

Court of Common Council

Great Hall, Guildhall

Thursday 25th July 2024

Lord Mayor Locum Tenens

Alderman Sir Charles Bowman

Item 5: Mayoral Engagements

Thank you, Town Clerk. Good afternoon, everyone.

First, may I start... by giving a warm welcome to two visitors - Aaron Juarez and William Moss from the Universities of Arizona and Arizona State, both part of the London Bridge Rotary educational foundation scholarship which was set up following the City's 1968 sale of London Bridge, now located on the Colorado river at Lake Havasu in Arizona.

I have fond memories of visiting Arizona in 2018, during my mayoralty, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Lake Havasu London Bridge, and in so doing, I had the privilege, that year, of driving sheep over two London Bridges!

Aaron and William, we very much hope you enjoy your time in London.

Since our last Court of Common Council, the City of London hosted a very successful national livery weekend, attended by livery companies from across the UK. Our thanks to Philip Woodhouse, Julian Sibley, Greg Moore, Hannah Grace and the team who put this together.

We also had the election of the two Sheriffs, Alderman Gregory Jones and David Chalk, who will be taking office in September - congratulations to them both!

The City of London Corporation was honoured to host the state banquet for Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan here at Guildhall, where the Lord Mayor spoke of the strong economic and diplomatic ties between Japan and the UK.

The Lord Mayor has visited Jersey and Guernsey, with a focus on sustainable finance, private equity and fintech.

The Lord Mayor has also visited the Netherlands, where he took part in discussions on how the Netherlands and the UK can cooperate in sustainable finance and in the safe and ethical development of Artificial Intelligence.

Following the election of the new government, the Lord Mayor was honoured to attend the state opening of Parliament and the swearing in of the Lord Chancellor at the Royal Courts of Justice.

The Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Common Councillors were delighted to support the recent celebration of the 150th anniversary of West Ham Park, with an exhibition in Guildhall Yard and a festival at the park itself.

Today, the Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs are travelling to Yorkshire for the annual visit to Sheffield hosted by the Cutlers of Hallamshire.

And, tomorrow, the Policy Chairman and the Lord Mayor are travelling to Paris, no doubt in Chariots of Fire... to see the opening of the Olympic

Games and to attend an event in support of Team GB, hosted by the Mayor of London.

We understand that, neither the Lord Mayor nor Policy Chairman are starring in the opening ceremony... or the games themselves – but I'm sure they will always have Paris.

Finally, may I wish everyone a very good summer break.

Thank you.