

This note is one of a series placed in the Clerks' Almanac by the Livery Committee. Most are written by its past chairman, of whom you may read more at the foot of the [Contact page](#). They are intended to be of guidance to livery clerks, especially new ones, or those seeking advice on a particular topic. They are not prescriptive, and how individual companies choose to conduct their affairs is, of course, entirely up to them.

Admission of Sheriffs and Sheriffs' Breakfast

The two sheriffs elect (having been elected at Common Hall on Midsummer Day, 24th June) are then admitted to office on Michaelmas Eve (28th September) in a short ceremony at Guildhall. There follows a lunch for invited guests, known as the Sheriffs' Breakfast.

Admission ceremony

This short (< half an hour) ceremony begins at 12 noon, and guests are asked to be seated before 11.45am. No tickets are required, and there is always plenty of room. The great majority of those attending will have been invited to the Sheriffs' Breakfast afterwards, but this does not mean that other liverymen and supporters of the new sheriffs may not come along too.

There is no dress code, but that for the Breakfast is morning coat, so most will be in morning dress or equivalent.

For those who enjoy City ceremonial, this is one of the lesser publicised occasions, and worth coming to watch. For those invited to the Breakfast, some might consider it poor form to skip the Admission Ceremony before, but that said, people have busy diaries.

Sheriffs' Breakfast

This major luncheon can be considered the curtain raiser of the new Civic year, preceding, of course, the installation of the new Lord Mayor six weeks later. Indeed the Lord Mayor will be formally elected at Common Hall the following day, Michaelmas (29th September).

Typically about 300 guests attend (by invitation, of course) and hence it will always be held in one of the three largest livery halls (Drapers', Merchant Taylors', Plaisterers'), and in 2017, the Guildhall. Generally speaking, spouses are not invited, and as mentioned above, the dress code for gentlemen is Morning Coat, with black waistcoats (as is customary in the City). Ladies are invited to wear hats. In more relaxed times, the 2017 invitation offers the option of Lounge Suits, and states (for ladies) "hat optional".

Timings. The invitation is 12.45pm for 1.15pm (ie immediately following the ceremony described above), and the speeches (there are five, none short, but hopefully all good) will not end before 3.30pm. Guests would be wise not to make any further engagements until well after that time.

The Breakfast is hosted by the two new sheriffs, and organised by the Remembrancers' Office.

Dates. All quarter days mentioned above assume they fall on weekdays. Where the date is a weekend, the event will be the nearest weekday (see Diary page at this website for exact dates)

Election Addresses. The Election Address of the non aldermanic sheriff (and those of many predecessors) may be downloaded at <http://www.liverycompanies.info/a-z-list-of-companies/lists/lord-mayors--sheriffs-from.html>

Nigel R Pullman
Sheriff 2012-2013

11th September 2017

Was this note helpful? Do you have comment? Email nrpullman@btinternet.com