

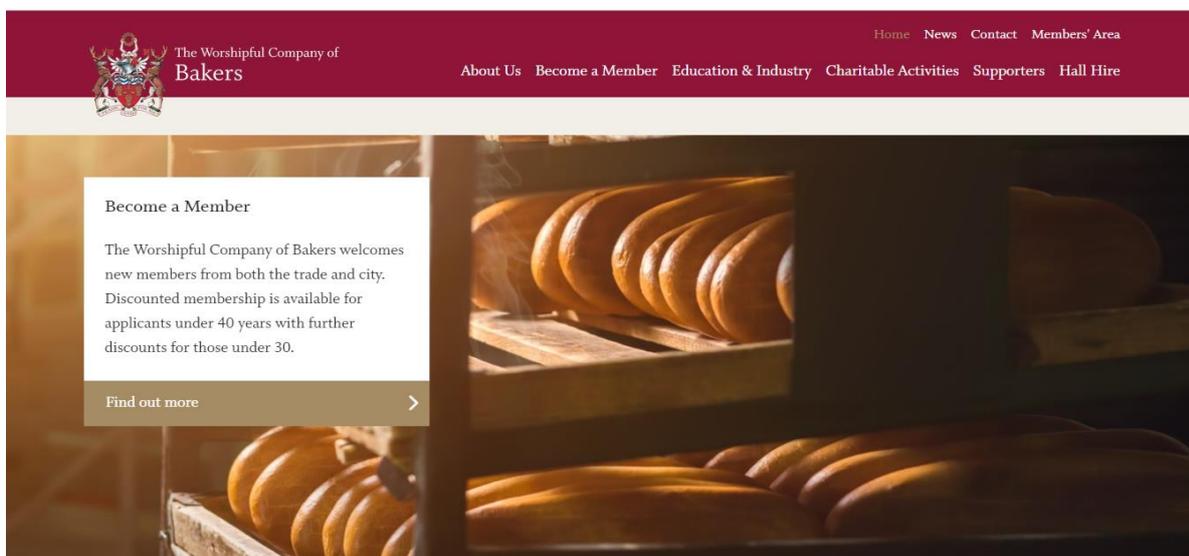


April 2021

Dear Liverymen and Freemen

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter and hope you are able to meet up with some family or friends. There is cause for optimism that we will soon be out of this but meanwhile we all need to be a little more patient and stay safe a little longer.

*** **WEBSITE NEWS***** Huge thanks to Past Mistress Baker Valerie Wilkins for transforming and updating our website which is now fully fit for purpose! Please have a look at it and access the members section from the home page <https://www.bakers.co.uk> Any comments and suggestions would be welcome. Valerie has spent a lot of time working on this project and we are hugely indebted to her.



The Bakers Livery Society hosted a talk on St Pauls Cathedral on Thursday 25th March given by Past Master Patrick Wilkins who spoke authoritatively and gave us an excellent insight into the history and workings of St Pauls. We very much look forward to a physical visit when we are able. More than 40 members joined us on Zoom.



Past Master Patrick Wilkins



Forthcoming BLS events are:

Tuesday 6th April at 6pm - a Chocolate Tasting with Hotel Chocolat on Zoom (bookings now closed)

Thursday 6th May at 6pm - a Presentation on Zoom by Sharon Ament, Director of the Museum of London, details to follow.

The work of supporting the food banks at Shoreditch Trust and First Love Foundation continues each week. We were also asked to support a new initiative led by Shoreditch Trust to provide food parcels over the 4 day Easter holiday for families with children on free school meals. I am grateful to Under Warden Peter Baker for arranging the supply of 1500 loaves of bread and packs of Hot Cross Buns supplied by John Cooper at Fletchers Bakery.

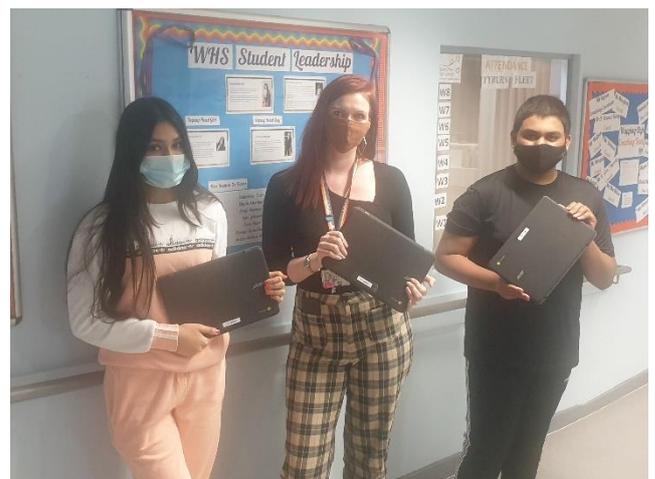
The NHS Livery Kitchen, which we have supported since the beginning, has now raised over £630,000 and amongst other things, delivered 105,000 meals. 5300 meals are currently being delivered each week, 2000 to East London communities and 3300 to Barts Health NHS Trust Hospitals. There is a cookery book available to buy see:

<https://thedrapers.co.uk/blog/2021/01/29/lki-cookbook/>

The Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch 2021 is now underway as a series of virtual events with some wonderful opportunities to support the Armed Services Pain Management Programme including talks by authors, cook along with celebrity chefs, champagne and wine masterclasses and a silent auction. Amongst the online auction you will see that we have offered a Champagne Afternoon Tea for 10 at Bakers Hall. All information on the website:

<https://events.soldierscharity.org/event/virtual-lmbcl-2021/home>

COVID 19 has had a profound effect on all of us and we have all suffered in one way or another. The Mistress and I have missed visits to the bakery, time with our children and socialising with friends, family and the Bakers Livery. When I became Master I expected a year of social and business city events and 16 months later the Masters Badge of Office has been locked away for a very long time. There is no doubt that COVID 19 has exaggerated the inequalities in society, and some have suffered severe financial hardship. The WCB has done its best to support charities working directly with individuals and families who have suffered food poverty and young people suffering educational challenges. You will know through my newsletters that we have been supporting food banks at Shoreditch Trust and First Love Foundation in Poplar and recently we have supported Wapping High School with a purchase of 35 Chromebooks to support students who could not afford to purchase their own devices for online learning. We have donated to the NHS Livery Kitchen which have provided hot meals to NHS staff during the worst of the peak pandemics.



Wapping High School

WCB donates 35 Chromebooks to Wapping High School. Photo shows Ms Ingram, Assistant Headteacher with two students happy to receive their Chromebooks to help them with their studies.

We have also donated to bakery education projects including the proposed trip to Richemont bakery school in Lucerne, the UK course at the Innovation Centre at Bicester, the annual bakery students conference and the ongoing training programme at the Shoreditch Trust for disadvantaged and disengaged young people. We continued Lessons in Loaf in which primary school children get the opportunity to experience growing wheat and making bread. Other educational donations have been made to Guildhall School of Music for Music Therapy programme. Supporting the Armed Services Pain Management Programme who are the beneficiaries of the Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch has continued. We have also supported the Bakers Benevolent Villas based at Epping.

When the Court decided to reduce quarterage from £297 to £120 for this year it was to acknowledge the lack of events but also mindful of Livery members who may have suffered a drop in income. I am writing to ask you, if you feel willing and able, to make a one off donation to the Benevolent Fund so that we may continue and increase our charitable giving during these difficult times. If you wish to make this using Gift Aid the form is on the website downloadable from <https://members.bakers.co.uk/charitable-aims> Alternatively the bank details are RBS sort code 15 20 25 account number 10183580

Of course, you could also consider making a legacy in your will.

Finally, some really good news of forthcoming physical events (subject to government guidelines).

- Dinner at Bakers Hall to celebrate the Duke of Edinburgh's 100th birthday on Monday 21st June 2021. Details to follow.
- Monday 5th July should see our first live Court Meeting and Dinner for 17 months
- Summer Banquet is now booked for Friday 23rd July at Trinity House. More details to follow but meanwhile save the date!



- Saturday 24th July is the Livery Society event Mudlarking on the Thames Foreshore at Customs House. Details to follow.
- Sunday 15th August the Mistress and I invite you to our home in Saffron Walden for a Champagne Afternoon Tea
- Wednesday 20th October is the revised date for the For All Bakers Golf Event at Walton Heath. If you are interested please contact Past Master Peter Gossage on peter.gossage@me.com and Past Master John Renshaw jjrenshaw25@gmail.com

As ever, hoping you are safe and well and I am happy to take phone calls from you on 07776480032 and on email christopherdfreeman@hotmail.com

All Best Wishes
Christopher Freeman
Master Baker