



Lord Mayor's Address to the Livery

Mansion House

30 November 2005

The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor of London

Alderman David Brewer, CMG

On 30 November the Lord Mayor, Alderman David Brewer addressed the Masters, Prime Warden and Clerks of the Livery of London at the Mansion House.

The Lord Mayor began his remarks by noting with sadness the passing of the Upper Bailiff of the Weavers' Company. He then welcomed the Guild of International Bankers and the Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers, 106 and 107 respectively, which received their Letters Patent during 2005.

He recalled his first involvement with the Livery when he was apprenticed to the Merchant Taylors' Company at the age of 14. Since then he has become a member of the Blacksmiths and Insurers and is now the sponsoring alderman for the Company of Security Professionals. This has given him an overview of the livery old and new. His assessment is that the movement is healthy, dynamic and growing.

The Lord Mayor's Plans for 2005-6

The Lord Mayor's theme is *The World in the City* celebrating the contribution people from all over the world make to the success of the City. In that light one of his prime emphases is on young people.

Young People

He cited the youthfulness of the City. In his ward of Bassishaw alone, JP Morgan has some 8,000 employees of whom the average age is 32. UBS have 7,000 employees and the median age is 31. Few of these young people are acquainted with civic London, which is understandable given their hectic lives. Nevertheless, the Lord Mayor's experience is that when they are introduced to it, they are interested. To this end he will be meeting as many young workers as he can this year and, like the late Lord Mayor, encourages the Livery to involve young people as much as possible.

He then turned his attention to young people in the surrounding boroughs. Acknowledging all that the Livery does for education, he cited the Corporation's Livery-School Link programme which encourages Companies to become involved with local schools. Several companies are already doing this, including the Needlemakers. Information is available from the Economic Development Office in Guildhall. [A fuller explanation on this and community social responsibility activities will be found in the appendix.]

He then mentioned the work which is going on to facilitate an affiliation between individual Livery Companies and one of the London-area Army, Sea or Air cadet units, supporting those young people who are keen to make something of themselves. More information will be available to Clerks in due course.

The Asian Business Community

Besides young people, another 'community' the Lord Mayor wishes to involve in the life of the City is the Asian business community. They not only form the backbone of much of UK manufacturing, but are heavy consumers of City financial services. Yet their events and functions are mostly west end. The Lord Mayor will host events at Mansion House and hopes that, like the young workers, the Asian business community will become more involved in City affairs.

Overseas

The Lord Mayor will travel some eighty days visiting some twenty countries. He will be going to China twice, to Hong Kong, Beijing and Shanghai as well as major provincial cities such as Chongqing, Chengdu, Shenzhen as well as Dalian, Shenyang and Tianjin. He pointed out that each of these had populations equal to many European countries. For example, he said, Chengdu has six million inhabitants and Chongqing has thirteen million! He also mentioned that the City's 'representation' in Beijing and Shanghai is established.

He will also visit India, the middle east and other countries as the ambassador for UK Financial with the City of London at its heart.

The Lord Mayor then mentioned the value of receiving delegations from abroad, a particularly time efficient way to cement relations and do business. In his first fortnight of office, he recalled, he had already seen the President of Croatia, the Finance Minister of Switzerland, the Swedish Minister for Financial Matters, the Governor of the Central Bank of Egypt and a number of ambassadors.

Domestic

With the wider brief of representing UK Financial, the Lord Mayor will also visit nine UK regional finance centres: Bradford, Leeds, Sheffield, Manchester, Cardiff, Belfast, Birmingham, Liverpool and Edinburgh.

Affairs concerning the governance of the City and the Livery

It is critical to the City's influence here and abroad that, as in past years, the best candidates are put forward for Lord Mayor.

He repeated the message of last year that Buggin's turn is dead. In fact, he added, it never really existed. There have been 119 Aldermen since 1944. 62% made it to Sheriff and only 51% became Lord Mayors.

The point is that younger people no longer have to worry about 'missing their turn' whilst their energies are still on their careers. There is now a Selection Panel to consider potential candidates for the office of Lord Mayor from the Court of Aldermen. It consists of the Lord Mayor of the day, his successor, the Chairman of the Aldermen's' General Purposes Committee, the Chairman of the Privileges Committee and two senior representatives of the City: Sir David Clementi and Sir Brian Williamson.

Having said this, candidates must evidence the traditional commitment to the City. It is today as it was in 1385 when Common Council stipulated that every future Lord Mayor should previously have been Sheriff 'so that he may be tried as to his governance and bounty before he attains the estate of Mayor.'

The Lord Mayor then mentioned the qualities that Common Councilmen need in dealing with a highly sophisticated electorate and how that ought to influence who would consider running. He went on to acknowledge the care many Companies take in their internal succession planning as well as in the selection of the highly successful lay sheriffs of recent years including Geoffrey Bond, David Cobb and now Kevin Kearney.

Matters concerning the Civic Team and Mansion House

The Lord Mayor said that as soon as he had known the shape of his overseas programme, he had opened the diary and that many Companies had responded. He then referred to the times when he is overseas. On those days, the Mansion House will continue as before to be available for Livery Companies to hold their banquets, subject only to pressure on bookings. The Court of Aldermen had now agreed that the Sheriffs, as well as senior Aldermen acting as Lord Mayor Locum Tenens, would now be able to respond to the Civic Toast. This, he hopes, will also ease the pressure on

Masters and Clerks, although he realises that there will still be some disappointments.

The Lord Mayor then announced that the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen has awarded an initial three year catering contract for Mansion House to Searcy's. They are well known to the Livery through their operations at the Barbican, Vintners' Hall and outside the City at the Royal Opera House and National Portrait Gallery. He was pleased to announce that many of the current catering team would transfer over to Searcy's including Stanley Liu, General Manager.

He then asked Masters and Clerks to consider the style of dining and the cost to individuals. Surely three courses and three speeches are enough, he wondered, and what functions are you doing that will appeal especially to younger Freemen and Liverymen?

And whilst on this subject, he and Alderman Dr Andrew Parmley illustrated how the National Anthem can be introduced before the Loyal Toast in a way where everyone knows when to stand to attention and when to raise their glass. [As this involves musical notation and co-ordination with the toast and bandmasters, a separate note will be posted on the Fishmongers' web site.]

Cornwall

As a Cornishman, the Lord Mayor is keen to make the connection between the City and Cornwall. During his year, Cornish produce will feature on Mansion House menus and there will be a *Cornwall in the City* at Leadenhall Market which he hopes the Livery will support. He also is looking forward to a large City representation at the Royal Cornwall Show on 8-9 June, which again, will be the subject of a forthcoming note.

Lord Mayor's Appeal

For this year he has chosen Lord Mayor Treloar's School and College in Hampshire as the object of his appeal. He noted that many in the Livery are familiar with its work with young people with severe disabilities. He will inaugurate a three-year appeal with the Princess Royal as Patron. One of the objects of this appeal is to assist young people when they leave Treloar's. Called *Trelinks*, this is a befriending and mentoring scheme to allow Treloar's graduates to integrate into their new communities, both the young person and the community benefiting.

Citing only one major gala event (DivaOpera at the Merchant Taylors' Hall) he assured the Livery that he would not be dunning them with invitations to various functions nor would be belabour his Appeal in his speeches.

In addition, the Lord Mayor is grateful to all Companies which support the Mansion House Scholarship Scheme. It is going from strength to strength.

The Lord Mayor finished his remarks by thanking the Masters, Prime Wardens and their Clerks for their successes during the year past and wished them the best for 2006.

In addition, the Lord Mayor is grateful to all companies which support the Mansion House Scholarship Scheme which is going from strength to strength.

Appendix

¹ **Livery Schools Link.** This inter Livery initiative was set up with the prime objective of helping State schools in our neighbouring boroughs, e.g. Tower Hamlets, Southwark & Islington, to lift their standards. Many of these schools are failing to meet the standards needed for students to find suitable employment. The challenges faced are enormous, not least because of the language skills faced by immigrant communities.

Whilst financial assistance is always appreciated the focus of Livery Schools Link is to motivate Liverymen and Freemen to become actively involved in individual schools. That involves, for example, mentoring pupils in secondary schools helping to develop their self-confidence, aspirations and career plans. It can also mean becoming a Governor and providing business skills. The range of help that can be provided is enormous. A number of companies, eg, the Needle-makers, are promoting volunteering activity amongst their members not only through the Livery Schools Link, but with other community-based organisations in neighbouring boroughs.

Please apply to the Corporation's Economic Development Office for a leaflet to encourage companies and members to become more actively involved. The Corporation of London's brokerage service, **City Action**, channels the professional skills and expertise of City workers into a wide range of volunteering opportunities in community organisations in neighbouring boroughs. This service is also available to all Livery Companies, free of charge.

Heart of the City is a joint initiative between the Corporation of London and the Bank of England which raises awareness of the very significant amount of community and charitable work already being done in the City and spreads good practice to get more firms involved.

The Heart of the City Newcomers programme helps City businesses, particularly small and medium size City firms, to grow their corporate social responsibility programmes by providing them with free practical support and guidance. Because of their limited resources, smaller firms have been notoriously difficult to engage in CSR, and have traditionally been neglected by the bigger intermediaries such for this reason. It is therefore particularly encouraging that Heart of the City has managed to persuade 40 City businesses, most of which are SMEs, to participate in its Newcomers' Programme since April this year.

What makes the Newcomers' Programme innovative is the role played by an equivalent number of larger City businesses, who are more experienced in CSR. They support the Newcomers by providing workshop presentations, materials, signposting and, uniquely, 1-1 mentoring assistance - where each Newcomer business is assigned a dedicated CSR specialist housed in a Contributor businesses to use as a sounding board.

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