



WINTER BULLETIN



Wishing you a happy & healthy New Year

Welcome to the winter bulletin for the Dames Commander Society. As we enter the new year, we are excited to share the progress we have made, the events we are looking to plan and ways you can get involved. Our society is dedicated to using a collective voice to making a positive impact in our community as well as providing a supporting network for those involved in the Society. We are grateful for the support and involvement of our members over this past year. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to another successful year together.

Updates since the Summer Bulletin

Winter Dinner

On 6th December we came together for our wonderful winter event kindly supported by Salesforce. Unfortunately we unwittingly chose a train strike day, which meant that sadly some Dames were unable to make it in the end, but the 35 or so of us that managed to join had a fantastic evening making new connections and seeing familiar faces, and we look forward to the next ones! Any suggestions on venue are always welcome



Autumn Workshop

Thank you to those Dames who came to our Autumn workshop or September briefing and provided such great input. At these events we got agreement on our direction of travel which is that:

- ◆ **Purpose**
We refined our core purpose which is to use our collective voice and convening power to increase women's opportunities, representation, and leadership and to help tackle inequity and discrimination throughout society
- ◆ **Legal structure agreed**
We agreed, with the recommendation of Working Group 1, that we will pursue a Community Interest Company (CIC) as the most pragmatic and suitable vehicle for us to move forwards. Once we have a CIC set up we can apply for a bank account and we are also planning to set up a basic website. The next step for WG1 is to make this application and then further clarify our governance and operating model
- ◆ **Our test case – the election manifesto**
We agreed, with the recommendation of Working Group 2, that our test case will centre around creating a level playing field for women. In particular, that the next government should publish a gender parity strategy to include support for childcare, social care and reducing the gender pension gap

Welcome to new members

We are delighted that our membership has grown significantly since our previous newsletter – we now have 150 Dames signed up. Warmest congratulations to those Dames who have only recently been awarded their Honour – there are plenty of members happy to chat about what it means, how it feels and how to make the most of your investiture when it comes around.

Dates for your diary

We plan to have at least one formal social event and several less formal workshops with associated networking suppers in the year ahead, some of which will be held outside London – details to follow

Where next?

We are currently planning the programme of development of DCS in 2024. Our three working groups (operating model, election manifesto test case, and further causes) will continue, ahead of considering a formal launch we are keen to reach out to as many Dames as possible. We are keen that the Dames Commander Society is as inclusive and wide ranging as possible, to bring the best talent and skills together in support of our ambition, to empower women. We are delighted that the Cabinet Office are now helping us reach out to all newly announced Dames at each round of national Honours. However, it is our strong preference that fellow Dames could have a personal approach wherever possible. If you are happy to contact Dames in your personal network, please contact

uklondondamescommandersociety@deloitte.co.uk and we will be able to provide you with the list of Dames who have not yet been contacted and an introductory email.

And finally

If you would like to be added to the DCS WhatsApp group please email us uklondondamescommandersociety@deloitte.co.uk with the best phone number for you and we will ensure you are added. This group is a quick means of updating members on breaking news and a way of ensuring we have contact details for one another for more informal communication