

# Address to the Livery

Egyptian Hall, Mansion House  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025  
The Rt Hon The Lady Mayor of London  
Aldерwoman Dame Susan Langley

Masters, Prime Wardens, Upper Bailiff, Fellow Aldermen, Sheriffs, Clerks, Ladies and Gentlemen...

Welcome to Mansion House!

Thank you to Julia Sibley and all of the Livery Committee for your support, and for helping to keep all of us joined up, informed and connected. Huge thanks to the Livery for all your support so far, especially at the Lady Mayor's Show.

I've been lucky enough to have already been given some gifts - from a wooden cask, to a glove puppet, to Mr Whoppit to wave at Bluebell. But to be honest, the biggest gift is your support and being part of team 25/26.

And the appreciation is not only from me, it's also from Gary, Robert, Keith, Elspeth, and Kevin, the whole City team and even wider afield. I wanted to start up front, by recognising and thanking you for the amazing work you do, with committees galore and - giving £81million to charity and doing 76,000 hours of voluntary work every year!

When people speak about the Livery, they speak about Tradition and ask whether it is really modern? Well, I think the old and the new are something the Livery does really well.

Tradition is great, as it gives us a sense of stability, and comfort, but tradition can't be a drag or an anchor, it should be a living thing...adapting as times change.

Tradition is good, but our courage to change it - that's what makes it great.

The same applies to the mayoralty. Just because something has existed for so long gives it no right to continue to do so.

That is why this year, building on past Mayoralities, we're seeking to adopt what we are calling the 'modern mayoralty' - one that moves away from annual 'themes' as it's difficult to deliver anything in a year, to a longer focus over consecutive years on what should be our enduring purpose: connecting capital to opportunity, both financial and human.

Over the next 12 months, we'll be looking to firmly embed the brand of the mayoralty as ambassador for the UK's financial and professional services sector, working with government and industry to drive growth for the City and the country, and positioning Mansion House as the financial and professional services sector's very own 'embassy'.

Speaking as someone who grew up in the East End, we also want to show that you don't have to be a particular type of person to make an impact on the City...that you don't have to look, dress, or speak a certain way to succeed here...

And the Livery, opens doors and provides opportunities for so many people - it welcomes people into the City.

We need to talk both the Livery and the City up, not down, and we want to show this place, that all of us love, for what it is: somewhere that's forward-looking, innovative, and definitely open to everyone.

Working with others, we'll be augmenting what they do and launching our own initiative - City Insight Day - to prove that the City is not a scary place to work.

Businesses from across the Square Mile will be running interactive sessions, conversations and workplace tours to inspire and inform young Londoners about the exciting career opportunities available in the City. And if any of you have links into businesses it would be great to have you involved...you can sign up to show interest on the corporation careers website.

I want to move on to apprenticeships and crafts. Not everyone is academic and there is a real lack of craft skills and many of you do wonderful things. So we will also be launching a Heritage Craft Project, to help support the fantastic work you do.

To counter the unfair dining club criticism, and hopefully publicise it more too. A very rough desktop survey showed us that over 80% of liveries support crafts in different ways from the Goldsmiths centre to bursaries and awards.

With thanks to the team, this year we are launching the Lady Mayor's Livery Apprentices – an award scheme recognising the excellent work being done by livery companies to pass on these skills, which are all part of our heritage.

I want to use this award to showcase the real talent and craftsmanship you continue to support and develop – with a focus on learning with a skilled master.

We expect to shortlist between five and ten apprentices who will be selected as a Lady Mayor's Livery Apprentice.

Please do scan the QR codes around the room for further information, on how you can get involved and nominate trainees to be recognised.

I am very grateful to the members of the Livery Working Group within the Heritage Crafts Taskforce who are leading this initiative, and we hope the Livery Skills group will be involved as well!

Whilst we have rough numbers, a questionnaire will be sent out in the new year to all Livery Companies asking them about the support and training they offer for apprentices in their craft of origin.

If you could complete and return this, it really will help build a fuller landscape of the incredible and varied opportunities within the Liveries in the heritage crafts space.

Livery Companies are often the unsung heroes of their craft. Hopefully this year, they can become a bit more sung!

We are also inviting companies to showcase their crafts and apprenticeship training in the Livery Hall Open Day, as part of the London Open House weekend.

Now onto cadets...as well as apprenticeships, we also want to support cadets this year – another area where Livery companies are unsung heroes as I know many of you already do so.

My husband Gary is an Honorary Colonel for the Middlesex and North West London Army Cadets, and please do speak to him if your livery company is interested in sponsoring more cadets – it really can change a young person's life!

Let me speak a bit about opportunity. As you know, I believe we all have a responsibility to show that the City is an open place for all.

When we talk about the Square Mile, it can sound old-fashioned and make people think of our boundaries.

But we are not old-fashioned, we are innovative. We're not defined by boundaries, but by people.

Over the next year, I'd like to un-square the Square Mile, making clear that this is an open and welcoming place where everyone can get on with each other and where anyone can succeed.

I am not going to go into the support the Mayoralty needs to give to the business community, or the overseas trips, I'd rather today talk about the Livery! But rest assured it will be a key priority to promote the City

So I've said that I want to celebrate our communities within the City and do things to Unsquare the Square Mile. I also want to do the best that we collectively can for the Lord Mayor's Appeal, with some Lady Mayor events.

During my SABTAC year, we asked you for feedback on the LMA.

You told us and we listened, so we are taking a slightly different approach by focusing on smaller impact projects, the first two examples being sponsoring the Inspire zone at the West Ham foundations Beckton hub and the second the cadets charity.

We are also minimising the number of white tie events and going for a range of different, community events. So as one of these, we have decided to try and break a Guinness World Record.

Bringing 2500 people together from across the City together on a summer's day next year to break the existing record for people forming the shape of a dragon.

The current record was set a few years back by just short of 2,000 people. I'm sure that with all of you working together we can bring the 2,500 together to smash this.

Why a dragon? Well, think City of London Crest and you get it!

Where? Subject to finer details we have the support of the Honourable Artillery Company to use their grounds.

When? Not yet decided but we're aiming for a weekday in July, before we all take a well-earned summer break.

How? That's all in the planning and more will be shared as soon as we are able.

What do I need you to do?

Easy really... go back to your Companies and rally your members. With 113 Livery Companies and the others related if every one of you could round up around 25 members and friends then we'd easily fill the numbers with a margin.

The Livery Committee are wholly behind this and will lend their hands to help.

We are building a delivery group for this, led by Mark Huxley and Lars Andersen, both Past Master Entrepreneurs (who better to launch something from nothing and bring it to life?).

So reach out to them if you can help.

I know Mark is speaking to our Masters' year group too.

So we all have the chance to be record-breakers – on top of all the other amazing work the Livery do.

The Lord Mayor's Appeal also has a Dickens event in December with a direct descendent of Charles Dickens, a Mayoral ride out, but with motorbikes not horses, a summer social with Gary at happenstance, a Pullman train going out for the first time in history from Canon Street, and although it's very early to talk about it - a leaving party. Please have a look at the LMA website for further details.

I want to end by saying, as many of you know, I was born within the sound of Bow Bells. Just a week and a half ago, I found myself in the golden carriage pulled by six horses and as we moved past St Mary le Bow the bells rang out for me.

This city we love is open to all. And.... the Livery is open to all.

So together, let's make this the year when we break records, open doors, and un-square the Square Mile. Thank you.