

This note is one of a series placed in the Clerks' Almanac by a past chairman of the Livery Committee, 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.

Ceremonial surrounding the installation of the new Lord Mayor

This note seeks to answer the questions asked by some new to the pageantry in the run-up to the Lord Mayor's Show, for example livery masters taking a new interest in "their" LM. It lists chronologically the various events associated with the incoming LM. Livery masters should not expect to attend or be invited to all, whilst others will need to take a pro-active approach to receive a ticket (eg Silent Ceremony)

29th September (Michaelmas, or the nearest weekday) - Election of the Lord Mayor

See separate Common Hall note in Masters & Past Masters folder at the Clerks' Almanac.

Early October – Quit Rents Ceremony at the Royal Courts of Justice

This is essentially the formal legal installation of the new Sheriffs, and is only included in this summary by way of completeness.

Mid October - Swearing in of the Lord Mayor elect by the Lord Chancellor at the House of Lords

Evening of day above – **Presentation Dinner** hosted by the mother company of the LM elect.

The three above listed relatively small events are essentially private affairs, to which the sheriffs/LM elect issue personal invitations.

Late October - Lighting Up Dinner in the Crypt of Guildhall

This dinner is officially the trial run for the LM Banquet (see below), and ostensibly to check the lighting in Guildhall. The guest list is largely made up of those directly involved in the Banquet and/or the Show, and not particularly for liverymen or masters.

Friday preceding the Second Saturday in November – The Silent Ceremony at Guildhall

This is a more open event (3pm but ticket only), at which the LM is formally installed in office. Ticket applications may be made online (see link at the Diary page of this website), or quite commonly from the new LM or Sheriffs, who all have generous ticket allocations.

Following the Silent Ceremony, a different much smaller **Presentation of Addresses** ceremony takes place in the Guildhall Art Gallery. Eight institutions close to the new LM, and four for each sheriff, nominate a deputation (typically four or five representatives) to present a gift. Unless directly involved with one of these eg liveries/ward clubs, other guests are few, and all have allocated seats.

And after the Presentation of Addresses, there follows a church **Service of Thanksgiving** and Welcome for the new LM (usually at 6pm). Often at St Lawrence Jewry, but not always, no tickets are required to attend, but most will have come on from the afore-mentioned ceremonies.

Second Saturday in November – Lord Mayor's Show

Much is written about this elsewhere, but some livery masters (usually those whose company has a presence in the Show) will be invited to take part in a Guard of Honour (along with the Court of Aldermen) to welcome the new LM at Mansion House at the end of the Show. It is quite practical for masters to take part in the Show AND to be in the Guard. Lunch follows (with spouses/partners in Mansion House) and full details may be read at the note in the Masters' folder in the Clerks' Almanac.

In the evening at 5pm there is usually a Firework Display on the River, that the new Lord Mayor starts from HQS Wellington.

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Remembrance Sunday

This usually (but, as in 2020, not always) falls on the Sunday after the LM Show. The new LM leads a procession to the War Memorial at the Royal Exchange, wreath laying and march past. This has nothing specifically to do with the livery, but since the centenary year of the Armistice, there has been a move to involve livery masters at the Royal Exchange, and afterward at St Paul's.

Monday following the Lord Mayor's Show – Lord Mayor's Banquet

There are several dinners that are sometimes referred to as the *Lord Mayor's Banquet* (eg that for Masters & Prime Wardens the evening before the United Guilds Service), but this is the real thing. However it is not a livery occasion, and typically only masters with a close association with the new LM and sheriffs should expect an invitation – white tie, principal guest Prime Minister, at Guildhall.

A week or so later, the **Lord Mayor briefs all masters and clerks** in Mansion House – usually 4pm. The date will be posted at the Diary of this website (as most of the other events listed above), but formal invitations are not issued until *after* SABTAC has been elected at Michaelmas.

Nigel R Pullman

7th January 2018 (slightly amended 9th January 2020)

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