



## Address to the Livery

Egyptian Hall

16<sup>th</sup> November 2011

The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor of London

Alderman David Wootton

**Chairman, Masters, Prime Wardens, Upper Bailiff, Sheriffs,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Thank you, Bill. May I start with a thank you. To the livery as a whole – who did me the honour of electing me as Lord Mayor. To my mother company, the Fletchers and to the other companies I am very proud to be a member of. And to each and every member of the livery movement who contributed to the Lord Mayor’s Show on Saturday. No less than 51 companies participated in the Show – with nearly twenty in the flotilla down the River, a feature I hope will continue in future years.**

**As the procession passed me at Mansion House on Saturday, I realised the great strength of the City's own vibrant and diverse community. It may be the Lord Mayor's Show. But it was not about me. I was just one person, making his own contribution alongside the many thousands in the Show, from the very young to the very old, from some of our great Olympians to the smallest charity. It showed the very best of the City – and the very best of the livery companies. Everyone at the Show on Saturday is part of the City – and part of the City community.**

**And we all have a duty to represent that community: in what we do – and how we promote what we do. As I said at the Lord Mayor's Banquet on Monday, I look forward to participating in the wider public debate, of which the City is part: about the structure of our economy, and about the role of the City within it. I look forward to shining a light on these issues.**

**This debate has opened another front. It has become directed at the civic City and the City Corporation. The argument has gained a resonance and a currency – and not just in the media.**

**So we must set out the facts. These are too little known. About the unique properties of the City of London, and how that requires a unique balance and model of democracy, and about the richness of the City's contribution to society. But, as Nick Hurd, our Minister for Civil Society, said to me: the City has to help the Government, by making the case for the City - and making a noise doing it. The allegation is that we have something to hide. Let us answer it by shining a light on our contribution.**

**Civic democracy is an issue for the City Corporation to tackle – but there are issues for the livery as well. Because we are all part of the City's community – and are all bound up together as part of the civic City.**

**The civic City does an immense amount of good quietly – perhaps we need to ask ourselves whether we do it too quietly. As I said at Common Hall, in a way I am sorry about that, but we are where we are.**

**So I want to encourage you to join me over the next year as ambassadors and advocates for the City – and to highlight the wonderful work that goes on here. We have a real opportunity to showcase our work against the backdrop of two once in a lifetime events: London 2012 and Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee.**

**As a lawyer, I often have to give my clients advice they don't want to hear or find ways of helping them take it in a way in which they are comfortable – or think was their idea. So I want to work with you to find ways of promoting your work. If your work relates to young people in a northern City – perhaps even my home town of Bradford! – then why not hold the award ceremony there and invite the Yorkshire Post? Or maybe the Yorkshire Post fancies a trip to London – so invite them to the Hall for an award ceremony and build up your connections with the communities we all serve across the country. The Fuellers held an event in Chester earlier in the year – to build up their links with the areas in which the fuel trade operates – and increased its membership as a result, as well as raising the Company's profile.**

**I have unique opportunities to celebrate the civic City as Lord Mayor – and I intend to make the most of them.**

**For example, on Monday at the Banquet, I highlighted the brilliant new academy at Hammersmith – sponsored by the Mercers and the Information Technologists. A huge financial commitment – but also a commitment of time, enthusiasm and expertise. And I showcased the the Goldsmiths' new venture - the Goldsmiths' Centre and Institute in Clerkenwell.**

**Tonight I will celebrate with the Carpenters' their Building Crafts College in Newham – equipping young people with vocational skills, in a borough where there are 18,000 households in their third generation of worklessness. These are fantastic capital projects, backed by energy and commitment. But I will highlight as well the livery's award schemes and sponsorships, encouraging and recognising excellence in the trades, in education or in sport - not least the support my mother livery, the Fletchers' gives to Paralympians. I will be delighted to be invited to attend education or craft related events and will support them if I possibly can.**

**I will also highlight the 216 affiliations between the livery companies and the armed forces, cadet units and the reservists – although, as ever, there is more we can do. I want to encourage you all to make new affiliations and to work with the Lord Mayor's *aide de camps* – and I am delighted to see one of them with us today: Lieutenant Chris Hartwell. Can I ask him to stand so we can show our appreciation for their work?**

**There is already great work going on in publicising the livery's contribution. I congratulate everyone involved in the publication of the leaflet summarising the contribution of the livery companies at the end of the month- I have a proof copy here and I am particularly grateful to the Mercers for their work. I ask you all to carry it around with you, and use it to highlight the contribution the livery makes.**

**And I am also greatly looking forward to the exhibition of livery treasures at Guildhall Art Gallery next year – Butcher, Baker, Candlestick Maker - which will show the whole panoply of the life of the livery: showing our great historic roots – but also the wonderful work being carried on today and looking to the future. I congratulate everyone associated with this exciting project for their work so far – especially Geoffrey Bond, who is with us today. I know he would welcome further offers of support – especially of the pecuniary kind!**

**And throughout the year I am looking forward to discussing the opportunities we have to do more, when I meet you – and I especially want to work with you to make the best possible use of the entire civic party's time, so we can meet as many people as possible. I'm also happy to include in my speech any messages you would like the Lord Mayor to convey – within reason!**

**I'm also delighted with the team I have here at Mansion House – and delighted by their commitment to the Lord Mayor and the City. I know you will spend the year building up your working relationship with them, whether in the Programme Office, in the Secretariat, with the Keeper's team or the speechwriters. My Private Secretary, William Chapman, has emailed all the clerks about the new arrangements we have put in place for managing the diary – and he is here and happy to discuss them with you.**

**I also want to highlight a few more initiatives - and encourage you to support their work.**

**I hope the livery will continue to support the Mansion House Scholarship Scheme, now in its fourteenth year. This allows Lord Mayors to give scholarships to young men and women from some of the countries we visit each year to study in the UK or undertake business attachments or training courses here in the City.**

**The one hundredth scholar was appointed in June this year from our forty sixth country. I intend to appoint up to ten new scholars during my year - and I hope the livery will continue to support the Scheme with the generosity they have shown in previous years.**

**The second initiative I want to highlight is Samuel Wilson's Loan Trust, now operated through the City of London Corporation in the Trust of five Aldermen and the Chamberlain. It aims to assist younger people who are, or are about to, set up in a business or trade, by granting loans - and has recently taken steps to re-invigorate its activities. The Trust welcomes loan applications from the possible recipients of grants - and particularly those endorsed by Livery Companies, and affiliated service organisations. The work of the Trust meets a genuine need – and we can do a great deal of good, so I hope you will support it. Pamphlets containing further details are available here today.**

**Finally, I want to say a few words about my Appeal. This is under the banner Fit for the Future for my entire year because I want the City, in all its forms, to be fit for the future.**

**As I said at the Lord Mayor's Banquet, I want to see the City's important connections and contribution recognised and renewed.**

**So I will highlight the business City's importance as an economic force. In creating and supporting economic growth; and in providing stable and secure jobs - not just for the more than one million people working in financial**

**services across the country, but, through its connections, to millions more.**

**But also fit for the future in a rather more literal sense. I am lucky enough to be Lord Mayor in an Olympic year - so I want to help people across London and across the whole country to be energised-and-inspired by this great event.**

**My Appeal will support a number of charities. It will provide:**

- **Better health opportunities, through two rowing charities, London Youth Rowing and the Rowing Foundation. Rowing has been a passion of mine since I was a teenager – and I want others to enjoy it as much as I do;**
- **Better lives and better opportunities for children the world over through Futures for Kids;**
- **Better access to open spaces and sporting facilities through Fields in Trust, which is committed to securing the future of two thousand and twelve outdoor spaces – a wonderful permanent legacy for 2012 and Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee;**

**The primary beneficiary will be the Trauma Centre at the City's local hospital, the Royal London and Whitechapel, providing facilities for those who need top class and immediate medical attention – care that verges on the miraculous. You have a 40% better chance of survival if you are taken there than anywhere else in the UK – and these slides shows the calibre of its work, including real images of a real story – the care given to a victim of the 7/7 bombing.**

**I am excited by my Appeal, and excited by the prospect of working with you all to support these excellent causes – and here are some of the exciting events we will be holding . I am already looking forward to a mass masters and clerks abseil next June. And here are some of the other ways you can support the Appeal – my Appeal team is here and is happy to discuss them with you afterwards.**

**Above all, I am excited by the year just starting.**

**But that is perhaps too much excitement for one Lord Mayor, so we will conclude with a short film - and look forward to seeing you in the Salon shortly.**

**1980 words**