

## Our Clerk in Lockdown

So what is it like being a Clerk in this lock down period. In some ways, pretty much the same as usual, I work from home anyway. Not being able to work from a coffee shop on occasion, bad, figuring out how to see my screen in the garden, good. Meetings on Zoom - not seeing people in person, bad, but meetings spread out instead of 6 hours back to back committees has some benefits.

Obviously the inability to hold events is the main change. With hindsight we were very lucky to be able to hold our banquet as a number of companies missed out with little hope of being able to reschedule in this year. And of course early March, which seems like a lifetime ago, was rather stressful with the will we/won't we be able to run the scheduled events, making plans for modifications and then ultimately having to deal with cancelling and rescheduling. Many venue events teams are furloughed so communication is difficult.

We would normally expect the Master Elect (as he will become in July if elected at the Court meeting) to present the plan for the year around this time, the vast majority of it would be finalised with the exception of selecting menus but we still have a lot of work to do. Whilst we await direction from the Government, we expect that any events we manage to hold this year will be in a different format and some social conventions discarded for the time being, for example coats on the back of chairs to avoid cloakroom queues could be considered. If the rules on distancing are reduced to 1m it makes the possibility of running events much more reasonable. Details will follow in due course.

It is a shame that we cannot meet in person but it is lovely to hear what a wonderful supportive community we have with Liverymen being regularly in touch with each other and the new initiatives with the e-newsletter and webinars a positive step forward for the future, not just a stop gap for these strange times. We were due to admit two new liverymen at the Court in April which is sadly on hold and also new freemen had applied for Freedom of the City which has been disrupted. We look forward to the time we can all enjoy welcoming them to the fold.

Fiona Sedgwick

Clerk to the Company