. This is a significant time in our development as we progress to Livery status, and I am very grateful for the commitment and support that you provide. Thank you for reading this newsletter and to everyone who has contributed to it.

With best wishes

Frances Davies Master, The Company of Nurses



Frances Davies, Master



The Master Accepts Special Award from the Lord Mayor

Lord Mayor's COVID-19 Livery Awards

In July the Master attended the Mansion House, with three of our Freeman, to receive an award for our professions' response to COVID-19 from the Lord Mayor, William Russell. We were initially invited to make a recommendation for an individual to receive this but felt very strongly that so many of our Freeman had made extraordinary contributions. The Lord Mayor recognised this and made a special commendation to the entire Company of Nurses. It was a moving occasion to hear of all the good work that individuals and Companies had done, and continue to do, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Annual Church Service

On Wednesday 13th October the Company held their annual church service at St. Lawrence Jewry in the City of London. It gave us a chance to reflect on the difficult time humanity has faced during the pandemic.

The Right Rev'd Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark gave the sermon and we enjoyed beautiful singing by the University of London Church Choir. Our Honorary Chaplain, the Rev'd Canon Charles Pickstone, presided. We were again able to renew our commitment to the nursing profession.

The Road to Livery

As we progress towards Livery status, we continue to introduce some of the people within the Company who are helping us to achieve this. We regularly see our Honorary Beadle, Martin Whitehead, at our formal events so we asked him to tell us more about himself and the role.



What is the role of a Beadle within a Livery Company?

The role of a Beadle is to maintain the traditions and protocols of the Company working collaboratively with the Clerks, Master and Court to ensure smooth running of formal Livery events. The Beadle acts as Toastmaster

and to maintain good order and timing. The Beadle may look after Livery Halls, Company Treasures, Gowns and other regalia and also assists at Court Meetings, Church services and accompanies the Master at City events such as the Election of the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs.

What are some of the things you do?

For the more formal functions, I work with the Court and Clerks to generate a running order defining what takes place when, and by whom. I make the announcements at the appropriate times and ensure all the people involved are briefed and pre-warned to ensure seamless continuity.

The most challenging aspect is getting Freeman and guests to their assigned places at the correct time. With a large function one can take on the role of a sheep dog, politely herding people often deep in conversation from a reception area to the function room. Then follows the liaison with catering staff to serve and clear the meal and ensure correct timing of the Loyal Toasts. Finally, drawing the function to a close and vacating the function room by the prescribed time, the more challenging this is indicates the greater success of the event!

What is an Honorary Beadle?

Beadles are normally paid. An Honorary Beadle will use their experience pro bono to help a new Guild or Company achieve its objective of becoming a Livery Company.

What did you do before you became a Beadle?

My career was as a Chartered Engineer working within research, design and development of combustion engines. I am a member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and a Chartered Engineer. This involved considerable overseas travel and for some years my wife and I lived and worked in the US.

How did you get involved with Livery?

In 2006, a close neighbour: Keith Lawry, the first Honorary Clerk of the newly formed Guild of Educators, asked my wife if I would be interested in becoming a Beadle, her response was no! She did not mention that to me, but the Clerk 'being a Clerk' pursued the matter, asked me and I thought it could be a new challenge. I remained as Honorary Beadle to the Guild of Educators until they gained Livery, becoming the Worshipful Company of Educators. Later, Keith Lawry who now was assisting the establishment of the Guild of Nurses asked me again, and so the story repeats and I became your Honorary Beadle.

Have you got a Livery highlight?

The best aspects of being a Beadle are meeting people, being part of the traditions and officiating on time seamless function where the inevitable hiccups are never noticed. The highlight for me was assisting the resident Beadle at Mansion House when the Company of Educators received full Livery status.

Grant of Arms Appeal Launch



The award of a Grant of Arms will signify that The Company of Nurses is recognised as a worthy and respected body which will strengthen our ability to promote our profession and enhance our membership within the Livery community.

The launch event was held in September at The Old Bailey. Sheriff Christopher Hayward and his consort Alexandra, a Freeman of our Company gave us a personal guided tour. The Master, Freeman and their guests then enjoyed afternoon tea in the Judge's dining room where we were able to see the Coats of Arms of all the previous Sheriffs of the City of London. This was a fantastic event to launch the Company's Grant of Arms appeal. We were privileged to have been invited by Alex Hayward, in what was her and Chris' very last week in office. Thank you to Alex and Chris for entertaining us so well and for helping us get the appeal off to such a good start!



Diary Dates

Wednesday 8 December
Christmas Quiz

Wednesday 26 January
A virtual walk around London with Anthony Robbins

Wednesday 9 February
A guided tour around Apothecaries' Hall with lunch nearby

Saturday 19 March
City Walk

Wednesday 30 March
Education and Professional Development event

Friday 1 April
United Guilds Service, St Paul's Cathedral

Monday 4 April
Livery Companies Monday Lunch Club at Ironmongers' Hall

Wednesday 4 May
Anniversary Banquet at Vintners' Hall

Tuesday 17 May
Tour of the Chelsea Physic Garden

Wednesday 8 June
Visit to the Fan Museum, Greenwich with afternoon tea

Wednesday 20 July
Tour of The Charterhouse and gardens followed by tea and cake



All City of London Guilds and Livery Companies share a common purpose in supporting charitable and benevolent causes. The Company of Nurses Charitable Trust is the charitable arm of The Company of Nurses and is registered with the Charity Commission. The over-riding aim of the Trust is to benefit the public at large by helping to raise standards of nursing care, encourage health and wellbeing and save lives.

The Trustees are all nurses and are acutely aware of the financial pressures that members of the profession may face at different stages of their careers. The Trust intends to support those entering the nursing profession who may need financial assistance for study purposes, as well as nurses and former nurses experiencing hardship who need help and support.

The Royal British Nurses Association (RBNA) entrusted the Company of Nurses Charitable Trust with their charitable funds.

History and heritage are very important not only to our Company, but also our profession.

After decades of campaigning the Nurses Registration Act finally passed into law on 23rd December 1919. The General Nursing Council

was formed to set up and maintain a register of nurses and 100 years ago, the register was finally opened on 30th September 1921.

The first to appear was Ethel Bedford Fenwick, SRN 1. A nurse of great renown and an icon for our profession, she had become Matron at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London at the age of 24. Ethel Bedford Fenwick also set up what was then the British Nurses Association soon to receive Royal support from Queen Victoria's daughter, Princess Christian and become the Royal British Nurses Association (RBNA) in 1892. The RBNA has entrusted the Company of Nurses Charitable Trust with their charitable funds. Our Trustees will ensure that these are well managed and used for benevolent or educational purposes. These will be put to good use supporting nurses in need.

Brenda Griffiths



Ethel Bedford Fenwick



Brenda Griffiths, Chair of the board of Trustees:
"The rich history of the RBNA and SRN 1 is in our hands and The Company of Nurses can ensure that both are remembered in perpetuity"

Welcome to our New Freeman

On 20th July, we welcomed 9 new Freeman and an apprentice at a virtual Freedom Ceremony. Applicants were granted the Freedom by the Master watched by their friends, families and guests. We welcomed a new Apprentice to the Company Simon Van Zyl, who is studying midwifery.



Steven Beaumont, Michael Fanner, Carol Goldman, Catrina Hughes, Pamela Martin, Carole Mattock, Charlotte Siddu, Jason Warriner, Elena Woods and Simon Van Zyl with members of the Company

On 13th October following the Annual Church Service we welcomed 6 new Freeman at a Freedom Ceremony in the Guildhall led by the Master. We also welcomed those who had made their declaration virtually over the last eighteen months.



New Freeman Rob Jayne, Trevor Peel, Caroline Shuldham, Anne Taylor, Margaret Thornley and Senga Varney with members of the Company

Website News

Please take a look at the Freeman only section of the website with your new individual login details which have been emailed to you. Alongside the new Members Directory that the Master has mentioned in her letter on the front of this newsletter, you will find many other items of interest from our Freeman, the Company and the City in the "Freemen's Noticeboard". If you have not received your new login details, please email clerk@companyofnurses.co.uk

Fellowship

In April, a tutored cheese tasting with Arthur Alsop of Alsop and Walker cheese makers was held on Zoom, and even included baking one of the cheeses. It was a fun evening with lots of laughter, the chat box had comments from 'Blessed are the cheesemakers' from the Life of Brian, to 'bang goes my diet'.



Other events included a virtual River Thames Guided Walk and a very special evening of Magic from Rob Jayne, aka The Big Foolini, a fellow nurse, magician, film maker and general technical wizard who provided us with an hour of magical entertainment. We are delighted that Rob has recently joined us as a Freeman of the Company of Nurses.

On 10th July, fourteen Freeman and their guests, met up in person for the first time since lockdown. Our regular City Guide Maureen Corcoran took us on a fascinating walk around Mayfair where Florence Nightingale lived during the latter years of her life. The walk started at the Blue Plaque commemorating the site of the house where she settled from 1865 until her death in 1910. The tour lasted about two hours and ended at the Florence Nightingale statue in Waterloo Square.



Education & Development

David Bates is the the Chair of the Education and Professional Development Committee and we asked him to update us on their activities.



Coaching and Mentoring

The Company is now offering experienced mentors and coaches for its Freeman and Apprentices who require support for specific, or general professional and personal development. Expressions of interest are still invited from qualified mentors and coaches to build our current delivery team of nine. If you are a coach or mentor and want to make a difference, please look at The Company of Nurses' website for more information and please get in touch with David. We envisage a high demand for this coaching and mentoring service in the coming months.

Livery Schools Link

The Livery Schools Link (LSL) is a voluntary organisation that assists children from less advantaged backgrounds to help prepare them for the world of work, increasing their access to career options and employability. The Company of Nurses supports the Livery Schools Link and will be represented at their Annual Careers Showcase Event in June 2022. Please give your name to David and his team if you are interested in assisting with this event. We were fortunate to be updated on the work of the LSL by David Barker, outgoing Trustee of LSL, at the latest Education and Professional Development Forum.

Education and Development Meetings

In June we heard from Freeman Carole Olding, presenting her research on the impact of COVID-19 on attendances at the Emergency Department at Kings College with a mental health component. We also heard from Oliver Soriano, Interim Head of Philippines Nurses' Association (PNA) UK, who discussed the work of the PNA and offered opportunities for partnering and networking across the myriad of organisations that are currently working in all sectors across the UK to support international nurses.

Livery Snippet

Are you at 'Sixes and Sevens'?

So many expressions in regular use are thought to have their origins in the Livery

All Livery Companies are numbered by their order of precedence. Number 1, the oldest are the Mercers, the newest at number 110 are the Arts Scholars.

The Worshipful Company of Merchant Taylors and The Worshipful Company of Skinners were both set in 1515 and given the numbers 6 & 7 respectively. However, as these two companies disputed their positions, a compromise was agreed by which they exchange sixth and seventh place each year at Easter.



In October, Freeman Jane Naismith, Director of Clinical Services told us about the work of St Joseph's Hospice and the wider issues of palliative care and advanced care planning. She was joined by Tony McClean CEO. Both Jane and Tony are Freeman of the Company of Nurses.



Jane Naismith, Director of Clinical Services



Tony McClean, CEO