

LORD MAYOR'S SHOW

London's new Lord Mayor, Sir George Aylwen (stepping down from Guildhall into the November haze) heralds the capital's own and oldest spectacle - the Lord Mayor's Show. In a century-old Fairy Coach, with an escort of Household Cavalry, London's first Citizen drives off in the full panoply of civic pomp to present himself before the King's Justices, as Lord Mayors have done since the signing of Magna Carta. Preceding him is a colourful procession, its place of honour reserved for the Auxiliary Forces of the Crown, parading Britain's military progress through the ages.

And at the tail-end, the showpiece of the pageant - the Gilded Coach - bearing the holder of an office dating back eight centuries.

At the historic Law Courts, the flags of the British Legion signal the arrival of the procession - the biggest military pageant London has seen since the Victory Parade. While tableaux depict past greatness, topical emphasis is laid on the significance of the New Territorial Army.

The Navy gets a cheer all its own, taken up by crowds glad to see that, despite everything, John Bull is still in the best of health and spirits. A greeting from past holders of the office and a salute from the Guard of Honour mark the arrival of the Lord Mayor's Coach.

Following his Aldermen and Company Wardens, Sir George Aylwen, six hundred and twenty-sixth Lord Mayor, walks up to be elected. London's great heart beats louder for a morning of pageantry.