

LIVERY BRIEFING

October 2024



Message from the Chair, Julia Sibley MBE

We are delighted to report that Livery Committee website (www.liverycommittee.org) has continued to attract significant viewing figures. At the beginning of December, we passed 200,000 page views in 2024, whilst during the whole of 2023 we recorded 164,000. With a month to go, it is believed we will add ~10,000, so we should see a total of ~210,000 which will be a 28% increase on last year. As usual, the site saw its busiest single day when the Lord Mayor's Show took place this year on Saturday 9 November.

Following Common Hall in June when the two new Sheriffs, Alderman Greg Jones KC and David Chalk were elected, this September's Common Hall saw the election of the 696th Lord Mayor, Alderman Alistair King. The Lord Mayor's speeches to the Livery and at the State Banquet were very warmly received and can be viewed on the website. As you will all be aware, the Livery Committee organised the 'Garden of Remembrance' Service again this year for the City and the Livery in the churchyard of St Paul's Cathedral on Monday 4 November. We have taken this on for the past four years with some much-appreciated support from Livery Companies, Companies without Livery and the Guilds. This very generous support, provided in the form of donations, has allowed the Livery Committee to cover the costs and generate two charitable grants for the great work of the Royal British Legion and St Paul's Foundation.

I am delighted to inform you that, thanks to the liveries generosity, we have made a grant of £10,000 to the Poppy Appeal of the Royal British Legion, coupled with a grant of £3,500 for St Paul's Foundation. Thank you. Please reserve Monday 3rd November 2025 in your diary for next years' service which the Garden of Remembrance committee are already starting to organise.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge 'thank you' to all the committee members of the Livery Committee for their hard work and support throughout 2024. It is much appreciated.

Please do contact any member of the Livery Committee if you have news items for the website. We are very pleased to note that the Calendar is well populated with Inter-Livery events. We also commend to you the various courses that are run for you and your Companies, details of which can be found on the website.

We are especially looking forward to seeing as many clerks and assistant clerks as possible on 22 January at the Clerks' Briefing. We have a very interesting and informative programme for you. Details will be on the website very soon.

We are sure that all your Masters, Prime Wardens and Upper Bailiff are aware the Livery Weekend is taking place in Aberdeen from 6 to 8 June 2025. More details about the weekend will be shared with you in the next few weeks.

With very warm wishes for a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Julia Sibley MBE
Chair, Livery Committee.

Dates of importance:

City Briefings (5.30pm)
10 February 2025; 15 May 2025; 11 September 2025.

Wardens and Court Assistants Course
22 September 2025

Clerks' Forum
22 January 2025

The Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters

'Knit for Community' initiative has helped over 2,000 individuals.

In April 2020, at the start of the pandemic, The Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters began 'Knit for Community'. Our initial aim was to produce 20-30 blankets to support charities in Leicestershire. Thanks to fantastic support from over 700 volunteers across the UK, over 2,000 unique and warm blankets/lap blankets have been created. One of our volunteers heard first-hand the difference this made to an individual who, with the cost-of-living crisis, had to choose between heating their home or putting food on the table. The project continues to gain new volunteers who knit/crochet/sew up the squares, and a quote from one of our volunteers during lockdown was particularly poignant 'It just reminds me that each of us apart can't do much, but TOGETHER we can'. Members and friends of over 40 Livery companies have supported this initiative to date, and we welcome help from new volunteers, or anyone who would like to donate towards purchasing wool or the cost of sending the blankets to charities. For further information please contact Liz Green: liz@lizgreen.co.uk.

Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards

The Master-Elect, David Bole, is pleased to announce the 2025 Inter-Livery fun card games evening for Junior/Renter Wardens, to be held on Monday, 3 February 2025 at the magnificent Drapers' Hall, with profits to The Lord Mayor's Appeal. Tickets are £107.00 per head, including a £5 donation. Spouses, partners, couples welcome. Business dress and badges to be worn.

This is a perfect opportunity to meet your fellow Masters and Consorts-to-be, as well as a Sheriff or two, in a relaxed, convivial atmosphere. We have, over the seven years this event has been running, welcomed 101 Liveries in total. Last year there were 54 different Companies represented.

Payment instructions can be found on the booking form. Any queries, please do get in touch: Annie Prouse, Clerk. clerk@makersofplayingcards.co.uk

Lord Mayor's Programme

City Giving Day

On 24 September, the Lord Mayor, Lady Mayoress, Sheriffs, and a record breaking 603 City businesses took part in City Giving Day. Highlights from the day included cupcake decorating with Lloyd's Banking Group, a Bank of China Town Hall event, Tour de City, cocktail mixing at the Anthologist and many more. Meanwhile the Lady Mayoress enjoyed a Women in Property South East event, bake sale at China Construction Bank and tea blending at Fortnum & Mason.

Visit to Latvia and Estonia

In early October, the Lord Mayor visited Estonia and Latvia. The purpose of the visit was to learn more about these Nordic innovation and fintech centres, and set out how the UK and London are destinations for finance, growth and collaboration. Whilst in Estonia, the Lord Mayor met the Chief Data and AI Officer, attended roundtables focused on his Smart Economy Networks and AI Initiatives, and a Founders Society networking event. In Latvia, the Lord Mayor was hosted for dinner by the Latvian ambassador and senior financial services sector stakeholders and met the Minister for Economics and representatives from the Bank of Latvia.

Visit to Germany

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress travelled to Hamburg then Munich from 6-9 October, with the Hamburg Sustainability Conference being a key focus for the first part of the visit. The Lord Mayor spoke at the conference on standards for sustainability disclosure as a lever for sustainable investments, joined on stage by Dr. Nnoli-Edozien from the International Sustainability Standards Board and Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin from the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero Africa Network. This was flanked by meetings with financial and professional services firms, as well as bilateral discussions with Britain's Ambassador to Germany Andrew Mitchell, State Secretary Liv Assmann and Chief Executive Officer of the Hamburg Handelskammer Dr Malte Heyne. The programme in Hamburg concluded with a dinner hosted by the Anglo-German Club, including its Members and Freeman of the City of London. On arrival in Munich the Lord Mayor engaged in a roundtable on the regulation and ethics of AI in the insurance industry, organised by InsurTech. He then met Tobias Gotthardt, State Secretary in the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs to exchange views on Bavaria and the UK's leadership in tech and innovation. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress hosted a dinner that evening maintaining the focus on tech and innovation, with guests joining from startups, accelerators, space and automotive industries.

International Investment Summit

On 14 October, the Lord Mayor attended the Government's International Investment Summit, which took place at Guildhall. He met the Prime Minister, Chancellor and Deputy Prime Minister, as well as the Science Minister, Energy Secretary, Science and Tech Secretary and Education Secretary, alongside a suite of international investors and business people. The Lord Mayor then welcomed His Majesty The King to St Paul's for an evening reception.

London Symphony Orchestra Paganini Gala Concert

On 15 October, the Lord Mayor welcomed His Majesty The King to the Guildhall for a performance of Paganini's legendary Il Cannone violin. The performance celebrated the cultural relations between the Cities of Genoa and London, as well as marking 120 years of the LSO, of which His Majesty is Patron.

The City Dinner

On 17 October, the Lord Mayor hosted the annual City Dinner in Mansion House, at which the CEO of the Financial Conduct Authority, Nikhil Rathi, and the CEO of the Prudential Regulation Authority, Sam Woods, gave keynote addresses. Around 300 guests from across the City's regulatory and financial sectors attended. The Lord Mayor's speech focused on how good, clear, open regulation can have a positive impact on our financial and professional services sector.

Meeting with Ambassador of Qatar and the General Secretary of the Gulf Co-operation Council

On 17 October, the Lord Mayor welcomed the new Ambassador of Qatar to Mansion House for a meeting, joined by the Lord Mayor Elect and the Remembrancer. They discussed plans for the upcoming State Visit by the Amir of Qatar and trade and investment links between the UK and Qatar. Separately, the Lord Mayor met the General Secretary of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) on progress on the UK-GCC free trade agreement and upcoming Mayoral activity in Gulf countries.

TheCityUK Leadership Council

On 13 November the Lord Mayor attended TheCityUK Leadership Council meeting, a cross-sector group of senior leaders from the financial and professional services industry. The Lord Mayor provided an overview of his Mayoral Theme 'Growth Unleashed', and the programme pillars within this, before taking questions on the objectives. The group then heard updates from the Governor of the Bank of England, Andrew Bailey, ahead of his Mansion House speech the following evening alongside the Chancellor, on the current and future state of economic growth and its determinants.

Meeting the Prime Minister of Romania and UK-Romania Trade and Investment Summit

On 13 November the Lord Mayor met Romanian Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu, ahead of a UK-Romania Trade and Investment Summit at the Mansion House, led by the Embassy of Romania to the UK. The Lord Mayor explained his role as an ambassador for the UK's financial and professional services sector, whilst the Prime Minister spoke on the great strategic partnership between Romania and the UK and how he'd like to see a more dynamic pace in this. The Lord Mayor suggested further cooperation in UK capital markets, with the potential for more Romanian companies to list on the London Stock Exchange. Following the bilateral meeting, the Lord Mayor delivered opening remarks at the Summit, before observing a Memorandum of Understanding signing between the Romanian and British Ambassadors.

Financial and Professional Services Dinner

On 14 November, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress hosted the Financial and Professional Services Dinner at Mansion House, where the Governor of the Bank of England and Chancellor of the Exchequer gave keynote addresses. In what was her first Mansion House Speech, the Chancellor outlined steps to boost UK growth and competitiveness through reform and investment, including measures around pension reform, a new Financial Services Growth and Competitiveness Strategy, and the launch of the Transition Finance Council in collaboration with the City of London Corporation. The Lord Mayor highlighted the City Corporation's commitment to driving economic growth through regulatory reforms, responsible risk-taking, and attracting both domestic and international investment, while advocating for targeted adjustments to strengthen UK capital markets. The event also launched the City Corporation's annual State of the Sector report, highlighting both the UK's strengths for financial and professional services and where action is needed to remain competitive.

Investing at Scale Summit

On 18 November The Lord Mayor delivered the opening keynote at the Investing at Scale Summit co-hosted by the City Corporation and AIF Global, addressing senior leaders of some of the largest asset owners. He covered the challenges and opportunities in investment at scale being faced globally, along with the history and ecosystem of London as a leading investment hub. The Lord Mayor spoke further on his Mayoral theme 'Growth Unleashed' and the priority of responsible risk taking in deploying private capital to early-stage companies, productive sectors of the economy and innovation to secure national and global growth. Later that afternoon he attended an event with His Excellency George Friden, Ambassador of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to the UK, at which the Ambassador gave a keynote speech on trade and investment between the UK and Luxembourg.

Address to the Livery

On 20 November the Lord Mayor delivered his Address to the Livery. With over 250 Masters and Clerks in attendance, the Lord Mayor set out his Mayoral theme. Attendees also received updates from the Lady Mayoress Florence King, the City Corporation's Chief Strategy Officer, Dionne Corradine and Julia Sibley MBE.