

The Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers

CITY OF LONDON

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Dear Liverymen & Freemen,

Normally at this time of year the Master would write to the members in flowing prose about the magnificent Installation event but this year was rather different, and a virtual installation became a first for the company. Our Clerk, Stephen Henderson, rose to the occasion by writing new versions of the installation and admissions/advancements ceremonies and the event proceeded very smoothly online. Thanks to our Middle Warden, Mike Gibbons, the day concluded with a virtual wine tasting which my consort, Ian, and I thoroughly enjoyed.

I would like to thank my predecessor, Paul Morton, for the calm way he handled the transition from the beautiful Budget Banquet to a virtual world only a couple of weeks later. Paul engineered a smooth transfer from the real world to the virtual world for meetings and our Social Committee is working hard devising ways of keeping everyone entertained during the strictures of the pandemic.

It is strange to think that the position we are now in has actually led us to reach a wider audience on our History of Tax talks; no less than 456 people attended the talk by Don Korb on US Tax History and over 200 people are already registered to attend the talk on Wednesday by Helen Thornley. This is something which without an online platform we could never hope to achieve and it has helped us raise valuable funds for the TACT.

As you will know this December marks our 25th Anniversary and to honour the occasion we want to raise £25,000 to be distributed amongst the charities we support. Please help us walk 25,000 miles and raise this money to celebrate this important landmark. The walk is open to all of the Company members, their friends and family and other tax professionals and in fact anyone who wants to help us with the challenge and raise the money! Everyone has twelve months as part of the WCTA Super Team to cover their miles, there is no entry fee but we'd like you to obtain sponsorship from friends, family and work colleagues to help us raise this amount. Just go to taxadvisers.org.uk/25000 and register for the walk.

To replace our usual carol service and Christmas dinner we have arranged to be entertained online by Alan Hudson, a magician of some note, and the flier to book your place should be in your inbox. Alan is a member of the Inner Magic Circle so an evening of magic and mindreading await you next month.

I would urge everyone to keep an eye on the events page of our website. The Social Committee is working very hard to make sure that events are organised and posted on the website as quickly as possible. They will also be posted via our twitter feed which you can follow @WCoTaxAdvisers so we are making it as easy as we can for everyone to feel involved and up to date.

Whilst we are prevented from meeting one another and enjoying our usual events, catching up on news and eating and drinking together it is important that we do not forget the Fellowship commitment of the Livery movement. Some of our members live alone and I am sure they would welcome an occasional telephone call from another member simply for a chat. As Liverymen we are really not used to such a lack of human contact!

I feel sure that many members will have interesting ideas of what virtual entertainment they would like to take part in whilst we are still prevented from holding real events. If there is a virtual event which you have thought of please do email me as we are always happy to receive suggestions.

I hope you are all in good spirits and that in July next year we will be able to celebrate our 25th Anniversary – albeit belatedly - in great style with a family event including a barbecue with music provided by a jazz band.

Best wishes,

Sue Christensen
Master, Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers