

PRESS NOTICE

22 April 2016

IT SKILLS USED TO OPEN UP THE MYSTERY OF MEDIEVAL LIVERY COMPANIES AND WINS PRESTIGIOUS ANNUAL CITY LIVERY CLUB AWARD

To many, the City of London and its ancient and medieval Livery Companies are a closed book. It takes someone exceptional to find out how they work, what they do and then to tell this story to the widest possible public.

Paul Jagger became a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists in 2011 and quickly absorbed an understanding of the depth and breadth of Livery companies and the City. He immediately "got" the implications of their charitable outreach and the links with the Civic City. He also realised that there was a story to tell in a new way and set out to write the excellent book, *The City of London Freeman's Guide*. It is a tour de force about the City Freedom (explaining along the way a lot of customs and historic quirks), which goes hand in hand with an informative website and twitter handle @CityandLivery. Add to this countless lectures and a second book in gestation. He has put the Livery on the map and made many more aware of the importance and integration into the social fabric of society that these ancient institutions have.

In recognition of his exemplary work from within a City Livery Company Paul Jagger (45), the initiator and sole author of these communications, has been given the City Livery Club's "Root & Branch Award" for 2016 as an individual who has made a noteworthy contribution to the Livery.

The standard of entries this year from so many Livery companies led the judging panel also to award a Highly Commended prize to Bob Heathfield of the Worshipful Company of Constructors. Showing a very different element of Livery commitment, Bob runs a scheme for young professionals in the industry to carry out research and enhance their knowledge and that of the industry as well as mentoring these young people in their careers.

"Paul Jagger has shown how modern communication can showcase the best of what Livery Companies do. This has been sadly lacking and badly needed in order to explain that Livery

Companies play a major part in the City, charity, education and their own special trades and professions. The Root & Branch Award seeks to recognise exceptional Liverymen with initiative and innovation and hard work,” said Alderman Alison Gowman, head of the Club’s judging panel. “Paul has not stopped with a new enthusiasm for a second book and with a knack to explain in an interesting, sometimes funny and always informative way.”

“The whole City Livery community should be proud to have such a remarkable champion of our Livery story and history,” she said.

Paul Jagger was nominated for the 2016 Award by the present Master of the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists and Former Lord Mayor Alderman Sir David Wootton.

“Paul’s contribution is across a range of activities but one thing stands out as truly innovative creative and exceptional; his *The City of London Freeman’s Guide* a best seller, all his own work and idea and done entirely voluntarily with proceeds going to the Livery’s charity. A great advertisement for the City and the Livery. Quite remarkable.”

The Lord Mayor of London, Alderman Lord Mountevans, said: "It is a testament to the Livery Companies that they can foster another great winner of this Award. Paul’s book and Twitter feed, both of which are rich in informative and entertaining detail, shed a very welcome light on a part of the City that does a huge amount for wider society. He has provided an inexhaustible source of information that is the first port of call for experts and novices alike, many new Livery members among them. This is all down to Paul’s enthusiasm and determination to shine a light on the City’s many good works. Well done Paul!"

On hearing that he had won the award Mr Jagger said “The City and its Livery Companies are a force for good in society and it is my belief that they should celebrate their role more openly. I am very pleased to receive the Root and Branch award and have chosen the WCIT Charity as the beneficiary of the charitable element of the award - thus further supporting the work of the Livery.”

Mr Jagger will receive his award, which consists of a medal and a cheque for £1000 to a charity of his choice, from the Lord Mayor, Alderman Lord Mountevans, at the City Livery

Club's annual Civic Lunch on 24th May in Carpenters' Hall 1 Throgmorton Avenue London EC2N 2JJ

Notes for Editors

**** Photo opportunity – 24 May**

There will be an opportunity to photograph Mr Jagger with the President of the City Livery Club, Mr John MacCabe.

Time: 11:45pm

Venue:

Please let Alison Gowman know if you wish to send a photographer.

**** The City Livery Club**

The Club was founded in 1914 and its cardinal objective was to “bind together in one organisation Liverymen of the various Guilds by bonds of common interest in defence of all the citizens hold dear ... in service to the ancient Corporation and in maintenance of the priceless City churches”. Little has changed since then and membership of the Club is representative of practically all the Livery Companies who make up the bulk of the membership. It currently has over 800 members.

The “Root & Branch Award” was set up by the Club in 2014 to mark its centenary.

<http://www.cityliveryclub.com>

**** For Further Information**

For further information please contact Alderman Alison Gowman.

Email: alison.gowman@dlapiper.com

Mobile: +44 7971 142373

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