

# The Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers

CITY OF LONDON

THE MASTER

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7<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Dear Liverymen & Freemen,

Our magnificent Installation events marked the start of another year for the Company, although the first few moments of our new year almost ended in disaster. No sooner had the gavel come down at the end of the Installation Court meeting, the lights went out, a flood of water began to cascade down the walls and we thought that Painters' Hall was literally crumbling before our eyes! However, a gallant group of our members, led from the front by our Deputy Master, Marcus Fincham, rescued the paintings from the walls and ushered the rest of us to safety. The wonderful Beadle and staff of Painters' Hall then arrived with a prodigious collection of mops and buckets and the Dinner proceeded as if nothing had happened!

**Before turning to other Company events, I would be grateful for your help please! I know that we have many Opera enthusiasts among us and for my "Master's weekend", with many thanks to our Clerk for his help, I propose a private guided tour of the Royal Opera House, an early dinner in those beautiful surroundings and a performance of La Bohème, which will have a very star cast! This will most likely be arranged for Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May or Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2020. As you might imagine, although this would be a really special afternoon and evening, the cost is likely to be an immodest £350 to £400 per person. I would be very grateful if you would please confirm to me, by email, phone, text, letter or pigeon, whether you would be able to join us. We will need to book and pay promptly in December but please let me know your preference, if possible, by the end of October so that we can plan accordingly.**

As we all know, the UK was the first country in the world to develop a modern tax system. Our History of Tax lectures are literally world famous and our next, at the time of writing, is Death Taxes, by Peter Allen, on 8<sup>th</sup> October. I hope that we can deepen our support for the history of tax by working towards expanding the permanent collection of tax documents and artefacts. It would be wonderful if the UK could one day boast of a tax museum!

I hope that many of you will be able to join the Lord Mayor's Show on 9<sup>th</sup> November when the Company will be participating again, invigorated, hopefully, by our success in the Inter-Livery Quiz on 16<sup>th</sup> October. Please do mark your diaries for the Carol Service and Supper on 17<sup>th</sup> December, and the Budget Banquet on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020. We have a small surprise for the Carol Service and our



Budget Banquet will be held this year at Goldsmiths' Hall, one of the finest in the City! Once again, we have arranged some musical entertainment, courtesy of the extremely talented yeomen of the Musicians' Company.

I am extremely grateful to all those who support the Company in so many ways. The amount of hard work devoted by so many members is truly staggering, and the Company would not exist without this contribution. We have some opportunities where members have either stood down or indicated a wish to do so. These include the chair of the Lord Mayor's Briefing Group, the Company Archivist and the coordinator of the Company Yearbook. If any of these roles are of interest to you please let me know or if you feel that someone else might find them rewarding please advise me so that I can ask! For example, the chair of the Lord Mayor's Briefing Group leads an annual meeting with the Lord Mayor and coordinates a very able team of briefing paper writers. It is an absolute pleasure to meet with the Lord Mayor each year to discuss the most pressing tax issues. I always found breakfast or tea with the Lord Mayor in the Mansion House to be rather fun! Equally, the archivist will shape the historical record of the Company for posterity and it is not too demanding a role. Our thanks to Erica Stary for maintaining the archive so well. Similarly, coordinating the Yearbook, which Kevin Thomas has done so marvellously for us, is not overly demanding but a big contribution to the Company. Equally, if you feel that you would like to make some other contribution to the Company, please let me know. We are keen, in particular, to hear from any members who might like to join one of our Committees, the Charities Committee, the Membership Committee or the Social Committee.

I would like to mention the Tax Advisers' Benevolent Fund ("TABF") which 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](mailto:jdewhurst@chowndewhurst.com) or by calling him on 07799 118 382.

Our charitable activities are very important to the Company. We are delighted to be able to support the two tax charities, Tax Aid and Tax Help for Older People. Funding for the two charities from HMRC has been greatly reduced over the last few years and our support is more vital than ever. These charities quite literally save lives. The Company also supports a number of other charities with links to the City. Did you know that the Livery Companies provide more than £40 million of charitable support each year? We are proud to be part of that.

Please have a look at our website, [www.taxadvisers.org.uk](http://www.taxadvisers.org.uk), where we have a Calendar of Events which is updated regularly.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Kind regards,



Paul Morton  
Master, Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers