

The Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers

CITY OF LONDON

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26th May 2020

Dear Liverymen & Freemen,

I hope you are keeping well and safe.

We are continuing to monitor the Covid-19 pandemic and the evolving Government guidance. It is very good to see some early signs of improvement in the situation. However, there will be no further Company face to face events until the Government advice clearly allows it. Even then, we know that there is a range of views among our members as to how quickly we should return to business as usual so we will consult widely once the position is clearer. Please let me know if you have any comments or concerns. I would very much appreciate your views which will be helpful to us as we plan the way forward.

There is a high probability that our Installation Dinner will not take place in September although we will make a final decision at the beginning of July. If we are not able to meet in person then we still plan to hold our Installation Court meeting and to install our new Master and Wardens, but this will take place on-line rather than face to face. I will provide more news about this nearer the time, but I can confirm that, come what may, the Company will begin its new year on September 22nd on a confident and optimistic footing.

I am delighted to announce that an online Company event will be held on 24th June. This will be a lecture by three eminent academics, Professor Penelope Tuck, Dr John Snape and Dr Dominic de Cogan, on the merger of HM Customs & Excise and the Inland Revenue. We will have an opportunity to hear some of our members' experience of the merger and for questions and discussion. Please look out for the flyer which will be issued shortly.

As I have mentioned in my previous mailings, we know that many members are experiencing hardship and we are keen to offer support to any members who may find themselves in difficult circumstances. The Tax Advisers' Benevolent Fund ("TABF") provides assistance to members who are in financial need, particularly as a result of circumstances beyond their control. We also offer moral support to members who may be in difficulties of other kinds and may feel, for any reason, that they cannot find help elsewhere. We are very grateful to Past Master John Dewhurst for

leading this work and he can be contacted by email at jdewhurst@chowndewhurst.com or by calling him on 07799 118 382.

Tax Aid and Tax Help for Older People have developed a Coronavirus Response Service to enable self-employed and agency workers to access the government support they need through SEISS. They have reached thousands of people through their online tutorials, website, and social media. They have also ensured that vulnerable older people, managing the pain of bereavement, have not been forgotten. The charities are there to advise and support these vulnerable people as they self-isolate and try to make sense of their loved ones' financial affairs.

The tax charities would be extremely grateful if we could take part in some events or provide sponsorship.

First, **#notKili2020**:

#notKili2020 - a new challenge with altitude!

Are you getting frustrated by the current social distancing and want to do something positive? How about joining the #notKili2020 challenge in aid of the tax charities? As the charities' #Tax2020Kili sponsored challenge to ascend Mount Kilimanjaro is now postponed to September 2021 we have set a UK free challenge.

We will climb the 3,600m height of the Kilimanjaro ascent in the UK, either by repeat climbs of local hills or up our own stairs (around 1,200 flights) while we #StayAtHome. You can walk the 72km distance of the trek round the house or outside. This is around 1,200 flights of stairs per FitBit or 100,000 steps. Or do both, but #StaySafe.

You can undertake the challenge as you like over whatever period feels challenging for you, but you must finish before 17 September 2020 – the date of the original challenge in Tanzania. **You can find more details** about the challenge and register to join in at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/notkili2020-the-social-distancing-event-with-altitude-tickets-101976237672?ref=estw>

There is a group sponsorship page (or you can set up your own **virginmoneygiving** page):

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/notKili2020>

You can either make a donation yourself or ask other people to sponsor you. Will you join us?

Secondly, The London Legal Walk - a sponsored walk but not as we know it!

Despite the postponement of the London Legal Walk due to COVID-19, many of us will still be marking 8th June with a virtual [10,000 Steps for Justice](#), in support of TaxAid and Tax Help for Older People's work with vulnerable self-employed and older people struck by the economic impact of coronavirus. Our Coronavirus Support Services are working directly to ensure vulnerable self-employed people and isolated older people are supported during the crisis and we need your help.

To register contact Rose at: Rose.Over@taxvol.org.uk

To sponsor our walkers:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-display/showROFundraiserPage?pageId=1132568>

Continuing the charitable theme, it is marvellous that we have been able to support St John Ambulance by way of a donation from the Tax Advisers Charitable Trust of £25,000 for two monitor defibrillators. We have received letters of thanks from Surgeon Rear Admiral Lionel Jarvis, Chair of St John Ambulance, and Paul Herbage, Chairman of the County Priory Group for Greater London. Our contribution will make a very meaningful difference. We will publish more about this in due course. This is something of which our Company can be proud.

We support a range of charities, one of which is Hackney Quest, which has supported young people and families in Hackney since 1988. We made a donation which was intended to fund their homework club but as a result of the Covid-19 crisis they have made even better use of our contribution. They are continuing to support activities for young people, but now using FaceTime and Zoom etc. including a homework club, music production, vocal coaching, cookery, fitness and many more. They have also put together special homework packs which include all the essentials, pens, pencils, paper etc.

Many young people do not have access to laptops or tablets to connect to others and for schoolwork. Our grant has been used to purchase reconditioned laptops which will then be loaned to young people to enable them to access the online support sessions and enable them also to have access to school homework sites. Once the charity is able to provide in-house sessions the laptops would then be used for their homework sessions too.

A number of interesting on-line lectures have been arranged by, among others, the Financial Services Group (FSG) of Livery Companies. I would like to have included some details here but this Master's Mailing is already rather long, if not too long, so I suggest instead, that if you are interested please contact our representative on the FSG, Michael Godbee, who can share more details. His email address is in the Yearbook or I can forward an email to him if you write to me. This does provide me with an excellent opportunity to thank Michael for the work he does for us in representing the Company in this important forum.

On an entirely different note, it is now possible to be admitted to the Freedom of the City by means of a virtual ceremony rather than by attendance at the Guildhall. If you have been a Freeman of the Company for a year and wish to apply for Freedom of the City, now is an excellent time to go ahead! Only after becoming Free of the City can a member be advanced to become a Liveryman and we would warmly welcome the opportunity to advance more of our members. Please contact our Clerk if you would like more information about this.

We are still anxious to recruit an archivist for the Company. We have access to a number of collections of documents relating to the earlier years of our history and we also continue to accumulate new materials. Bringing everything together will be an interesting task. In addition, we are beginning to collect documents for our proposed on-line Museum of UK Taxation, and I hope that the archivist will play a central role in this too. If any of this piques your interest, please do let me know. There is room for collaboration so archivist team members would also be welcome.

We have an opportunity to purchase the entire stock of photographs of Company events from 2006 from Michael O'Sullivan who has now retired. The cost is around £1400. We already have a generous offer of £100 from a member. If you wish to contribute to this please let me know. We

feel that this acquisition should be funded by specific contributions rather than Company funds so we will only proceed if there is sufficient support. We will aim to make the photographs available to members.

I am always delighted to include news about our members in these mailings. One of our members, Andrew Marks, is considering starting a small charity to help people over 17 years old with mental health issues, perhaps arising or exacerbated by our current situation. He would welcome suggestions and advice from members who might have an interest or experience in starting a charity. Please let me know if you are able to help.

I am most grateful to James Dixon for compiling a marvellous list of on-line entertainment which is included on the following page of this very long mailing! Also, courtesy of Richard Geldard, here is a link to Opera North's 2016 staged production of Wagner's Ring which is free to view:

[Watch Online: The Ring Cycle](#)

Or if you are reading a printed version: <https://www.operanorth.co.uk/the-ring-cycle/>

I look forward to writing again soon. In the meantime, I wish you all the very best in keeping safe and healthy and in good spirits.

Kind regards,

Paul

Paul Morton
Master, Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers

**Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers
Online Options – May 2020**

Note: The information below was correct on 24 May 2020

MUSIC

Mountbatten Festival of Music. Military Music from the Royal Albert Hall. YouTube recording

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4WV9YohPS6M&fbclid=IwAR3dhGWlFkKcK5r8VOmfSimAaXYpY77LTPaU3fQ-zlmQ-UvhY3ibjVisJ6ok>

Glyndebourne is screening a series of operas at 5pm every Sunday afternoon for the next few weeks, free of charge, on YouTube. To access, seek out the Glyndebourne homepage and follow the appropriate links. Scheduled are The Marriage of Figaro, Cosi fan tutte, Don Giovanni, and more

SCENIC RAILWAY JOURNEYS

Desperate to get away, but unable to do so immediately? These will give you a substantial foretaste of what lies in store, as seen from the driver's cab

Norway - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yHuGHRzwlqE>

Japan - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZCHOOyUSC8>

Bernina Railway, Switzerland to Italy [very attractive - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mw9qiV7XIFs>

Belgrade to Montenegro - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zomZywCAPTA>

Arctic Circle, Norway [very long – yet viewed almost 700,000 times

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3rDjPLvOShM&list=PLBNSj4twAXdLW44t7Z0fXLoedzXpHshc&index=8>

Peru, in four parts [not for the faint-hearted, especially the fourth part]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Yyti9K9cg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rD7fKeE4pcQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aumZ2F45ibU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ukOHqdPbYYg>

Bosnia and Herzegovina

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hNw8Htu6pMI>

Narrow gauge in Colorado, in three parts. The attractive side of America.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jVDNsH4YfDY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0HmbGc9vmvQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V0OfCZna0c0>

Lauterbrunnen to Kleine Scheidegg in high summer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfSsP706mR4>

CHURCH SERVICES

Our Honorary Chaplain has been very active in broadcasting the weekly Sung Eucharist at 11.00 from our Guild Church, St Bartholomew the Great.

<https://www.greatstbarts.com/broadcasts/>

Also available on YouTube at any time. Evensongs are available as a Podcast.

ONLINE JIGSAWS

<https://www.theportico.org.uk/jigsaws>

MANCHESTER COLLECTIVE

Follow this link and you might be in for some surprises

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-x9TU9dIpsu3Ca1VSumMpA>

GALLERIES

National Gallery - <https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings>

Tate Gallery - <https://www.tate.org.uk/art>

National Portrait Gallery - <https://www.npg.org.uk/learning/adults/digital-content>

V&A - <https://collections.vam.ac.uk/>

Galleries Around the World - <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner?hl=en>

Guardian's selection of best virtual museum tours

<https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2020/mar/23/10-of-the-worlds-best-virtual-museum-and-art-gallery-tours>

Anne Frank's House - <https://www.annefrank.org/en/>

MUSIC AND DRAMA

National Theatre

https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/?queueittoken=e_safetevent23apr20~q_0449a0dc-7783-40af-b69b-cdd7831079e3~ts_1587837308~ce_true~rt_safetynet~h_a8cc7215a8b86d0dbd5a8c8b48e0b42b40507a7fcb5620b524fad2da3f3d02d9

Royal Opera House

<https://www.roh.org.uk/news/the-royal-opera-house-launches-a-programme-of-free-online-content-for-the-culturally-curious-at-home>

Berlin Philharmonic

<https://www.berliner-philharmoniker.de/en/titelgeschichte/20192020/digital-concert-hall/>

New York Metropolitan Opera

<https://www.metopera.org/>

BRIDGE

<https://www.trickstercards.com/home/bridge/>

<https://www.bridgebase.com/>

GENERAL OVERVIEW

https://www.audleyvillages.co.uk/audley-stories/story/best-activities-to-improve-brain-health-without-leaving-home?utm_source=marketing-email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=owners-newsletter-five