



Election of Sheriffs Common Hall, June 24, 2016 Acceptance Speech

My Lord Mayor, Masters, Prime Wardens, Upper Bailiff, and Fellow Liverymen, here in the Great Hall and in the Old Library. Thank you! It is a great honour and privilege to stand before you. With humility and with enormous enthusiasm, I am pleased to accept the Office of Sheriff of the City of London for the ensuing year.

Little did I know, when I first visited the City, on the 11th of September 1972, that my journey would bring me here today. I vividly remember on that morning, climbing all of the 377 steps to the top of the Monument, and surveying the City before me:

- St Paul's Cathedral standing proud against the horizon;
- St Bride's church further in the distance; and,
- somewhat closer, the many historic financial institutions of our great city.

That afternoon, I was admitted as a pupil of King Edward's School, Witley, formerly Bridewell Royal Hospital.

Bridewell was founded back in 1553 when a deputation from the City, led by the Bishop of London, Nicholas Ridley, and the Lord Mayor, Sir Richard Dobbs, together with liverymen, Sir Rowland Hill, Goldsmith, Sir Andrew Judd, Skinner, Sir John Gresham, Mercer, and Sir John Ayleph, Barber Surgeon, persuaded King Edward VI to donate Bridewell Palace for use as a home for orphans, street urchins, and vagabonds.

As a beneficiary of that gesture, albeit many years later, it is with great gratitude, that I now find myself in a position to repay it. And what better way to repay it, than to serve as a governor of Bridewell, as I have done for 23 years, and to share my belief that education is an opportunity that should be afforded to every child.

Education is, of course, at the heart of the Livery. For centuries, they have founded and run schools, and helped apprentices to gain the skills necessary to excel in the world of work. I am therefore proud to be a liveryman of the Worshipful Company of International Bankers, Chartered Accountants, Ironmongers and Educators, as well as the sponsoring Alderman for the newly formed Guild of Human Resource Professionals.

My journey has been all the more rewarding because I've been accompanied for the past 28 years by my wife Lindy. Thank you, Lindy, for all your love and unwavering support. Lindy and I are very much looking forward to spending next year at the Old Bailey with William and Hilary. Together, we look forward to taking care of Her Majesty's Judges, the Recorder, and the Common Sergeant. And, as William suggested, I'm sure that at the end of the day we might even enjoy the odd glass of wine as we do so!

Which reminds me. There is, of course the ancient tradition of weighing in the Sheriffs at the start of their term, and weighing them out at the end. Liverymen, in years gone by, have even been known to lay a few wagers on the difference – I believe this is known as spread-betting! In full disclosure, lest any of you feel so inclined: I must confess a passion for wine, surpassed only, by a greater passion for chocolate!

The City's history and traditions are exemplary. It is our

responsibility to ensure that they remain relevant in the modern world. So I look forward to supporting you, my Lord Mayor

- in promoting the City,
- in championing our businesses, and
- in encouraging their outreach and education in our communities.

And I look forward to extending this support to your successor later this year.

In closing, I would like to thank my fellow Aldermen, who have been so generous with their assistance, confidence, and reassurance. And to you, my Fellow Liverymen, I pledge to uphold the traditions and duties – ancient and modern – of the Office of Sheriff.

My Lord Mayor