

LIVERY BRIEFING

April 2025



Message from the Chair, Julia Sibley MBE

Welcome to the latest Livery Briefing newsletter.

Clerks' Forum

I'm pleased to advise that the annual Clerks' and assistant Clerks' Forum took place on 22 January. Speakers included Penny Graham and Garth Manger OBE (Clerks to the Worshipful Company of Cordwainers and Plaisterers respectively), Polly Dunn (Assistant Town Clerk), Jennifer Beckermann (Executive Director and Private Secretary to the Policy Chairman), Dr Emma Markiewicz and Laurence Ward (The London Archives). We also heard from Caroline Jack (Executive Director and Private Secretary to the Lord Mayor), Commander Umer Khan OBE and Chief Inspector Joanne Northcott (City of London Police), Laura Miller (Clerk to the Chamberlain's Court) and Alderwoman Dame Susan Langley (Senior Alder Below the Aldermanic Chair). We received positive feedback and we plan to repeat this forum next year in January 2026. All ideas for content gratefully received as we always want to make it as relevant as possible.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (ED&I)

Planning is well underway for the next ED&I course which is taking place on 22 May. This event is aligned with the theme of International Women's Day 2025 "Accelerate Action". It is being called the Confidence Code Conference – Leadership for a Changing City. Bookings can be made via the Livery Committee website under Courses. Book early to avoid disappointment as we believe this course will be very popular.

Website and Social Media

Rob Flavin our webmaster continues to monitor the Livery Committee website which has had a record number of visits already this year. Please do use your website and make sure your Company's entry is up to date on this: www.liverycommittee.org

The Livery Impact Report 2025

Since the last Livery Committee meeting, we have successfully produced the [Livery Impact Report 2025](#). Alongside the data obtained from the fourth Survey of Philanthropic Giving by Livery Companies undertaken in 2024, this report describes a number of the great Livery initiatives and stories, highlighting the depth, breadth and quality of these projects and the far reaching impact they are having for so many beneficiaries.

The report also highlights the power of collaboration and a number of examples where our 113 Livery Companies and their 45,000 members have worked together and pooled their resource, time, skill and experience for the benefit of shared philanthropic endeavour. The Livery Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the clerks for their time and effort in submitting the relevant figures and data from their Livery Company for this report.

The Livery Masters/Prime Wardens/Upper Bailiff weekend 2025

Preparations are well underway for the Livery Weekend 2025 taking place in Aberdeen from 6 to 8 June, and looking at the programme, it promises to be a great weekend.

Garden of Remembrance

The Garden of Remembrance service organised by the Livery Committee for the Livery always marks the start of Remembrance week in a very special way. Plans for this year's service are already underway. Please note the date this year will be Monday 3 November 2025.

With warm wishes,

Julia Sibley MBE
Chair, Livery Committee.

Dates of importance:

City Briefings (5:30pm)

[15 May](#), [11 September](#), [20 November](#)

Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Course

[22 May](#)

Masters, Prime Wardens and Upper Bailiff Weekend

6 – 8 June 2025

Wardens and Court Assistants Course

[22 September 2025](#)

Garden of Remembrance

3 November 2025

The Worshipful Company of Woolmen

2025 Sheep Drive & Livery Fair

The Sheep Drive & Livery Fair is an annual event run by The Woolmen Company, this year taking place on Sunday 28 September on Southwark Bridge. The Sheep Drive & Livery Fair is a unique opportunity to be part of recreating historic community activities that took place on London's bridges. A long-established charity event, celebrating a Freeman's ancient 'right' to bring sheep to market over the Thames, toll free; all in aid of raising funds for The Woolmen Charity and The Lord Mayor's Appeal.

With Southwark Bridge closed to traffic for the entire day and ideally located between St Paul's Cathedral, and Shakespeare's Globe on the Southbank, this will be a truly spectacular family day out. The event has a large footfall as there are over 1000 Sheep Drive participants, their guests, a large group of volunteers and is open to the public.

Each year there is a celebrity guest who participates in the drive and visits the stalls. Previous celebrity guests include Damian Lewis, Richard Corran, Kate Humble, Amanda Owen, Michael Portillo, Alan Titchmarsh, Mary Berry, and Nigel Mansell. We also feature in the national press & media.

The Livery Fair will be a mix of stall holders:

- City Livery Companies demonstrating their trades on Queen Street.
- A small selection of artisan food & drink vendors based on Queen Street.
- Wool displays, specialist craft and product stalls – these stalls celebrate sheep, the versatile and sustainable use of wool and are located on Queen Street Place just at the beginning of the bridge.

All of this will take place next to the historic re-enactment of Freeman exercising their right to drive their sheep over the Thames to market. We have kept our pitch and optional extras fees the same as 2024. The pitch fee includes a plain white gazebo, which will be installed by us and there are also optional extras which include tables, chairs, and power. You are very welcome to bring your own gazebo but it would need to be plain white and please note that the cost is the same with or without a gazebo. Free parking for stallholders is available on the southside of the bridge. If you are interested in having a stall at the event and would like to discuss further, please email liveryfairequiries@gmail.com

It might be that you don't have a product to sell or trade to display, there is the option of supporting an individual / charity or small trader affiliated with your company.

Further details regarding booking Sheep Drive places will be sent in February and normally bookings go live in May online at: www.sheepdrive.london

Lord Mayor's Programme

Visit to the Gulf

The Lord Mayor visited Bahrain from 22-28 December, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in the first international visit of his Mayoralty. He met senior Government Ministers in each, including the Crown Prince of Kuwait and the Finance Minister of Bahrain, and delivered a keynote speech at the World Investment Conference in Riyadh. The Lord Mayor has made strengthening relations with Gulf states one of the focuses of his Mayoralty and will be returning to the Gulf twice more during his term.

Dinner in honour of the Amir of the State of Qatar

The Lord Mayor hosted a business-focused dinner in honour of the Amir of Qatar HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on 3 December. The dinner was part of the Amir's state visit to the UK in December. The Lord Mayor emphasised the historic ties between the City and Qatar, as well as the modern business and investment relationship. The Lord Mayor will be travelling to Qatar in May to meet senior Qatari Ministers and investors.

Visit to Northern Ireland

The Lord Mayor travelled to Northern Ireland at the end of December, visiting both Derry~Londonderry and Belfast. He met the Mayor of Derry City and Strabane and representatives of Derry City and Strabane District Council, before speaking at a RegTech Forum hosted by Invest NI. The Lord Mayor then hosted a lunch for key Derry~Londonderry Stakeholders alongside the Honourable the Irish Society, before roundtables with the Londonderry Chamber of Commerce and Catalyst Innovation Centre. In Belfast, he met the Lord Mayor of Belfast and representatives of Belfast City Council as well as joining roundtables with both the Belfast Chamber of Commerce and Queen's University Belfast. The visit concluded with the Lord Mayor visiting the Royal Foundation - Homewards Supported Housing Service, and speaking at a dinner with British Irish Chamber of Commerce members.

London Government Dinner, 9 January

The Lord Mayor hosted the Mayor of London, Sir Sadiq Khan, as well as every London borough Leader, Chief Executive and Mayor, at Mansion House on 9 January for the annual London Government Dinner. The Lord Mayor, Mayor and Chair of London Councils, Cllr Claire Holland, all delivered keynote remarks.

Visit to Davos

The Lord Mayor attended the World Economic Forum in Davos from 20-23 January 2025. He had an extensive programme with high-level engagements and bilaterals with a wide range of international senior stakeholders and politicians, including the Bahraini Minister of Finance and National Economy, the Saudi Minister of Investment, and HRH the Crown Prince of Jordan. With re-imagining growth one of the key thematic strands of this year's Annual Meeting, in line with the mayoral theme Growth Unleashed, showcasing the UK's strengths in financial and professional services, and forward trajectory for growth and competitiveness was a key message throughout the visit.

Meeting with Ambassador of Kuwait

The Lord Mayor met the new Ambassador of Kuwait on 24 January. The Lord Mayor updated the Ambassador on his recent visit to Kuwait, including his meeting with the Crown Prince. He emphasised the City Corporation's strong support for the Kuwait Investment Office in London and invited the Ambassador to his Eid al-Fitr event in the Guildhall on 9 April, as well as the City Corporation's Easter Banquet later in the month.

Visit to Scotland

On 28 January, during their visit to Edinburgh the Lord Mayor and Policy Chairman met the First Minister of Scotland to sign an updated Partnership Agreement between the Scottish Government and the City of London Corporation. This was followed by a Burns' Supper at which the Lord Mayor gave a speech. The subsequent day the Lord Mayor attended a breakfast hosted by the Royal Company of Merchants of

the City of Edinburgh. He then hosted two events in collaboration with FinTech Scotland, a panel session on 'Fintech Innovation & Financial Inclusion', and an investment roundtable and lunch. These connected fintech firms open to private investment with London-based venture capitalists interested in investing into Scotland's fintech sector. The afternoon concluded with a roundtable hosted by the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce, and their members firms, on the Mayoral theme of Growth Unleashed. In addition, the Lord Mayor hosted senior financial professional services leaders at a dinner, discussing the aims and objectives of his theme and potential areas of collaboration.

Visit to Wales

Immediately following his visit to Scotland, the Lord Mayor undertook a short visit to Cardiff on 29 January. The Lord Mayor attended a FinTech Wales Roundtable and met members of the Technology Connected Data & AI Council. The Welsh Government held a networking reception for the Lord Mayor, before senior Welsh financial and professional services stakeholders joined the Lord Mayor for a 'Growth Unleashed' business dinner. The visit was an opportunity to hear from the Welsh financial and professional services sector, and discuss areas for collaboration and growth.

Visit to Australia

During the Lord Mayor's visit to Australia (8-15 February), his delegation met 11 investors, three governors, as well as state governments, tech companies, insurers and banks. The programme included events in three cities - Brisbane, Melbourne, and Sydney - and attracted over 400 attendees. The focus of the visit was to promote the UK's investment industry and increase collaboration between the UK and Australian investment sectors. The delegation was supported by the British Consulates in each city, the High Commissioner, and His Majesty's Trade Commissioner for Asia Pacific. The Lord Mayor was accompanied by a small delegation of business leaders, including Mike Eakins, Chief Investment Officer of Phoenix Group and Chris Hulatt, one of the co-founders of the Octopus Group. The visit helped deepen their understanding of how Australian investors use and view the UK market. Also, to enable our financial and professional services sector to further develop its offering to Australian investors and ensure it remains impactful. Discussions also centred on the Mansion House Compact, seeking to understand why the Super Sectors invest so heavily in its domestic market and in assets such as infrastructure. This conversation was aimed at helping the Lord Mayor consider the next steps for the Mansion House Compact. A recurring message was the similarities between Australia and Canada, though Canada is more regulated in terms of domestic investments for home economy benefits. To further insurance and risk activities, the delegation sought to learn more about how risks transfer within and outside the Australian market. This was particularly in terms of future risks, which would be addressed at the Global Risk Summit. Finally, the promotion of the UK's financial and professional services industry was highlighted to encourage investment into the UK, showcasing the Attract and Retain Campaign messaging.

Visit to India 16-19 February

The Lord Mayor undertook a three day visit (16-19 February) to Mumbai, the financial services capital of India. During the visit, the Lord Mayor met the Chairman of Tata, the Governor of the Central Bank, the CEO of the National Stock Exchange of India, the CEO of Kotak, as well as UK banks, fintech firms and insurers operating in India.

Armed Forces Covenant Dinner

The Lord Mayor's Armed Forces Covenant Dinner, held on 25 February in Mansion House, aimed at honouring the sacrifices and contributions of the armed forces and their families. Attended by business and military leaders alike, the event served to highlight the importance of the Armed Forces Covenant, which pledges to ensure that those who have served, or are currently serving in the military, and their families, receive fair treatment and the support they deserve.

In his speech, the Lord Mayor emphasised the historic connections between the City and the Armed Forces, and particularly the City Reserved Forces' and Cadets' Association efforts in supporting defence awareness. He expressed gratitude to businesses that employ and support reservists, highlighting the mutual benefit to both the military and the City's financial sector.

Meeting with the Vice President of Turkey, His Excellency (HE) Mr Cevdet Yilmaz

On 27 February, the Lord Mayor hosted the Vice President of Turkey, HE Mr Cevdet Yilmaz for a meeting at Mansion House. The Vice President was joined by the Minister of Industry and Technology, the Turkish Ambassador to the UK, and the President of Invest in Turkey. Technology and innovation were key themes in the discussion, with the Vice President seeking closer collaboration and engagement between the UK and Turkey, especially in the fintech sector.

Meeting with the Ambassador of Switzerland and CEO of Switzerland Global Enterprise

On 11 March, the Lord Mayor met the Ambassador of Switzerland to the UK and the CEO of Switzerland Global Enterprise. Key discussion points included the ongoing Free Trade Agreement negotiations, the appointment of a new Trade Envoy, and an update on the Berne Financial Services Agreement. This meeting took place ahead of the Lord Mayor's upcoming visit to Zurich at the end of April.

Visit to China

From 15-22 March, the Lord Mayor visited Hong Kong and mainland China. The visit was well timed, following the Chancellor of Exchequer's recent visit and the successful UK-China Economic and Financial Dialogue, which resulted in 59 specific outcomes, a large number relating to financial and professional services. The Lord Mayor's visit also followed the Chinese "two-sessions", the annual political gathering of China's major political bodies, at which key policy decisions are often made and announced. In Hong Kong, the Lord Mayor met senior business leaders at the British Chamber of Commerce, the CEO of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and some of the largest Hong Kong Businesses. In Beijing, he met Vice President Han Zheng, the Chair of the new National Financial Administration Regulator, the Chair of the Securities Regulator and key business leaders in the pension, asset management and banking sectors. He also spoke at the UK-China Pensions Conference, organised by the British Embassy Beijing and Department for Business and Trade, and the ICMA China Debt Capital Market Annual Forum. In Shanghai he delivered a keynote speech on Sustainable Finance at a UK-China Green Finance Taskforce Seminar as well as further meetings with leaders of Chinese asset management, banking, and insurance companies. Continued City to City engagement was also discussed in a meeting with the Mayor of Shanghai.