



Taking the lead

The first to serve as Mayor of London, Henry Fitz-Ailwyn, held office from 1189 until his death in 1212. Since then almost 700 men and one woman have taken the role of the sovereign's representative in the City



MAYORAL FACTS

- The Lord Mayor will spend around 90 days abroad promoting the City as well as making business-focussed visits in the UK.
- He will address around 10,000 people a month, making 700 speeches over the year.
- Lord Mayor Gifford is the 685th person to hold the office.
- Lord Mayors can be men or women of any faith, but must be a citizen of a Commonwealth country.
- Each year, around 50,000 people visit the Mansion House – the Lord Mayor's residence.

King John granted citizens the right to elect their own Mayor in 1215. Nowadays, the election of Lord Mayor is held each autumn in Guildhall. Two candidates are chosen by Liverymen of the City's 108 Livery Companies for the election by the Court of Aldermen of the City of London. (Aldermen themselves are elected by the people and businesses resident or working in the City.)

Though the office may be historic, in the 21st century the Lord Mayor plays a modern role in shaping the success of the City of London and Britain.

The Lord Mayor acts as host to heads of state and foreign dignitaries in Guildhall and Mansion House, his residence. He also welcomes the

Prime Minister to the Lord Mayor's Banquet and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the Bankers' Dinner.

As head of the City of London Corporation, the Lord Mayor acts as ambassador for the City of London as a leading international finance and business centre. The Corporation also provides services to the local community, maintains parks, museums and arts venues both in the City and around London.

The Lord Mayor also presides over the City of London's governing bodies – the Court of Aldermen and the Court of Common Council – and has close links with the Livery movement, which raises around £41 million for good causes every year.

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