

# Chairman's Address 5<sup>th</sup> September



Thank you all for coming and my enormous thanks goes to Samantha for her support and for coming today and regaling us with her experiences over the past year that she has been in office. Truly fascinating and I confess I have a snitsy bit of Mayoress envy!

For those of you not fluent in Von-speak, I apologise in advance for my grammar and phrasing, not to mention some wording that may be unfamiliar!!

Printed in front of you, inside your menu you will find a copy of a Feedback from Michelle Humphries, I think its self-explanatory and simply wonderful, Michelle is here today and yes I did get her permission! I thought I would share it with you all.

For today's information theme Hannah & I along with our husbands have produced a booklet that shows you the groupings, in the loosest term, of our Livery Companies. We thought it might be fun to ask for your help here please. This information comes from Nigel Pullmans spreadsheet dated 2015. We believe that from your livery companies we can gather more up to date information, please note the questionnaire.... .....Hannah will be delighted to receive this back, and will of course pass it on. We hope that this will also help to pull together a more concise picture of how the Liveries work together both for yourselves, and all of us. We are hoping that if the workload allows perhaps our Information Committee could collate the data. We can discuss this later though.

Now to our fabulous Committees: – we need your input/participation – our members will be thinking of resigning and standing down over the next few months as their term finishes. If there is anyone who thinks they would like a trial in any of our committees or several even, please contact the Chairs by email via our website, or make contact today with one of our members here – the Committee Members are wearing the green badges. Please don't be shy this is an informal learning curve and sharing our skills and enthusiasm can only be a good thing.

Our Treasurer Millie and Secretary Claire have asked me to put an urgent request to you. It has become apparent because we have grown extremely quickly that we are in urgent need of someone with a few hours, who has book-keeping skills. Please can you contact either Millie or Claire if you have this accomplishment? This is very important!!

And now we come to us – our Society – after the first year we have quite naturally lost a few members, 32 to date, totally expected of course. However for whatever reason they may have, we have enjoyed their membership and hope they had fun too. However we have grown to this size, because of YOU – and it is to YOU that I now address the situation of Membership – all Current/Present Consorts here today who are, I hope, enjoying their year, should be making their wardens Consorts aware of us and how we could assist them should

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they be interested. Since we have had 23 new members from the start of July it is clear that some of you have already been busy! However we do have room for more.

By my rudimentary maths it seems to me that with 100 Livery Companies who all have 2-3 wardens, we could have a possible rolling membership of 200-300 Future Consorts, plus of course our most necessary Past & Current Consorts through whom our working objective of sharing experiences comes about. That's a target for us to achieve!

I hope that you have thoroughly enjoyed yourselves here today in Bakers Hall and availed yourselves of not just the facilities but the delicious catering by 'Party Ingredients!' A company to be highly recommended should you be organising a Consorts event in your year of Office!! They seem to be incredibly versatile & pop up all over the place!

Von Spofforth

Chairman