

**Wardens and Court Assistants City of London Course**  
**City of London Governance Structure**

Starting at the top, the Lord Mayor is elected by the Court of Alderman from two nominees from the Livery at Common Hall on Michaelmas Day (29th September – in 2012 a Saturday, hence 1st October 2012). To be the Lord Mayor, you must be an alderman, and you must have served the office of Sheriff. He takes office for one year, from the second Friday in November (at the Silent Ceremony).

He (or she) is supported by two Sheriffs, who will invariably be liverymen, and who are elected by the Livery at Common Hall on Midsummer Day (24th June – this year a Sunday, hence 25th June 2012). Usually one sheriff will be an alderman, and hope in due course to become the LM; and the other will not, and he/she will have no further ambitions after their year at the Old Bailey. This sheriff is often referred to as the "non aldermanic sheriff" or sometimes the Lay Sheriff. Neither qualification is particularly well liked, and in theory, both Sheriffs are simply that – Sheriff!

They take office for one year, from the day before Michaelmas (i.e. 28th September).

[There is more about the Common Hall elections at Sheriff Nigel Pullman's own website – menu item Election of Sheriffs, or [http://nigelpullman.info/Linked\\_only\\_NOTICE\\_OF\\_ELECTION.html](http://nigelpullman.info/Linked_only_NOTICE_OF_ELECTION.html)]

The City is divided into 25 electoral wards, and each elects one alderman – hence a court of 24 alderman (one of whom will be a sheriff), and one LM in the chair. The electorate is NOT the livery, but residents and representatives of the businesses in the ward, allocated according to head count of the company/business.

Each of the 25 wards also elects between 2-8 Common Councilmen, and in total there are 100. These 100, plus the 25 aldermen, form the Court of Common Council, who meet more or less monthly (in public meetings at Guildhall), and are the elected local authority for the City of London. The electorate is the same as for the aldermen, but their term of office is only 4 years, and elections for all CC are thus held every four years. The next is March 2013 – this will be of some interest, for it is only the second time these elections will have been conducted under the "new" system. (Alderman are elected as and when vacancies arise or their six year term expires).

Finally, as I mentioned yesterday, each alderman appoints his own "Deputy" within his ward from the elected Common Councilmen.