

THE CITY

AND LIVERY

THE CITY

You may want to offer this website as a resource to the up and coming consorts of your Livery Company. It might also be valuable to the Master, Wardens, Liverymen and Freemen of your Company and their partners.

The City of London Corporation is The City's 'local authority'

The City of London covers an area of about a square mile and is the world's leading business and financial centre. There are about 8,000 residents and 400,000 city workers, visitors, and commuters. It is run by **The City of London Corporation**, which has local government powers typical of local authority City Councils, as well as other responsibilities inside and outside the City's boundaries. It is non-party political and is independent of London's Local Authority (Greater London Authority), which has 33 Boroughs and its own Mayor - not to be confused with the City's own **Lord Mayor**.

The City of London Corporation is located at Guildhall with other offices at Mansion House, Walbrook Wharf and outside the Square Mile. The Chief Executive of the Corporation is the **Town Clerk** who is supported by officers and committees with defined responsibilities. The City has its own local police force (City of London Police). Interestingly the way The City, the Square Mile, is governed is different from other local authorities, and is more-or-less unchanged since the Middle Ages with The Livery having an important role to play in its governance. It has a Commission of Lieutenancy rather than a single lord-lieutenant. The head of the commission is the Lord Mayor of the City of London.

<https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk> - This link will take you to the City of London Corporation's home webpage.

The City has two Council bodies, not one, called Courts

The City of London Corporation has two council bodies unlike other cities which have one. They are called **Courts** and are presided over by the Lord Mayor. One is the **Court of Aldermen** which is largely ceremonial and made up of elected Aldermen. The other is the **Court of Common Council** which is made up of the elected Commoners from the Wards (see later) (similar to councillors of other cities). It is the City of London's primary decision-making body dealing with, for example, housing, City of London Police, the environment and education, and has a number of committees. The Chief Commoner is elected for one year by the Court of Common Council.

The Court of Aldermen is mainly focused on progression to, and support for, the Mayoralty. It also oversees the creation of new Livery Companies and Guilds and maintains a historic link to the Livery. Aldermen also serve on Common Council committees and act as governors and trustees of a variety of schools, hospitals, charitable foundations, and trusts with ancient City connections. Aldermen are elected for six years from their date of election, so there is no single date on which they are elected.

The City is divided into (election) Wards

There are 25 **Wards**. Each Ward elects at a wardmote, an Alderman once every six years (but not all at the same time), and 2-10 Commoners once every four years, who then serve on the Councils. There are currently 25 Aldermen and 100 Common Councilmen serving as elected representatives, representing the public interest and informing how the City of London Corporation should carry out its various activities. Your Livery Company, if it has premises in the City, will be in a particular Ward, and will be able to vote both for

the Alderman, and the Common Councilmen - as will businesses and residents in the Ward. A Ward has one or more **Beadles** with ceremonial roles. (These are separate from the beadles that are employed by Livery Companies). Most Wards have a **Ward Club** for meeting and socialising. Your Clerk may be a member of the Ward Club and you might like to check your own eligibility for membership if you are interested in being part of it.

Check out the list of Ward Clubs on this link https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City_of_London_ward_clubs or on: <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/about-the-city/voting-elections/Pages/ward-news-and-clubs.aspx>. This site also gives links to Ward Newsletters.

The Lord Mayor is the head of the City of London Corporation

The Lord Mayor is head of the City of London Corporation. This role supports and promotes the UK's financial and professional services and the City of London as a place to do business. The Consort of the Lord Mayor is the Lady Mayoress and they reside in the Mansion House. If the Lord Mayor is female the Consort is referred to as The Mayor's Consort. The Lord Mayor has two supporting Sheriffs, rather than a single High Sheriff. Generally, one Sheriff is the **Aldermanic Sheriff** elected from the Court of Aldermen, and one is the **Non-Aldermanic Sheriff** normally elected from the Court of the Common Council, but could be elected from the Livery Companies. As well as supporting the Lord Mayor, the Sheriffs also oversee the Judges at the Old Bailey and make sure that the Court of Aldermen's business runs smoothly. The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs are supported by the Lord Mayor's Office which operates out of the Mansion House. As a point of interest, the position of Sheriff is older than that held by the Lord Mayor.

The Esquires, based at Mansion House are the paid officers of the Lord mayor's household who also have ceremonial roles (City Marshall, Swordbearer, and Common Cryer). Outside their ceremonial roles they are programme managers with a Senior Programme Manager who is not an Esquire. (S)he is the Private Secretary and Chief of Staff to the Lord Mayor responsible for all matters under the Lord Mayor.

Both the Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs have their own charity appeals and they, or their Consorts, often invite you and/or the Master to functions to support the charities. <https://www.thelordmayorsappeal.org/> This link will take you to the Lord Mayor's Appeal website where you can see the chosen charities of the Lord Mayor for his year.

To find out more about the Lord Mayor this link will take you to the City of London website's page ABOUT THE LORD MAYOR. <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/about-the-city/the-lord-mayor/Pages/contact.aspx>

Liverymen elect the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs each year

The Lord Mayor is elected at Michaelmas 'Common Hall' on 29th September, and the Sheriffs at Mid-Summer 'Common Hall' 24th June at the Guildhall by Liverymen in attendance. All liverymen of one year's standing, but not their spouses/partners, can attend to vote. The Lord Mayor must have served as an Alderman and as a Sheriff. The election is followed in November by a 'swearing in' of the Lord Mayor at the **Silent Ceremony** in the Guildhall (which apart from the vow of the incoming Lord Mayor, is held in total silence), followed the next day by the Lord Mayor's procession as part of the Lord Mayor's Show. The procession concludes with a swearing of allegiance by the Lord Mayor to the Sovereign before the Justices of the High Court.

Take a Tour of The City

For an entertaining tour of the City of London, you could watch this YouTube video starring Stephen Fry as he “Explores the Mysteries of the City of London”. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_gMGnAR9Ng

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THE LIVERY

You may want to offer this website as a resource to the up and coming consorts in your Livery Company. It might also be valuable to the Master, Wardens, Liverymen and Freemen of your Company and their partners.

The Livery is made up of the Livery Companies

There are 110 Livery Companies (Dec 2017), which increase when Guilds qualify to become a Company as part of a two-stage process. Currently there are five Guilds. Whilst the Livery Companies are similar in many ways, they differ in detail on for example: membership; size; structure; type and number of events; how actively involved the Consorts are; and the titles of Master, Prime Warden (7 companies) or Upper Bailiff (1 company). It makes sense for you, as Consort, to find out what you can about your own livery company, its organisation, and how it is run. The Master, Past Consort or Clerk are rich sources of information. Forty of the Livery Companies have their own halls. The Livery Companies were originally trade organisations that mainly grew out of Guilds (an association of traders in a common trade such as grocers or goldsmiths), so some of these companies have origins back to the 12th Century. The Livery Companies were responsible for the regulation of their trades, controlling, for instance, wages and labour conditions and protecting consumers. Until the Protestant Reformation, they were closely associated with religious activities. The title Worshipful Company of..... reflects these religious associations, although nowadays members are free to follow any faith or none. In addition to their role in City governance, they now have mainly social, educational, and charitable functions (with the charitable dimension of their work now amounting to more than £50m each year) and promote friendship and fraternity. Some Livery Companies retain very close links with their trades and professions, and some restrict membership only to those holding relevant professional qualifications such as the engineers or actuaries

To find out a bit more about the origins have a look at this site <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/about-the-city/history/Pages/livery-companies.aspx>

Activities of the Livery Companies became intertwined with the daily life of the Square Mile – even today

The Livery Companies grew to become so important that if you wanted to work in a particular trade in the City, then you needed to ‘do your time’ as an **Apprentice** learning your trade and being accountable to your Master for many years, before becoming a **Freeman** of the Company and then **Freeman of The City** when you could ‘ply’ your trade as a ‘free man’ (Freedom of the City of London). The Livery Companies governed who could trade, and membership of one was essential if you wanted to make your own way in that trade. A fee or ‘Fine’ would be charged on joining and in return the Livery Companies would ensure that the goods

and services provided to consumers would be of the highest possible standards. In 1835, the Freedom was widened to incorporate not just members of Livery Companies but also people living or working in the City or those with a strong London connection. In modern day, the first step is to become a Freeman of the Company and a Freeman of The City before you can become a liveryman of any company. Members of many Companies pay fines (fees) to belong. The Freedom of the City of London is a unique part of London's history maintained to present day, alongside the role the liveries play in governing The City.

There is an order of precedence for the Livery Companies

The 'order of precedence' for the Livery Companies was set by the Court of Aldermen in 1515 for the 48 Livery Companies then in existence, based on power and wealth. The 12 highest-ranked companies at that time remain known as the Great Twelve City Livery Companies. After that time the Livery Companies were listed in order of their formation. Your Livery Company will have a number in the order of precedence. Of the total 110 Livery Companies (at Dec 2017), those established post 1926 are called Modern Livery Companies while those before are Ancient.

A favourite theory for the origin of the phrase "at sixes and sevens" is that precedence of two of the Great Twelve was disputed as both arose in the same year. So once a year (at Easter) they (the Merchant Taylors and the Skinners) swap between sixth and seventh places. For a bit of fun you can try memorising the order of The Great Twelve. This link sends you to a list of the Livery Companies and two mnemonics that might help you remember. When you click through, go to the bottom of the page.

<http://www.liverycompanies.info/a-z-list-of-companies/livery-companies-database.html>

Membership of the Livery Company is as a Freeman or a Liveryman.

Each Company has its own system for membership but generally you can become a Freeman ('freedom of the company') in one of three ways: by 'patrimony' if either parent were a Liveryman of the Company; by 'servitude' if a requisite number of years has been served as an Apprentice to a senior Company member; or by 'redemption', upon paying a fee (Fine). Freeman may advance to become Liverymen, after obtaining the Freedom of the City of London by application to the Court of Aldermen, and with their Court of Assistants' approval. Some Livery Companies have apprenticeships, and for a few, it is a major source of new members. The apprenticeships should not be confused with government schemes. Being an Apprentice of a Livery Company may, for example, be a route to entry to the Freedom. Many Livery Companies have no apprenticeship system at all.

Some Consorts consider becoming Liverymen themselves. You can express your interest to a Livery Company in your own right. The best thing to do is to approach a Liveryman of the Company you are interested in to find out how they go about inviting applications. The Livery Committee has put together a helpful paper that answers some basic questions. Here is the link:

<http://www.liverycompanies.info/joining-a-livery-company.pdf>

Livery Companies are governed by a Master, Wardens, and Court of Assistants

Bearing in mind that each Livery Company governs in its own unique way, within each Livery Company there is **The Master** (alternatively styled Prime Warden or Upper Bailiff in a few companies) at its head. There are a number of **Wardens** (holding various titles such as the Upper, Middle, Lower, or Renter Warden), and a **Court of Assistants**. Together (with possibly others) they have some similarities with a Board of Directors and are responsible for establishing the roles, responsibilities and authorities for running the Company,

including electing its Master and Wardens. An Assistant is chosen to join the Court of Assistants from among Liverymen who are active, enthusiastic or have a special contribution to make. The Court of Assistants is limited in size by the Company's Ordinances, and Liverymen who are Assistants serve for a fixed term. Your Master or Clerk will be able to fill in specific details for your Livery Company in which you are Consort.

The Clerk of the Livery Company is the “backbone” of the Livery

The Clerk is very important within the Livery Company. He/she provides support to the Master, Wardens, Court of Assistants, and the Company generally; deals with the day to day running of the Company; and also has specific roles, authorities and responsibilities which vary in detail in each Company. In some Companies the Clerk might be described as equivalent to a Chief Executive in a business. The Clerks are a tremendous source of knowledge that many Consorts usefully draw on for guidance in their Consort role. The Clerk will have the support of a Company Beadle (separate from the Ward Beadle) who acts as the omnipresent coordinator, producing the necessary gowns and regalia for the various events, on behalf of the Master; organising receiving lines, toasts, and helping to ensure the smooth running of every event.

The clerks of the 110 livery companies divide themselves into three groups which give support: The Great 12; the Association of Clerks, representing companies who own their own hall (other than the Great 12); and the Fellowship of Clerks. This web link to The Clerk's Almanac gives useful information important to the Clerks and could be useful to you. <http://www.liverycompanies.info/fellowship-of-clerks/>

The Livery Committee provides support to the Livery

The Livery Companies and the City of London have enjoyed a long, close, and extremely effective working partnership, sharing objectives, supporting excellence, and together promoting the Square Mile. This partnership is fostered through a dedicated committee, the Livery Committee, which strengthens these ties, as well as constantly seeking new ways to enhance joint initiatives for the future. Its membership of 20 is elected at Common Hall each Midsummer Day and made up of liverymen, common councilmen, and clerks in equal numbers. The Committee oversees the elections of Sheriffs and the Lord Mayor; educates Liverymen regarding the City and its activities; and represents the Livery Companies in communications with the City. The Livery Committee is administered at Guildhall. It has a great website giving a lot of information about the Livery. <http://www.liverycompanies.info/>. It really is worth looking at to find out more.

The City Livery Club is a social club.

The City Livery Club was formed in 1914 and offers a private daytime Club for Liverymen and members of related City organisations where they can meet, dine, and exchange views in comfortable premises overlooking the Thames. The Club also provides a broad programme of events both formal and informal, with various interests represented by Sections for History & Antiques, Investments, Motoring, Music, Wine, Golf, Tennis, Aeronautics, Photography, and Women in the Livery. The City Face2Face events are informal discussions with City movers and shakers followed by a lunch. <http://www.cityliveryclub.com/>. Check yours or your partner's eligibility through the Clerk of the Club - clerk@cityliveryclub.com

For an entertaining tour of The City of London with lots of information on The Livery, you could watch this YouTube video starring Stephen Fry as he “Explores the Mysteries of the City of London”:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_gMGnAR9Ng

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REALLY USEFUL RESOURCES

YOUTUBE VIDEO	
Tour of The City https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_gMGnAR9Ng	For an entertaining tour of The City of London, you could watch this YouTube video starring Stephen Fry as he “Explores the Mysteries of the City of London”
http://www.liverycompanies.info/library/secret-city-of-london---2.html	Light hearted YouTube cartoon style videos that give a gently mocking but affectionate and not inaccurate description of the workings of the City of London and its governance. In two parts. Part one is about the city
http://www.liverycompanies.info/library/secret-city-of-london--.html	Part 2 is about the elections in the City
BOOKS	
The City of London Freeman’s Guide. by Paul D. Jagger ISBN: 9780956601117	A really informative book on the city, livery and freemen. You can get a copy from Guildhall and Amazon. Possibly your livery has a copy. RRP is £12.50. It is available as an ebook (£6.99) published in ePub (kindle) and ibook (Apple) Highly recommended. 5 STARS
The City of London White Book	Produced each year it is a mine of useful information with articles on the city and its organisation, and information on key people in the city and every livery as well as the halls. Your clerk might have one. Or buy direct from The Editor City White Book, (Jonathon Grosvenor in December 2017), 35 Ascot Way, Bicester, Oxon, OX26 1AG. £15 plus £3 postage. All proceeds go to Lord Mayor’s Appeal fund. Recommended. 4 STARS
City of London Blue Book To purchase the Blue Book, use this link: http://thecitybluebook.com/	A Directory produced each January listing Liverymen of the City of London by company. It provides an up-to-date guide to the City, its Government, the Lord Mayor’s Household, public bodies and other organisations and institutions serving in the City, the City Clubs and Guilds. It also offers an extensive Who’s Who featuring biographies of all current Livery Companies. Buy it using the link or ask your clerk. 2 STARS. This book’s helpfulness and quality has fallen in recent years as many Livery Companies no longer keep it up to date. It is expensive at something

	like £70-80. Consult with your Clerk as s/he may have one.
HELPFUL SUMMARIES OR DOCUMENTS	
<p>Jargon Buster</p> <p>Find this on the Livery Committee website, Clerks Almanac page at the bottom of the list on this page http://www.liverycompanies.info/fellowship-of-clerks/</p> <p>Or try this a direct link to the Jargon Buster document: http://www.liverycompanies.info/fellowship-of-clerks/jargon.pdf</p>	<p>An alphabetic list of some of the terms used in the City and Livery written by the Glovers.</p> <p>It is a very useful reference source and has some rather nice photographs.</p> <p>5 STARS</p>
REALLY USEFUL WEBSITES	
<p>A website hosted by the Livery Committee,</p> <p>http://www.liverycompanies.info/</p>	<p>This is a brilliantly Informative site. The menu on the site is divided into the following:</p> <p>A-Z Lists gives contact details of all 110 livery companies and their halls, and records of past Lord Mayors, Sheriffs and Aldermen;</p> <p>Briefings and courses shows details of the various courses available to liverymen and freemen;</p> <p>Diary shows a calendar of forthcoming events up to two years ahead;</p> <p>Clerks' Almanac offers guidance on some of the customs and practices of the livery companies (including a section on the Sheriffs);</p> <p>Library & Links lists publications and websites for further reading;</p> <p>Livery Committee – shows membership, constitution, history, and reports;</p> <p>Livery Companies Database shows personalities and contact details, and much else, for every company.</p>
<p>Page of the City Diary http://www.liverycompanies.info/diary--news/</p> <p>Page for Bimonthly Newsletter http://www.liverycompanies.info/library/livery-briefing/</p> <p>Page for City Briefing Programme http://www.liverycompanies.info/briefings--courses/</p>	<p>Great place to see the City Diary and a range of events going on in the City.</p> <p>The Livery Committee produces the bimonthly newsletter and information on courses for liverymen and consorts- called city briefings</p>
<p>City of London's website page about The City https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/about-the-city/about-us/Pages/default.aspx</p>	<p>This rich resource for the City of London walks you through the City's governance, services, business and things to do in London.</p>
<p>City of London's website page About the Lord Mayor</p> <p>Lord Mayor's bio:</p>	<p>More from the City of London website is lots of information on the Lord Mayor, his office and the Lord Mayor Appeal.</p>

<p>https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/about-the-city/the-lord-mayor/Pages/biography.aspx</p> <p>Lord Mayor's office and contact details: https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/about-the-city/the-lord-mayor/Pages/contact.aspx</p> <p>Lord Mayor's Appeal: https://www.thelordmayorsappeal.org/</p>	
<p>Wikipedia's page on Ward Clubs of London https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City_of_London_ward_clubs</p>	<p>A list of Ward Clubs with links to the website of the individual clubs.</p>
LINKS TO CITY LIVERY COMPANIES	
<p>Wikipedia's page on Livery Companies of London https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Livery_company</p>	<p>Always good to use wikipedia</p>
<p>Wikipedia's list https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Livery_company#List_of_companies_in_order_of_precedence</p>	<p>Wikipedia has a good list of Livery Companies in order of precedence</p>
<p>Livery Committee lists of Livery Companies and their own websites http://liverydatabase.liverycompanies.info/</p>	<p>The Livery Committee has very useful lists of all the Livery Companies in alphabetic order or order of precedence. Plus when you click on the name of a Livery Company you can see basic information on them, including a link to their own unique website.</p>
LINKS TO PHOTOS	
<p>Masters and Consorts pictures side by side: http://www.liverycompanies.london/</p>	<p>Online pictures of Masters and Consorts together to assist you in getting to know the Masters and Consorts of other Companies during your year of office. Produced by a Past Master of the Tylers and Bricklayers Company</p>
<p>Photos of Mistresses and Consorts https://www.liverycompanies.net/</p> <p>To PRINT the photos in a handy booklet https://www.liverycompanies.net/picture-books</p>	<p>Online pictures of only Mistresses and Consorts in alphabetic order with their livery company precedence and date of end of term</p> <p>To print the Consort PictureBook, there is a link especially for this. Once on the page, click on PRINT for the year's version you want.</p>
<p>Photos of all Masters only https://www.liverycompanies.com/</p>	<p>Online pictures of only Masters, in alphabetic order with their livery company precedence and date of end of term</p>

LINKS TO LIVERY COMPANY HALLS	
Livery company halls history http://www.london-footprints.co.uk/artliveryhalls.htm	Some history about each of the 40 company halls left
Livery halls by dining capacity http://www.liverycompanies.info/a-z-list-of-companies/livery-halls-by-dining.html	Simple list of halls with dining capacity. There is also a list in the White Book mentioned above under BOOKS.
List of livery halls http://www.liverycompanies.info/a-z-list-of-companies/livery-companies/livery-halls-2/	A simple list of all the halls and other venues, with links, capacities, post codes, google maps, and tube/underground guidance.
Database of livery halls and people. http://www.liverycompanies.info/a-z-list-of-companies/livery-companies-database.html	A complete list of all the halls with info on contact details, address, Clerk, Master and Wardens

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