

The Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers

CITY OF LONDON

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Dear Liverymen & Freemen,

Happy 25th Anniversary to The Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers
And a Merry Christmas to all of the Members!

I am sure you will all be aware that on the 19th of December we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Company as a Guild. A number of the founding members who met on that day to start our journey are, I am happy to say, still with us. We are greatly indebted to those original founding members for their great generosity over the years in providing funds for the Company to begin its journey towards Livery status. We must also give thanks to a non-member, Chartered Accountant David Roy Parker, who kindly bequeathed money to the then Guild in his Will. The total bequest was over £95,000 and since then other smaller bequests have come from past members. When I took delivery of the Master's badge last week I turned it over to find it engraved on the reverse with the names of the members who presented it to the Company in June 2006. They were Clive Tulloch, Erica Stary, Colin Reid and William Norris. Yet another indication of the generosity of members.

Now as we celebrate this landmark anniversary we are as you know making a determined effort to raise more money for our supported charities. The main event devised by middle warden Mike Gibbons takes the form of a walk of 25,000 miles over the course of the year. The intention is that everyone who joins in will walk 250 miles and will either be sponsored or sponsor themselves at £1 per mile. The maths is simple, if 100 members do this then we will raise £25,000. So if you haven't yet joined us please do so, the link is www.taxadvisers.org.uk/25000 where you can register for the walk. So far we have raised £1,700 and we are, virtually speaking, in Ontario where the weather is very chilly! There are only 17 of us at present and it would be lovely if we had another 83 to help us achieve this goal.

Christmas is nearly here

Advent calendars are now more than half opened and the advent candles getting smaller – although mine appears to be two days slow! We have had great enjoyment joining in with Carols in the City with Voces 8 and the Solicitors and Arbitrators Companies with their carol service from St Mary le Bow. Clearly Covid will

not be allowed to hide the joy of the Christmas season. Father Christmas is still due to arrive wearing a mask if necessary and bearing gifts of tax annuals!

No doubt we all hope that 2021 will with the availability of the vaccine bring about a slow but sure return to a more normal life and that the fellowship of the Livery movement will return with renewed vigour. I am sure that we all miss the real events even though the virtual ones have done a good job in entertaining us.

Before signing off I must say I hearty thank you to a number of people who have been an enormous help right from the start of my rather unusual Master's year. First of all my grateful thanks to the Court the Wardens and the committees who have held all their meetings via Zoom which was challenging initially but ultimately made the meetings more accessible for many people and I hope it might encourage members who live away from London to think about joining committees in the future.

Grateful thanks to our Clerk and our assistant Clerk for their tireless attention to minutes, keeping me up to date on the matter of events taking place and ensuring that event notifications reached our members.

Our treasurer joins me in thanking all those members who paid their quarterage in good time this year, it was much appreciated .

Last but certainly not least a big thank you and my great admiration to Ieva and Lawrence at CIOT. With their technical skills we have been able to reach an audience of many hundreds for our History of Tax talks, far more attendees than we could ever hope for at an ordinary live event. Hopefully some of those who watched the events online will ultimately decide to join the company when real events resume.

I hope that next Christmas will see us all back at St Bartholomew the Great having our usual advent service and enjoying Christmas festivities at Butchers Hall with our friends.

And so to borrow from Charles Dickens -

A merry Christmas to everybody! A happy new year to all the world!

Best wishes,

Sue Christensen
Master, Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers