



Lord Mayor's Show 2016



Who is the Lord Mayor of London?

The Lord Mayor of London is the City of London's Mayor and Leader of the City of London Corporation. Within the City, the Lord Mayor is accorded precedence over all individuals except the Sovereign.

One of the world's oldest continuously elected civic offices, the Lord Mayor's primary role today is to represent, support and promote the businesses and residents in the City of London. The Lord Mayor is elected by City Liverymen and serves a term of one year. The role of Lord Mayor was created in 1189 and the first incumbent was Henry Fitz-Ailwyn de Londonstone.

How is the Lord Mayor elected?

The Lord Mayor is elected at Common Hall, which comprises Liverymen from all of the City's Livery Companies. Common Hall is summoned by the the Town Clerk, they meet at Guildhall on Michaelmas Day, 29th September and voting is by show of hands.

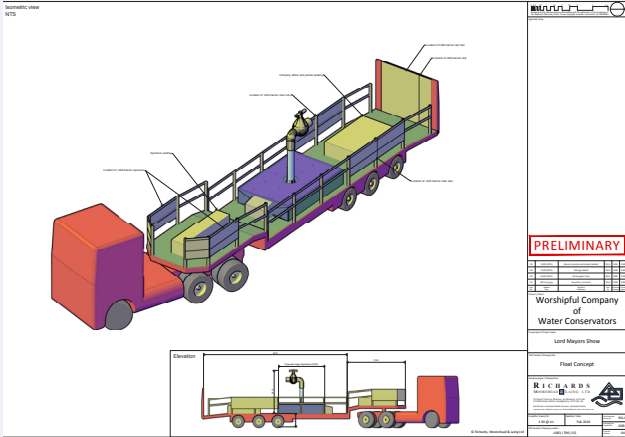
To stand for election, all candidates must have served as a City Sheriff and be a current Alderman. This year, Alderman Dr Andrew Parmley was elected Lord Mayor for the year 2016/17 – Andrew is an Honorary Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators and we have planned a number of events throughout the year to celebrate this.

The Silent Ceremony

The new Lord Mayor was sworn in on Friday 11th November at a ceremony known as the "Silent Ceremony" because, aside from a short declaration by the incoming Lord Mayor, no speeches are made.

The day after being sworn into office, the Lord Mayor leads a procession from the City of London to the Royal Courts of Justice in the City of Westminster, where allegiance to the Crown is sworn. This pageantry has evolved into one of London's longest running and most popular annual events, known as the "Lord Mayor's Show".

Planning an entry for the Lord Mayors Show



Early planning and organisation are key to a successful float in the Lord Mayor's Show. A small working party consisting of the Master, the Clerk, and the Wardens together with Court Assistant David Richards and Bailiff Dylan Barker commenced work

in earnest in the Spring of 2016 and developed a working proposal for a "Magic Tap" float. From hand drawn sketches, David produced computer generated images of our proposals and these had to be submitted to the Pageantmaster for approval. In parallel to this we undertook fund raising amongst our generous Members and five of them (Barry Dennis, Peter Hall, Roger Hewitt, Ken Marsh and Ivor Richards), together with Thames Tideway committed sufficient funds for us to enter the Show.

Further generosity came from Kevin Clancy (who provided a low loader, a diesel generator and two drivers), Stuart Herritty (who provided a pump) and Dylan Barker (who not only provided a tank but designed and built the "magic tap"). A sound system was provided and installed by Andy Williamson (Thames Warden, Mike Williamson's son) to enable us to play water related songs throughout the show.

Getting Ready for the Big Day



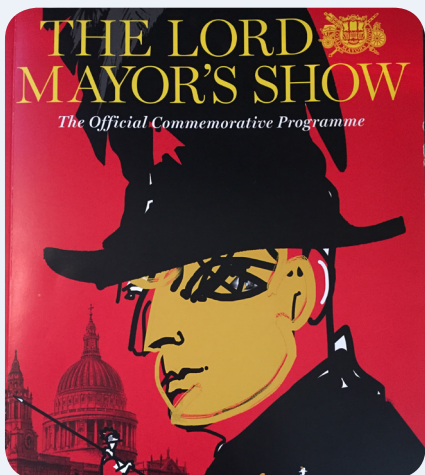
On the Thursday and Friday before the show a small working party, operating out of Clancy Docwra's depot in Harefield, started to prepare the vehicle.

Fitting of artificial grass on the trailer bed, was followed by the arrival of the tank, tap, pump and generator. Whilst the tank was being filled with water, the safety rails, signage and sound system were installed.

The low loader was driven into London for a 2.00pm deadline on the Friday afternoon and was securely stored in Smithfield Market overnight. A formal briefing for the drivers took place in the Guildhall at 4.00pm and then we were ready to go!



The Big Day Arrives



The day of the Show, Saturday 12th November, started very wet and overcast. Some 50 of us arrived at our float in Aldersgate, in the City, at 10.00am – some were sponsors who travelled on the front end of the float, the Master, Wardens and Clerk (together with spouses) travelled at the back end of the float (in gowns and badges), whilst members and their families walked alongside the float attired in Water Conservator sweatshirts and baseball caps – all had matching blue and white umbrellas.



Despite the wet conditions (which quickly improved to a light drizzle), spirits were high and after boarding the float we set off in the direction of Mansion House (via London Wall and Princes Street) just before 11.00am. At 11.35am (exactly on-time) the Master was interviewed live by the BBC in Princes Street and that gave him the great opportunity to describe the work of our Company. We were given substantial air-time and much praise and support for our float. If you missed the parade, BBC1 iplayer has recorded the whole event for posterity and we appear at about minute 50.



After waving at the new Lord Mayor in his grandstand outside the Mansion House we headed off towards St Paul's and the Royal Courts of Justice smiling and waving our union jacks all the way. Pavements were several bodies deep for most of the route and that gave the Master the opportunity to make some cheering children even wetter with aid of "super soaker" water pistols!



Wherever we went our "magic tap" was seen with much awe and interest, accompanied by an awful lot of cheering. Everyone involved felt very proud to take part in the show, having been supported by so many people to produce the magnificent float.



We stopped for a packed lunch at the halfway stage and set off again for the return trip at about 1.30pm.



At Mansion House, the Master and his Consort had to leave the vehicle as all the Masters of the new Lord Mayor's Livery Companies greeted him on his return with a guard of honour. Following a lunch in the Mansion House we set off to find a good vantage point on the banks of the Thames to view the impressive firework display which started at 5.15pm.

A wonderful day in the history of our Company. Many, many thanks to all who helped organize it under the ever watchful eye of our Clerk, Ralph Riley.



Forthcoming Events

Candlelit Carol Concert

For many years the Company has participated in the Candlelit Carol Service at St Mary-at-Hill. This year the service will be held on Thursday 15th December. Our Master, and others, will be participating in the Service. This is a lovely occasion and Members and their families are encouraged to come along.



Myddelton Lunch

Our Myddelton Lunch (which will celebrate the 17th Anniversary of the Granting of Livery to our Company) will be held at the Mansion House on Thursday 19th January 2017. This will be a prestigious occasion in the presence of the Lord Mayor, Alderman Dr Andrew Parmley.



The lunch will be preceded by a Service of Re-dedication at the Church of St Michaels, Cornhill. This is another special event in the Company's calendar.



United Guilds Service

On 1st February 1943, following the devastation wreaked on London during the blitz, the Masters and Prime Wardens of the Great Twelve Livery Companies met at Goldsmiths Hall. During that meeting it was decided to hold a Service in St Paul's Cathedral for all the Livery Companies and Guilds of the City of London. The purpose was to help lift spirits in London's darkest hour.

The tradition of this Service has continued ever since and the 2017 service will be held on Friday 31st March at St Paul's Cathedral. All 110 livery companies will be taking part.

