



MESSAGE FROM THE RT HON THE LORD MAYOR

31 July 2024

Livery Weekend

I would like to start by thanking all those who helped make the National Livery Weekend, from 21st – 23rd June in the City of London, such a massive success. Representatives from Livery Companies across the UK were treated to some of the best experiences the City has to offer, dining at Haberdashers Hall, the Tower of London, and a black tie Guildhall Banquet, alongside tours of City landmarks such as Barbican, the London Archives, Mansion House, HMS President, Tower Bridge, Horizon22 and the Goldsmiths' Exhibition.

I would like to place on record my sincerest thanks and gratitude to Livery Committee Chairman, Philip Woodhouse, the Deputy Chair, Julia Sibley, Greg Moore, Philip Jordan and Hannah Grace from the City of London team, as well as the many Livery Companies and individual liverymen who worked so hard to arrange such a successful weekend. We look forward to the 2025 National Livery Weekend in Aberdeen which I am sure will be another huge success.

Common Hall – 24th June

The morning after the Livery Weekend, on Midsummer's Day, it was a pleasure to officiate at Common Hall for the election of our two new Sheriffs. Many congratulations to our [two new Sheriffs-elect](#), Alderman Gregory Jones KC and David Chalk, who will take office on 27th September.

Common Hall was not just an opportunity for the Livery to elect new Sheriffs, but also to elect Ale Conners (Jonathan Averbs, Lucy Beacon, Dean Fisher and Dr Christine Holliday), an Auditor (Tina Allison), as well as new Bridgemasters (Dr Giles Shilson and Susan Threader). Congratulations to Sue as possibly the first female Bridgemaster since the post was created in 1282. I say 'possibly' as Alice Holford served as toll collector or custodian of the passage over London Bridge between the death of her husband, Nicholas Holford, in 1434, and her own death in 1455 (and thereby may have acted as a Bridgemaster herself for 21 years). As Bridgemasters, Sue and Giles will promote the fantastic work of the [City Bridge Foundation](#), maintaining the City's five bridges and giving around £30m to charities across London each year.

Common Hall on 24th June was also an opportunity to promote 'Proud to be a Freeman Day'. The next two Proud to be a Freeman Days take place at the next Common Hall for the Admission of Sheriffs on 27th September and for the Election of the Lord Mayor on 30th September. Again, we encourage all liverymen on those days to wear 'Proud to be a Freeman' regalia, such as Livery Ties and City of London pins, to publicise the Freedom and encourage people to inquire and join. There will also be associated activities on the day to showcase the Freedom of the City of London and the Livery Companies to a wider audience. More information to come over the summer.

Armed Forces Flag Raising

The 24th June was a busy day because, later that afternoon, the Lady Mayoress and I, alongside the Sheriffs and their Consorts, took part in the Armed Forces Flag Raising in the Guildhall Yard. The City and the Armed Forces have a deep and long-standing connection and raising the Armed Forces Flag, at the start of the week leading up to Armed Forces Day (29 June), allows the City to show our appreciation to serving personnel, service families, veterans and cadets.

I am proud that so many Livery Companies are signatories of the Armed Forces Covenant. 19 have signed up so far (with 12 in 2024 alone) and a further 23 are progressing their signature. [The Covenant](#) commits organisations to ensuring that those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces, and their families,

are treated with fairness and respect, and should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. It's another fantastic example of how Livery Companies support our Armed Forces. If your company wants to participate, [please contact Captain Paul Hill](#).

State Visit of the Emperor of Japan

Having visited Japan in early June, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress and Sheriff Langley, I was delighted to welcome His Majesty the Emperor of Japan to the City of London on 26th June as part of his State Visit to the United Kingdom. The State Banquet in the Guildhall, attended by hundreds of City and business representatives with a connection to Japan, was a wonderful sign of the close economic, civic and cultural links between our two countries.

The State Visit was a tremendous success and I enjoyed speaking to the Emperor about his many and varied links to London. Indeed, the Emperor has a passion for the River Thames. His memoir of living in Britain in the mid-1980s is entitled [‘The Thames And I: A Memoir of Two Years at Oxford’](#). As a Lord Mayor who is keen to promote the many links between the City and the Thames, I was delighted to hear the Emperor's experiences and wisdom on the topic.

The Lord Mayor's River Progress

On 30th June, I was delighted to revive one of the City's traditions by joining my Water Bailiff, Chris Livett, and Under Water Bailiff, Frank Moxon, to cruise up the Thames, escorted by a flotilla of powered and unpowered craft, to the London Stone at Staines-upon-Thames. The stone marks the point up to where, for over 400 years, the City of London used to control the River Thames. I met with the Mayor of Spelthorne and other dignitaries to mark the occasion with due ceremony. The last time the Lord Mayor visited the stone was in 1973. I hope there isn't a 51 year gap until the next Lord Mayor's River Progress!

Visit to the Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire

Last week, it was a pleasure to continue the Mayoral tradition of visiting the Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire at the end of July. The full Civic Party travelled to Sheffield for a day visiting an array of industrial and cultural sites, including Sheffield Forgemasters, ITM Power, the Sheffield Assay Office, W. Cook Cast Products, Swann Morton, Kitlocker, Sheffield Technology Parks and Sheffield Museum, followed by the annual Forfeit Feast at Cutlers' Hall. The dinner is a fantastic way to engage with the leaders of South Yorkshire and celebrate the links between Sheffield and London, with all four Boroughs represented, as well as the Metro Mayor of South Yorkshire.

Our own Town Clerk, Ian Thomas, who hails from Sheffield and is a fan of the mighty Blades, was not able to join on this occasion but I do hope he can attend in a future year as a living link between the two great cities!

Lord Mayor's Appeal

I'd like to say a big thank you to all liverymen who attended the Lady Mayoress's Bavarian Ball. Steins of Weissbier and plates of sauerkraut were served late into the night. The final amount is being totalled but the Ball raised around £50,000 for the Lord Mayor's Appeal – a fantastic result. Ein großes Dankeschön to all those who contributed and participated.

The next big dates in the diary are City Giving Day on 24th September and the Grand Finale on the 6th November at the Guildhall. Anyone who wishes to take part can email Events@thelordmayorsappeal.org.

Livery Climate Action Conference

Our brilliant Livery Climate Action Group will be hosting its annual conference, 'Planning for a Resilient Future', on **Tuesday 22nd October from 12:15 – 19:00 at Merchant Taylors' Hall**. I am looking forward to attending and throwing down the challenge to you, our livery companies, on further increasing our resilience to climate change. Discussion will focus on conserving scarce water supplies, maintaining biodiversity, generating green energy affordably, managing waste and ensuring we have the skills to meet sustainability

challenges. The Conference is open to all liverymen and [full information on signing up is here.](#)

Via C2Zero's C4S scheme, Livery Companies can now purchase carbon cancellation certificates directly from 1KG to 10 tonnes on the main emissions trading markets. C4S gives climate-conscious organisations and individuals the ability to purchase carbon emission allowances from systems that meet the high standards of the UK Emissions Trading Scheme – which the City's 24,000 SMEs and Livery Companies would usually face almost insurmountable hurdles to participate in. [Find out more here.](#)

Livery Experience

I'd like to say a big thank you to all Livery Companies who continue to offer places at their events for overseas guests as part of the 'Livery Experience'. We recently had some brilliant feedback from Korean attendees at the Architects Annual Awards Dinner who were so grateful for the warm hospitality and kindness they received at a "unique and memorable" event. I greatly appreciate the continued support of the Livery for this initiative, helping to introduce our City to a wider international audience.

Livery LinkedIn Community

Our City of London Livery Community on LinkedIn now has 1833 members - a doubling since Christmas! The group continues to grow and keep liverymen around the world abreast of latest news and events. I am keen for membership to hit 2,000 by the end of my Mayoralty in November. If you're a liveryman on LinkedIn, please do join the group to stay connected – [it only takes a click here.](#) Please do also share with your fellow liverymen.

Pepys Day – 6th September

On Friday 6th September, the City will be celebrating its first Pepys Day! This date marks when the Great Fire of London, which was so vividly described by the great diarist, stopped burning in our City.

Activities will be taking place at the Monument and a small team of City Guides, will lead a morning of walks to tell the story of Samuel Pepys, his diary and the Great Fire of London. You can find tickets for the walks [at this link](#), with all proceeds going to the Lord Mayor's Appeal.

The Lady Mayoress and I wish you a fantastic summer break and I look forward to catching up with many more of you in September.

With our very best wishes and thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Mainelli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli
The Rt Hon the Lord Mayor



The Lord Mayor shares a pint with Georgiana Young of the Brewers Company at City BeerFest in Guildhall Yard on 11th July.



The Lord Mayor launches London's first pollinator count with Pollinating London Together at the River Building on 1st July.



The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs with the Mayor of Spethorne at the London Stone at Staines-upon-Thames on 30th June.



The Lord Mayor exchanges a silver coin for a silver penknife with The Master Cutler, Charles Turner DL, on 25th July (ensuring we do not sever friendships between London and Sheffield).



The Lord Mayor unveils a blue plaque at Furniture Makers' Hall in the City of London to mark the site of the first ever headquarters of the RNLI in 1824.