**Lord Mayor's COVID19 Livery Awards**

In Newsletter Issue 70 we report on the range of activities that Members have been engaged in, both in their immediate neighbourhoods and on a wider scale, and also in their work for local, regional, national, and international charities. Some of this has been through direct involvement, some through Pro Bono consulting and through the provision of our Charitable Fund’s grant giving.

The document presents a broad and high-level summary of those efforts: a fascinating and wide range of contributions, which illustrates what members have been doing for others throughout the pandemic. It should be recognised that most members of the Company are modest. We don’t shout about what we do, and we don’t nominate ourselves, because it’s not the kind of thing that we British people do. In recognition this document does not name names but sticks the “what” of what we’ve been doing. So, please bear in mind that this is only an illustration, and an incomplete picture.

The document is in several sections and starts, as you might expect, with Pro Bono work:

**Pro Bono Consulting & Mentoring**

Demand for these services increased significantly as a result of the COVID-19 crisis and we have seen a very wide range of work undertaken by the Pro Bono community. This includes significant strategy work with clients including:

National Africa Centre (NAC), Welwitschia Welfare Centre, The Tutu Foundation(UK), The Common Room, AY Group CIC, Art History Link-Up, XLP… the list could go on.

The Mentoring service continued, again with increased demand.

**Volunteering in local Communities**

Many members have stepped up the level of work we do in our communities. They have been involved with, or indeed started up, local community initiatives ranging from Coronavirus Support Networks / COVID Action Networks, to making local food deliveries and working with food banks, to making pharmacy visits on behalf of those who cannot get out, to keeping a watchful eye on households and residents in the local community. Many members are active in their local churches.

**Working as Trustees**

Many members act as Trustees to a wide variety of organisations. They have seen the needs of the organisations they support grow in response to the demands of the pandemic. Some of the organisations that benefit from our members efforts include Girlguiding (we have a member who is Trustee and another is a Deputy Region Chief Commissioner), the children's charity Coram, Creative Kernow – an arts hub, the Honorary Treasurers’ Forum …. There are many others, and we hope to feature them in future editions of the Newsletter.

**Support to grant making bodies / charities.**

As well as the efforts of the Trustees of our own Charitable Fund, our members have supported grant making in various ways: Chair of Wells & Campden Trust, Consultant Grant Assessor with The Fore, and supporting Youth Business International (YBI: the subject of a recent virtual event) by carrying out virtual assessments of prospective new member organisations internationally as part of helping to disburse $5m of Google’s philanthropy to organisations in 40+ countries.

**Pan Livery Initiatives**

Our members’ efforts on the Pan Livery Steering Committee have included carrying out a survey of Philanthropy across the Livery, which has been recognised by Sir Charles Bowman. (Lord Mayor of London in 2017/18). Members have been active in shaping and steering the pilot of the Securing Future Prosperity project, which we hope will engage supporters from across the Livery and deliver significant benefits to SMEs across London during 2021. Even at this early stage the project has a high profile in the City, and is viewed in a positive light by the Lord Mayor and those Aldermen involved.

**Behand the scenes at WCoMC**

Working behand the scenes to manage our own response to the Covid crisis: getting going with Zoom and later Vimeo, organising a range of virtual events including taking formal ceremonies and less formal events such as “Shop Talk” online, arranging popular virtual Wine Tasting sessions, commissioning new ideas such as “My most interesting project” and virtual Faith Group meetings, a full range of Showcases and other events under the CMCE banner. All these were aimed at increasing member involvement during lockdown.

Our ‘Almoner’s project” early in the pandemic was a serious attempt to engage directly with members and more recently there was our first full blown membership survey.

**Wives, Partners, Consorts**

This summary focuses on the efforts of our members, but we should not forget those of our partners who have also been active in response to the crisis. We reported in the Newsletter on the activities of two partners, working at opposite ends of the country via “The Scrub Hub”, to create PPE equipment at the time of great shortages.

Another partner has organised local women, who due to variety of medical conditions should not be doing their own shopping. They arranged the online grocery deliveries in sequence over the week ahead, so they could call the house expecting tomorrow’s delivery with any top up items they needed for the following day. Simple, but effective.

**Our Nomination**

The Court of Wardens then had the unenviable task of trying to make an apples and pears comparison of the many and varied submissions. After deep consideration and discussion we decided that we should nominate someone who had done a great deal on their own account, but who would be willing to share the Award as representative and torch bearer for the whole Company.  We have nominated our leader for most of 2020, Immediate Past Master Denise Fellows and that the nomination has been accepted by the Lord Mayor’s Office. The nomination that the wardens submitted reads as follows:

Denise Fellows nomination

As Master of the Worshipful Company of Management Consultants at the time of the initial Covid-19 outbreak and the first lockdown Denise, working with the Court of Wardens, steered the Company’s response to the crisis.  As part of this redirection she:

* ensured that the governance of the Company continued uninterrupted by moving our Wardens’ meetings and Court of Assistants’ meetings online using Zoom.
* ensured that our efforts went into devising a succession of virtual events where we could continue to engage in fellowship
* orchestrated and officiated at online admission ceremonies and essentially oversaw our efforts at continuing with business as usual
* continued to encourage the wide range of pro bono support to charities undertaken by WCoMC members

In addition, and as a specific response to the pandemic, Denise has been working with colleagues to shape and steer the pilot of the Securing Future Prosperity project, which we hope will engage supporters from across the Livery and deliver significant benefits to SMEs across London during 2021. In the wider community Denise played a leading role in the Honorary Treasurers’ Forum during the year - a membership organisation that provides a source of information, research and knowledge for the Treasurers of charities large and small.   Denise has also acted as Treasurer of our own Charitable Fund and has actively supported a review of the operation of that Fund carried during 2020. She is also active in her local community through her church.

As the Immediate Past Master of the Company Denise represents the very wide scope of activities undertaken by Company Members during 2020, in their local communities and through Pro Bono consulting and mentoring services to a wide range of charities, demand for which increased significantly during the pandemic.