

EX-LORD MAYOR ALASTAIR KING POSING FOR PICTURES WITH A CONVICTED CRIMINAL & THE CITY OF LONDON COUNCIL LOBBYING FOR HONOURS

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The visibly intense lobbying for UK honours means that these awards have little credibility with either the right-wing or the liberal press, or with anyone who knows a little about them. The City of London council is one of the entities that puts a huge amount of effort into getting its elected members honours. Alongside the many other councillor perks (scroll down here) in the last rotten borough, having officers lobbying for honours is yet another unseavoy practice that attracts the wrong type of candidate to stand for office within this local authority.

It's starting to look like the council's success at lobbying for honours may be coming to an end, since in recent years not all former Lord Mayors have received knighthoods. Vincent Keaveny received a CBE in the birthday honours list in June 2023 after his term of office as Lord Mayor ended in November 2022, so former City figurehead Flooxie Woxiole (scroll down here) can still hope to become a Lady next June after her husband, Alastair King, ended his term of office as Lord Mayor in November 2025. That assumes, of course, that King gets a knighthood, which is no longer a safe assumption. If he gets anything less, like a CBE, Flooxie will remain Mrs King.

It looks as if all hope is gone for Michael Mainelli to become Sir Michael, or even Michael Mainelli CBE. There have been three honours lists since his term of office as Lord Mayor ended in November 2024, and he hasn't appeared on any of them. Alastair King may well go down the same route, since his year in office was a disaster – with his ostentatious support for troubled fintech company Guava (see here and here) ending on a very low note.

King is also emblematic of how pointless any Lord Mayor is, since like several previous holders of this title, he appears happy to pose with just about anyone. Back in November 2025 we posted about King posing for a photo with former Playboy model and convicted criminal Anna-Maria Galojan at his Last Laugh event. Since then a picture of King posing with Galojan during his Mayoral year – but on a different occasion – has come to our attention.



City of London senior councillor Alastair King and convicted criminal Anna-Maria Galojan at the Worshipful Company of Woolmen's 2025 annual Sheep Drive across London Bridge on 28 September 2025, as featured on the Ananova website – other photos on the same page show Galojan in the company of sheep and fintech promoter Mahmoud Warriah.

There is no point in having a Lord Mayor if they spend their year in office having their photo taken not just once, but at least twice, with the same convicted criminal. Given King's disastrous support for Guavapay and his willingness to repeatedly pose with Galojan, it should be obvious he's way too foolish to deserve any kind of honour. But then his predecessors didn't deserve honours either, since all of them spent a year going to livery and other dinners and reading pointless speeches full of platitudes that they didn't even write.

The City of London Lie Machine was as usual busy over the wintertime celebrations spouting platitudes about those it had lobbied onto the New Year Honours list. Last week it issued a press release in which it was reported Giles Shilson (a mason) has been awarded an OBE for services to outreach and inclusion. No mention of the fact that this is the same City of London councillor, Giles Shilson, who compared using the Welsh language to being dyslexic. This wasn't a service to outreach and inclusion – it was an open attack on them.

The other councillor covered in the press release from last week was former Chief Commoner Peter Dunphy, whom it describes as having "chaired the City Corporation's licensing committee, where he oversaw the growth of the night time economy to a record size without a single licensing appeal". But like every other City councillor, Dunphy did nothing about Luis Tilleria sitting on the licensing committee, even after one of his companies was exposed for operating an illegal London nightclub. It took City voters handing Tilleria an electoral defeat to get this rogue landlord off a number of committees he shouldn't have been allowed to sit on in the first place (scroll down here).

Equally risible is Dunphy's baseless claim within this press release that "I'm particularly proud that as chair of the licensing committee and deputy governor of The Honourable The Irish Society, I was able to support numerous businesses through Covid which, without that support, probably wouldn't be here today". Nonetheless, Dunphy's MBE is a snub to Brian Mooney, who only got a BEM for being Chief Commoner.

If those doling out honours wish to be taken seriously then they need to stop throwing them at City of London councillors – who don't deserve them but have a relentless lobbying machine.

The header shows, from left to right: Mahmoud Warriah, City of London councillor for Queenhithe ward & ex-Lord Mayor Alastair King, Anna-Maria Galojan, at the Lord Mayor's Last Laugh, 5 November 2025, Guildhall, London.

Notes

*What's gone wrong with the honours system? by Abigail Buchanan, Daily Telegraph, 29 December 2025 (link above):

Put simply, no matter how many efforts have been made to diversify the list and make the system fair, it really does come down to who you know – at least in part.

"Anyone can recommend anybody, but then you have to get people to write in, and you have to get people to boost it and explain why it should be them," says [Hugo] Vickers. "It's jolly difficult to get anyone an honour – I've managed twice in my life and it's been very hard work."

If there's one man who knows this to be true it is David Beckham – now finally Sir David Beckham – who has been on what appears to be a years-long quest for a knighthood...

In 2017, leaked emails suggested he was furious to have been missed off the list. It seems no coincidence that he has since cultivated some Royal friendships and embarked on a remarkable PR campaign. Finally, this year, it paid off, and he was awarded his knighthood by the King himself.

Psst: wanna buy a new year's honour? Once it was simple. And now? Well, don't rule it out by Stephen Bates, The Guardian, 30 December 2025 (link above):

The other day, a friend of mine, a highly respectable professional... when an unexpected and startling email popped into their mail box. "Have you ever considered independent recognition for (your) career impact, through attaining a royal honour such as an MBE, OBE, CBE or even a knighthood or damehood? Your leadership... feels very aligned with what these honours and awards look to recognise."

The company which sent the email says its clients are 6.5 times more likely to attain a royal honour and that it has an 80% success rate for king's awards for enterprise. Its fees, it says, are based on the length of an honours nomination that it prepares for clients.

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