

This note is one of a series placed in the Almanac for the guidance of livery masters, wardens, and their clerks, especially new ones, seeking advice on a particular topic. They are not prescriptive, and how individual companies choose to conduct their affairs is, of course, entirely up to them. Most are written by a past chairman of the Livery Committee, of whom you may read more at the foot of the [Contact page](#). But this one draws heavily on the research of the Archivist to the Brewers' and Leathersellers' Companies.

Garlands (or crowns)

A small number of livery companies still install their new master in a traditional crowning ceremony.

The item of headgear used is a *garland* (or crown as they are sometimes, but perhaps incorrectly called). They were termed Garlands as originally they were made from garlands of flowers, leaves etc. (cf wreathes)

The few Companies which retain old garlands, and actually still use them in ceremonies, are the:

Carpenters

Haberdashers

Leathersellers 1638 (set of four cost £15, one for each warden, and still used)

Barbers circa 1670 A previous set of four made in 1629 (costing £20) but lost, either in the Great Fire or the Civil War.

Fishmongers

Skinners

Pewterers 19th c

(listed above in approximate order of the age of the garlands)

The Girdlers, Drapers and Cooks use modern replicas.

Parish Clerks also have them but they are not strictly a Livery Company.

Several other Companies have old garlands, but don't use them at all, eg Brewers, & Ironmongers.

However, the two Broderers' Crowns (one from circa 1575 and the other from c1610) have recently been repaired and restored, and a replica made of the earlier one was gifted to the Company in September 2018.

Mercers, Grocers, Merchant Taylors, Apothecaries, and doubtless some other Companies, all used to have garlands, but have lost them in some disaster or other (or maybe through carelessness!). Feltmakers use tricorne hats (*of course!*), Clothworkers use caps, and many other Companies use bonnets, but these are all quite different from the ancient garland or crown.

This note is one of a series placed in the Almanac for the guidance of livery masters, wardens, and their clerks, especially new ones, seeking advice on a particular topic. They are not prescriptive, and how individual companies choose to conduct their affairs is, of course, entirely up to them. Most are written by a past chairman of the Livery Committee, of whom you may read more at the foot of the [Contact page](#). But this one draws heavily on the research of the Archivist to the Brewers' and Leathersellers' Companies.

The Barbers' garlands (they call them crowns now) are held in the hand on Election Day, but not worn on the head any more. They are placed on the table in front of the Master and Wardens at all Dinners.

Nigel R Pullman

1st November 2018

Was this note helpful? Do you have comment? Email nrpullman@btinternet.com