

The Welsh Livery Bulletin

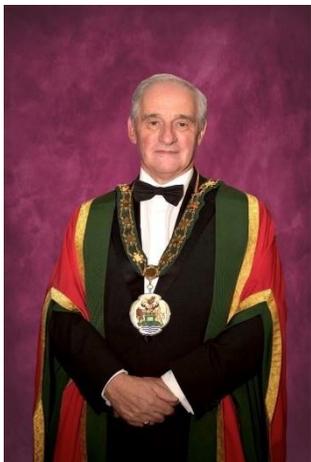
of the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales



Issue No: 9

June 2020

MASTER'S MESSAGE



Welcome to the June / high summer edition of the bulletin, albeit as I look out of the window it is raining and windy.

In my Masters' letter at the beginning of the month I likened the pandemic to a storm and that we were and are all in different ships. You may be aware that I have and am involved in a Tall Ships Trust and so using the analogy of being in different ships I would like to expand a little about life on mine.

There is a proverb that you can only have one Captain on the bridge but looking at "Daily Orders" I see that there is a Captain Johnson, a Captain Sturgeon, Captain Foster and a Captain Drakeford along with First Officer Gethin. Alongside them on the bridge is the Navigating Officer(s) ... or perhaps better described as a clutch of scientists and health managers. While it seems that some of the Captains are, to a lesser or greater extent, saying we can set the sails ready to leave port and to head towards some normality the local navigating officers are warning of further serious stormy squalls (second

waves of infection) and that we should not leave port until it is safe..... but what is safe and what does "safe" look like? Today I read that the UK infection rate "R" is 0.7 albeit that excludes Wales which does not publish such figures. So how does the "R" rate really relate to me or you? Put another way what exactly is the risk factor? Is it safe to set sail? If we set sail and head out of port what are our chances of capsizing or running aground or colliding with another ship? is such a risk greater or less than the "0.7" factor. If, on the other hand, we head to the ships chandlers (food supermarket) or remain on land but drive to say the beach or countryside is that safe? Is the risk of having a road traffic accident or knocking someone over / being knocked over less or greater than the "0.7"? Are we able to assess the risk for ourselves, even if we knew the actual local "R" rate? While I do not have the answers, I have realised that each of us, in our own little boats, has a different perception of what is safe and what is a acceptable risk. After all, if we wanted to be totally safe would we actually ever leave home? Returning to my analogy about my boat, I have talked to other members of the crew (Company) and have found that we all have differing views of where we are and where we are going. The majority have told me that they agree to a cautious approach while one has told me that not to run events as soon as there is any easing seems a bit draconian. Clearly it will be difficult to meet everyone's expectations and whatever we do will, in the eyes of some, be wrong. Each of us has our own perception of what is an acceptable risk and we, as a company must and will continue to be mindful and cognisant of the environment in which we find ourselves at all times.

The first important point to make is that this the Company will be fully compliant with all statutory regulations as laid down by the Welsh Parliament. We will not organise any event or function involving face to face meetings until the travel restrictions are completely removed and the social distancing requirements have been relaxed. Once I am confident that we can hold such an event I have, in discussion with the Clerk and Senior Warden, looked at the possibility of holding some outdoor events such as a pedestrian Treasure Hunt, with the end point being in a large hall.

In support of this I have spoken to the Clerk about providing, as part of future calling notice, full details of events including, for example, to give full information on the size of the venue, their facilities and the ability for social distancing even though the statutory requirements will have had to have been lifted by then.

I realise that Liverymen and guests will not wish to attend company events unless they feel, in their own minds, that it is safe, and I suspect that to achieve this will take quite some time and effort.

While in lockdown the Clerk, officers and committees have been, quietly, getting on with moving the company forward. There have already been a number of “virtual” meetings and more are planned; the use of virtual meetings is one particular area where we are looking at making more use of such electronic communication for business meetings thus saving members time, travel costs and stress.

Communication is a cornerstone of all good organisations and the bi-monthly bulletins, such as this seem to have been well received. You will have also received occasional “Master’s Letters” and I am truly grateful and motivated by the kind and positive feedback. You are always very welcome to write to me with any suggestions, comments or even material for publication.

Another important component of good communication is our website. There has been a recent review and focussed work undertaken to update and keep the website current and further updates still ongoing. There is always room for improvement and I would ask, indeed encourage you, to visit the site

(<http://www.liverycompanywales.cymru/>) and provide feedback for consideration.

Finally, for this edition I would like to tell you about a webinar at which the Lord Mayor of London was the guest speaker. It was most informative, interesting, and entertaining and I will arrange for the Clerk to circulate the web site on which you can see the full version of his talk.... but the LM did make me smile. You may recall that in one of my master’s letters I announced that the Lord Mayor will be undertaking two “back to back” terms of office. Evidently while it last happened in the 18th century, in the 14th century a Lord Mayor undertook four terms of office.... his name? Dick Whittington. As an aside the Lord Mayor suggested that current Livery masters might be dubbed the “BBC Masters” “**B**oris, **C**ovid” (*no comment*)

I hope you enjoy the article elsewhere in this bulletin, about how the livery companies in London are “managing” during lockdown and would reiterate my invitation for you to write to me on any matter that you feel it is appropriate to so do.

With every good wish

Peter Coleman

Master

LIVERY MEETINGS UPDATE

All face to face Livery Meetings including Committee, Court and Admission Court meetings have been cancelled until further notice but may instead be conducted by video conference. You will be notified accordingly by either the Clerk, Assistant Clerk or Committee Secretaries.

COMMITTEES UPDATES

Congratulations to **Past Master Windsor Coles OBE CEng FIET** who has been appointed Chair of the Awards Committee and many thanks to Past Master Dr. Sarah Cockbill as she steps down as Chair but remains a Member of the Committee.

Given the suspension of activities during COVID-19, the Chair, Past Master Windsor Coles and the Committee are ever more determined to find new ways of interacting with young people, whether in universities, colleges, schools or employment to improve their life chances. If any Liveryman, not currently engaged with the Awards Community but who believes he or she can add expertise or experience to the delivery of Awards, their help whether as a member of the Committee or not will be greatly appreciated. Contact can be

made through the Clerk *at* clerk@liverycompanywales.cymru

NB: FULL COMMITTEE REPORTS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE WLB IN AUGUST 2020

Message from the Senior Warden Dr Kathy Seddon FRSA FLS CF

We are in the process of setting up a new official WLCOW Membership Committee, that will report to Court. The role of Membership Secretary falls to the Junior Warden during their year in office. In this work, the Junior Warden will now be assisted by a Membership Committee that will look particularly at:

- Recruitment
- Retention
- Participation in events
- Engagement

It will meet virtually and face to face and members will come from all WLCOW regions. Please contact the SW - Dr Kathy Seddon at helloseddon@googlemail.com - to express an interest in joining this committee.

MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM OUR AWARD WINNERS

Dr Hayley Wyatt- Double Award Winner - Engineering Travel Award and Gold Award



In December I received the very generous Gold Award from the Livery Company and planned to use this award to attend a training course and further my research. As somebody who is trying to develop their career in academia, opportunities like this are completely invaluable, and provide an amazing opportunity to both further my career, but also to learn new skills that can feed back into the wider community.

My plans for using this award have been significantly disrupted due to the on-going pandemic. Whilst the end goals remain the same, plans in the original format are currently on hold and I have learnt to adapt in both learning to work remotely, but also in changing my plans. Whilst my plan to attend a training course have been delayed, I have taken the opportunity to study online a course in statistical shape modelling, which is provided by the Future Learn platform. This is a field I have been interested in for some time, and one advantage of having received the Gold Award, and to some extent the pandemic, is having the resources and time to undertake this course. I attended the computer modelling research which was presented at a conference in New York last August, again, thanks to the Livery award and my completed research is due for publication later this year. I will continue to develop as an academic, learning new skills and using my new knowledge to feed into our undergraduate courses and create novel ways of

engaging with the public about exciting engineering topics.

North Wales Group Award

" Welsh Artists' colourful careers flourishing with support from the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales "



Billy Bagilhole, born in Pwllheli on the Lleyn graduated with a first class honours from Chelsea Art College in 2018 and struggled to continue with his painting due to the lack of affordable studio space in Central London.

Assistance from the Livery Group allowed Billy and his fellow Welshman, Cybi Williams from Blaenau to continue with their passion and realise their ambition by providing additional funding for a studio in Vauxhall.

Billy wanted to express his thanks by saying "without the support of the Livery Group we would not have the essential space to paint and I certainly would have struggled to accept the great honour of painting Sir Bryn Terfel" The portrait was part of an S4C series called " Wales on Canvas" and has served to raise the profile of Billy's work. To view their work: billybagilhole.co.uk and cybiwilliams.com



Photo: Sir Bryn Terfel and Billy Bagilhole during the unveiling of the portrait in London.

Article by Dr Karen Jones

"CONFESSIONS OF OUR LIVERYMEN "

2020

Captain Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards, Founder Member of the WLCOW - like many others he started to clear out drawers and cupboards and came across many photos and letters concerning his time in National Service and the Royal Naval Reserve which go back over 60 years. He thought that younger members of his family might be interested in them. It starts in the old days of rum, hammocks and kitbags (not experienced by today's sailors) and he is planning to write a short book and get it published. (below left, Captain Sir Norman as an Upper Yardsman (Officer Cadet) on parade at Chatham Barracks)



Captain Sir Norman in 1984 as Aide-de-camp (ADC) to the Queen (opposite right)



The Master, Peter Coleman - In a moment of great weakness agreed to a request from the Bulletin editor to write just a short note about his lockdown activities. Apart from mowing the lawn and painting his house, he used his engineering background to work on a ten year project, to build a model, radio controller boat. He has now completed the model which is "scratch built" i.e. from plans, and intends to have an official naming and launching at Cold Knap lake when he can find someone of importance to carry the official bit. ... any offers???

The boat is "Bugsier 3" and is based on a 1930's tug from Hamburg. She is 34" long and is fully functional. You will be very welcome to attend and he will be happy to issue invitations in due course. Watch the space as his next project is a

Vosper "Rescue and Target Launch" circa 1956 which he started with his father when he was 12!



Liveryman John Masterman Hardy - has a new challenge, home schooling two ten year olds. He also noted not a drop of water in lockdown to feed the hydro electricity generators and the tourist business closed on day one of lockdown! The good news though is an incredible lambing this year due to all the sunshine. Oh, and Jane his wife, got an electric bike and has now done 1000 miles in lockdown. He shares this wonderful vista from his home.

Senior Warden, Liveryman Dr Kathy Seddon has decided that pictures speak louder than words and has attached a collage of her lockdown activities



Senior Court Assistant Liveryman Major John Charles - No change for him, he is in work every day. His firm did not stop for a day. With nothing else on in the evenings & weekends his allotment is in good shape. He said he had to buy a frying pan and learned how to hard boil eggs!

Past Master Wing Commander Graeme Morgan...is keeping up standards and social distancing over dinner one sunny evening. The attire is necessary to make up for lost Livery events (and to give the moth a chance to flee) or is he auditioning to be the next **James Bond** ??



Liveryman Kate Hously – through her work for the national charity Re-engage, Kate volunteered to join a new service, "Call Companions", where volunteers regularly call older people for a chat and she also volunteered to take elderly, isolated people out to tea once a month. With hair salons shut, Kate had to resort to DIY...she was tickled pink with the result !?!



Liveryman Henry Gilbert - decided to grow a beard and thought his new beard made him look like Sean Connery, "until someone in the street walked up and gave him their loose change!"



Clerk Christopher Dale JP - has also joined the " hairy bikers club" although his wife (the Boss as per his t-shirt) said that when she mentioned she liked a man with a beard, she hadn't expected Captain's Birdseye!! The jury is still out.....!!



Liveryman Sylvia Robert-Sargent - has started for the first time this year to grow herbs and vegetables from seed - and her roadside roses are looking rather good !



Court Assistant Simon Holt MBE - has swapped his surgeon's precision of the operating theatre to builders mate (he declined to apply the tattoos)! This was a builders rubbish tip covered in brambles and untended for 25 years before lockdown.



Assistant Clerk Angela J Parry MBE - resurrected her love of baking to make a variety of pies and amongst others, her brother has been delighted with her contributions - not surprising!



LIVERY LIFE DURING

COVID-19

*"We have heard our fate, don't congregate!"
The companies were aghast;
Corona struck, we're out of luck
Our dining events are of the past;
The Actuaries are re-assessing their longevity
The Architects have drawn their own
conclusions
The Air Pilots have crashed
The Apothecaries have run out of potions
The Arbitrators are arguing
The Armourers have lost their guard
The Art Scholars have run out of paint
The Bakers have run out of dough
The Barbers are now skinheads
The Bowers have shot their bolt
The Blacksmiths have run out of iron
The Brewers have been drunk dry
The Broderers have lost the needle
The Butchers have been slaughtered
The Carmen have reached the end of the road
The Wax and Tallow Chandlers have snuffed it
The Coachmakers have lost their horses
The Clockmakers have had to run down
The Clothworkers have had an attack of moths
The Constructors have gone to the wall
The Cooks have gone into liquidation as they
couldn't ketchup with orders
The Coopers are cooped up at home
The Cordwainers have put their foot down and
given their Clerk the boot
The Cutlers links are cut
Its curtains up for the Drapers
The Dyers have lost all their colour
The Educators have become illiterate
The Engineers have engineered an ark (what do
they know?)
The Fan Makers felt the draught, got up the
wind and folded
The Farriers are shoeless
The Farmers have no herd left
The Felt makers need their pulse felt
The Firefighters have had their fire put out
The Fishmongers have been gutted
The Fletchers have ruffled their feathers
The Founders can't be found*

*Everything is rotten for the Fruiterers
The Fuellers' tanks are dry
The Furniture makers view; sofa so good
The Girdlers will have to tighten their belts
The Goldsmiths have stopped coining it
The Gunmakers have gone bang
The Haberdashers dashed for home
The IT Company has crashed
The Insurers have stopped paying claims
The Ironmongers have gone rusty
The Launderers have thrown in the towel
The Lightmongers are in the dark
The Loriners have the bit between their teeth
The Makers of Playing Cards are one card short
of a full deck
The Master Mariners have capsized
The Musicians are out of tune
The Needlemakers have pricked themselves
The Pipe Makers have gone up in a puff of
smoke
It's a wrench for the Plumbers
The Poulterers have flown the coup
The Saddlers have lost a stirrup and are
unsaddled
The SIM are under the microscope
The Security Professionals are on holiday
The Silversmiths are feeling a bit tarnished
The Solicitors are questioning their judgement
The Spectacle Makers can't see
The Stationers are stationary
The Vintners' wine has been turned to water
The Tin Plate Makers have canned their events
The Watermen are sunk
The Welsh Livery has gone West
The wheel has fallen off the Wheelwrights'
wagon
The Woolmen have lost their flock
The World Traders are twiddling their thumbs*

*The City's empty, like St Paul's but still the
Livery companies will survive. We've been
through things like this before.... In Sixteen
Sixty Five.*

**This is an adaptation of that produced by
London Livery Companies with a Welsh**



twist !

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAPLAIN CANON SARAH JONES



These truly are extraordinary times. On 23rd March, HM Government declared what we have come to call the lockdown and I am sure that each of us will have been affected in some way.

Covid-19 is a serious threat to us and to our way of life and I am thankful that so far, the scale of the pandemic has been smaller than it might have been in terms of society at large. However, everyone who has been seriously ill with Covid-19, coped with it in their family or who has been bereaved by it, has suffered a significant personal tragedy.

Likewise, those who have been furloughed, lost jobs or those who have had to place them on furlough or to make their staff redundant have paid a heavy personal price due to the virus; Career plans, life choices and a myriad of decisions have also been affected by this virus.

Some of us have coped, not coped or not-always coped and it's important to realise that however you are, it's ok to feel that way. If you have coped, I am sure you are able to help others who need you at this time. If you haven't always coped, please do remember that it's ok to not be ok. Sadness, tears, anger and frustration are human responses to troubling situations; and we live in troubling times.

As for me, I have been busier than ever as we've had to find ways of taking the parish online. Some churches decided to record the services which would normally take place and post these on the internet. At St John's we decided to make a service specifically designed for the internet of 15-20 minutes duration containing some prayers, a reading and a short sermon. Crucially, it is not recorded and broadcasted live on YouTube Facebook allowing me to welcome people to the service by name and giving us the opportunity to

pray for people and their concerns in real time. Each week the service picks up a few more attenders/listeners and is also available on the phone an hour later allowing people without online access to take part, currently around 25 people participating

Since lockdown, I have found that I receive many more e mails than I used to, almost 200 requiring a reply. I am finding it hard (maybe impossible) to keep up with these and feel guilty when an e mail goes unanswered but can only do what I can do working 8 to 10-hour days .Who would have guessed that the pandemic would bring in so much admin!

I have taken comfort from contemplating the bigger picture. I have considered my own mortality, reminding myself of St Paul's letter to the Romans, '*whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's*' (Romans 14 verse 8b) and as Julian of Norwich has written, '*All Shall be well, all manner of thing shall be well*'. I cannot control the virus or what might happen to me but I can remember that I believe in a loving, redemptive God who, in a way we do not understand, takes us back to dwell in God's presence at the end of our lives. Whatever trials we face here on earth, we will not slip through God's grasp.

May God Bless you and Keep you.

The Rev'd Canon Sarah Jones, Priest in Charge of the City of St. John The Baptist, Cardiff

DIARY

For the duration of the pandemic (until further notice) the Company will not hold any major social events including Company lunches and dinners. For full details of the affected events please refer to the Calendar on the Company website.

THE NEXT EDITION OF THE WELSH LIVERY BULLETIN WILL BE PUBLISHED IN AUGUST 2020. ANY MEMBERS WITH ARTICLES SHOULD CONTACT THE EDITORIAL TEAM. (AGNES XAVIER-PHILLIPS AND ANGELA PARRY)

