

Chairman, General Purposes Committee of Aldermen
Sir David Wootton, Alderman

Chairman, Livery Committee
Victoria Russell



To: All Livery Company Masters, Prime Wardens, the Upper Bailiff, and Clerks

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13 April 2021

Dear Master, Clerk,

Arrangements for Common Hall: Election of Sheriffs

We hope you will have had the opportunity to read this message already on the new Livery Committee website (<https://www.liverycommittee.org>) but, in case not, please see information below regarding Common Hall this June.

We are writing to let you know of the arrangements for the Election of Sheriffs and other Officers on 24 June 2021.

The Government's 'roadmap' envisages a full opening of venues from 21st June but, of course, that is subject to everything going as we all hope that it will regarding transmission and hospitalisation rates and the rollout of the vaccine.

You will know that many summer events around the country have been cancelled because of the uncertainties. We are, however, planning for a Common Hall to take place but in much the same way as it did for the Election of the Lord Mayor last September. That did prove to work both safely and smoothly.

If we find, nearer the time, that there is scope to increase the numbers attending, we will do so. For now, though, we ask that Livery Companies limit attendance, wherever possible, to **one** person per Company. (If Clerks want to have a 'reserve' list of those they can go back to if a greater opening up is possible, please do so).

We shall keep the website up to date with the arrangements and any changes as well as notifying Masters and Clerks.

It is a happy coincidence that for the Election of the two Sheriffs, there are but two candidates (Alderman Alison Gowman and Alderman Nicholas Lyons) and we do not anticipate contests for the other offices, such as Bridgemaster or Ale Conner.

There will be some recommendations from the Livery Committee (some of which were held over from last year but which, ideally, there needs to be progress with). The Committee's report will be placed upon the website fairly shortly and an email will be sent so that you know when it is there.

Information Required in Advance of Common Hall:

If 'Track and Trace' requirements still apply, we will need, in advance, the names of those attending.

On the Day:

- Everyone attending will have been given a time slot in which to arrive so they may be safely checked in;
- Some degree of social distancing will be in place;
- A mask will have to be worn whilst in the Guildhall complex;
- To minimise the risks to any of the Masters attending, there will not be a gathering or robing in the Crypts nor any procession by Masters into Great Hall.

These remain difficult times for planning events such as this and we ask for your forbearance. Our hope is very much that if the situation improves throughout the summer months, the arrangements for the Election of the Lord Mayor in September can be the event that so many of us are used to enjoying.

Please note that the proceedings on 24 June will be recorded, and an edited version of the event will be accessible on the Livery website. Further information, including on how to provide the details of any nominated attendee for Track and Trace purposes, will be supplied in the coming weeks. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully,

Sir David Wootton
(Chairman of the General Purposes Committee of the Court of Aldermen)

Victoria Russell
(Chairman of the Livery Committee).