

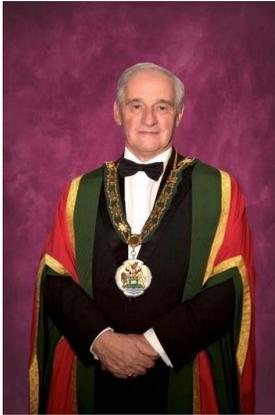
The Welsh Livery Bulletin

of the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales



Issue No: 10

August 2020



September is almost upon us and with it the start of the new school year, the first signs of Autumn and dare I say less than four months to Christmas although I have yet to see my first Christmas decoration in the stores. While we really can't complain about the weather it is hard to believe that there were major floods in the spring, just over six long months ago. I say long months because there has been so much disruption since and it seems that we may still not be over the worst. 2020 will be a year to remember but not for the best of reasons.

So just where do we go from here?

In my previous missives I have referred to the new normal. But I have still to work out just what it looks like. I now have to queue in a processional way to pay for my shopping, seen widespread littering, encountered a total disregard of the social distancing requirements at popular sites and have heard about challenges being made to the wearing of face masks by many who should know better.

On the subject of masks there was a really appropriate letter in the newspaper recently from a Dr Malcolm H Wheeler M.D., F.R.C.S. a

retired Professor of Surgery, in which he argues as follows....

“Numerous reasons have been advanced to oppose the mandatory wearing of masks or other facial coverings. Amongst the more prominent of these has been the consideration of apprehension and discomfort which might be experienced by the wearer. In more than 40 years practicing surgery I never found that the wearing of a mask was in anyway an inconvenience or problem. I wonder how many of those opposed to the practice would be comfortable, or indeed willing, to undergo a surgical procedure in which their surgeon was not taking this essential precaution?”

Need I say more?

Quite frankly if the current situation continues and the news report are to be believed and that this is the new normal then maybe I want to lockdown again until it improves.

As far as the Company is concerned we are trying to ensure a business as usual approach wherever possible. We have restarted the Awards programme and are continuing with the day to day management of the Company affairs by having virtual meetings of the Court, General Purpose Committee and service committees. There are pro's and cons to having virtual meetings. The pros are that Liverymen from right across the Principality can participate without long travel journeys. The down side is the inability to socialise and generally enjoy each others company around face to face meetings. Certainly for the time being the plan is to continue with virtual business meetings until it is safe to meet up and even then to still make use to the virtual technology for at least some of the meetings.

One of the cornerstones of being a Liveryman is to be able to meet and socialise with other members; this is probably the aspect of Livery that I miss the most. That said I cannot and will not propose events which could pose even a slight risk of cross infection and while I, personally, feel both frustration and disappointment I suspect that you may have similar feelings I am sure that you will understand my caution.

I am having to write this in mid August so as to meet the publishing deadlines for the bulletin but I also realise that the situation is changing almost daily and so I am working with the Clerk and Senior Warden to monitor the situation in the hope that we can organise some safe, interesting and enjoyable events in the not too distant future ... but until then, all I ask is that you keep safe, keep well and enjoy the freedom that the new normal will allow us to enjoy

Finally just a few quotes from the various e-mails that I have been receiving over the past couple of months:-

- My luck is just like a bald guy who won a comb
- If you answer the phone with "You are on air!.." most telemarketers will quickly hang up.
- If you are sitting alone on a park bench enjoying your own company and someone comes and sits next to you just stare ahead and say "... did you bring the money?"
- When you ask me what I am doing today and I say "Nothing" it does not mean that I am free but that I am busy doing nothing.
- I have had my patience tested. I am negative
- Sixty might be the new forty but 9pm is the new midnight.

Yours in Livery
Peter Coleman

master@liverycompanywales.cymru

NEW TRUSTEE APPOINTED



We are pleased to confirm that **Dyfrig James** will be joining the Charitable Trust as a Trustee. Dyfrig was born and grew up on the family farm in LLangadog, West Wales, attended Llandovery College

and gained a degree in Geology from Queen Mary College, London University. He is a Chartered Geologist and Fellow of The Geological Society, Institute of Quarrying and Institute of Welsh Affairs. He received further business training at London Business School and IMD in Lausanne. Dyfrig has very considerable commercial, investment and charity sector experience and will be a valuable addition to the Board.

Full article on Dyfrig will appear in the next issue of the WLB

JUBILEE APPEAL - SOME THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE CHARITY COMMITTEE.



In the past most of our charitable contributions have been from Members of the Company either from regular giving or through organised events, raffles and auctions. The success of the Jubilee

Appeal has shown us that there are many philanthropic individuals and organisations out there who are willing to contribute to our very worthwhile cause as well. Gillian's success is undoubtedly founded on her drive and willingness to directly approach philanthropists (many of whom were known to her personally) and explain our aims and successes.

Whilst it remains very important that we are seen to be contributing significantly ourselves, the Charity Committee has been motivated to look to other avenues of funding. However, in

the meantime we would encourage anyone not already contributing through regular giving to do so – please contact **Stuart Castledine (Treasurer)** for more information and to discover how easily it can be done. Even small amounts given regularly accumulate to significant sums over time.

We know from experience that sending out large batches of emails or letters to prospective donors rarely proves helpful. We are much more likely to be successful approaching donors personally known to Liverymen. Your help in identifying such people will be greatly appreciated and the Chairman is very happy to make the approach on your behalf using the excellent and informative leaflets already designed for the purpose by Gillian.

The Master, Peter Coleman, has suggested that we develop a category for overseas members who may wish proudly to demonstrate their Welsh ancestry or connections. For a significant donation to the Charity of, say, £2000 - £5000 a year, patrons will be awarded the status of “International Welsh Liveryman” (or some similar title to be agreed) perhaps at silver, gold or platinum level, depending on their degree of generosity. For this they will receive a grand plaque or parchment for display and various levels of access to our Livery Events when in Wales. Some form of vetting will be required to be reasonably sure the donor is of a suitable character and has some connection to Wales. We think we may be able to find potential donors through the British Embassies and various International Welsh organisations. Again, the Chairman would much value your advice and input.

Finally, we feel that it is reasonable to continue holding some events in the year to raise money specifically for the Company part of which may be used for promoting our charitable aims such as hospitality for potential large donors and to go towards the cost of printing and distributing promotional literature.

I know that many of you (me included) have used the lockdown to do some clearing out of

long accumulated belongings amongst which there may be items just too good to throw away but are of no further use to you. If you would like to contact me, I could arrange to put them on eBay or Gumtree with the profits going to the Charity?

Your advice and suggestions will be much appreciated. Please contact me at simon_holt@mac.com.

Simon Holt MBE
Chair - Charity Committee

NEWS FROM THE NEW CHAIR OF THE AWARDS COMMITTEE

On 1 June 2020, Dr Sarah Cockbill stepped down as Chair of the Awards Committee and was succeeded by Windsor Coles.



Windsor has shared this photo of his favourite activity - walking the levadas on the island of Madeira

The Awards Committee of the Company has the delegated role of disbursing awards to the young people of Wales, one of the principle aims of the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales. Normally the amount disbursed annually approximates to £40,000 - £45,000, but it is clear that 2020 – 2021 is not a normal year.

The funds for these Awards are made available by the Trustees of the Welsh Livery Guild Charitable Trust and it is clear that the effects of the pandemic will reduce the income into and from the Trust fund. It will also decimate fund income from Company events organised by the Charitable Events Committee as it is unlikely that any of these will be held this year. As a consequence, the funds made available by the Trustees will be reduced in 2020-2021 so limiting the number and scale of awards that can be made during this period. However, the

Trustees have taken steps to ensure that the funds made available will meet the ambitions of the Awards Committee to provide an awards programme that will do justice to the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales.

With the aid of the brilliant team of Liverymen who sit on the Awards Committees in South and North Wales, the programme of awards has been revised to ensure that maximum advantage is gained from the funds made available in circumstances that are challenging. Lockdown with the restrictions on travel and contact with potential award recipients has also severely impeded our activities, but the inventive Committee members are finding other ways of communicating with the deserving young people of Wales. The Committee is determined to fulfil its very important role of assisting these worthy recipients in what will be a very difficult year for all.

As always there is a need 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

Windsor Coles OBE CEng FIET
Chair - Awards Committee.

UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE



The Public Relations Committee (PRC) has remained very active throughout the current pandemic with virtual (Zoom) meetings and much work behind the scenes.

COMPANY WEBSITE

Of particular note is a major review of the Livery Company's website undertaken by the Chair. Given that there is no remit to change the website platform, the focus has been on ensuring the content and presentation of the information is current, appropriate and easy to navigate through the various sections and pages.

This proved to be like opening 'Pandora's Box' with, at times, unexpected outcomes and journeys down various paths of discovery. However, the Chair working collaboratively with the Officers, GPC, Court and with the continuous support of the PRC Committee, thinks the immense effort made was all worthwhile.

But, it is not for us to judge? This if for the benefit of the Company, and it is the members that must give the 'thumbs up' (or even down)! Therefore, the PRC encourages all members to take the time and familiarise themselves with the new website. Be brave and take the challenge of entering the "Member's Section" to see what lies behind those walls! Of course, *'should you accept this mission'*, you will need a password which the **Assistant Clerk, Angela Parry** can provide if you have forgotten what it is. Contact can be made at asstclerk@liverycompanywales.cymru

You will note that greater emphasis has been placed on *Nurturing Welsh Talent and Awards*. With just a few changes, already, the website is moving up towards the browser front pages as selected by the search engine.

The facilities of 'PayPal' for membership fees and events and 'Just Giving' for possible donations is currently being set up on the website. The Livery now has an SSL (Secure Sockets Layer) Certificate which provides authentication for our website and also enables encrypted connection. There are 2 Work in Progress items for the website as set out below:

BILINGUAL PROVISION:

It almost seems remiss that an organisation that describes itself as the ‘Worshipful Livery Company of Wales’ should not have some recognition of the Welsh language in its website. This does sound *deja vu* as this topic has been explored and much work undertaken with Welsh material from the Livery Guild days. The Chair, PRC members and the Officers are currently exploring the best way of resurrecting this with consideration to balancing desired high standards with low cost and the resource available (perhaps another ‘*Mission Impossible*’).

It is proposed to introduce Welsh language to the website gradually and make use of any internal Welsh speaking resources available – not to translate, but to proof-read only. The PRC needs a few Liverymen to volunteer for this role and the Master’s assistance has been enlisted.

SOCIAL MEDIA:

One of the very few beneficial outcomes from this coronavirus pandemic is how social media can really make a difference in terms of promotion and communication. The PRC has long recognised that more could be done to promote the Company through social media. The restraint has always been in identifying a resource that could be used for this purpose. Enquiries have been undertaken in respect of social media services and, subject to costs, it may be a good investment to employ the services of an external company.

Importantly, we need to be clear in what we are trying to achieve through social media? To this end, the Chair has received a proposal from a social media company for a trial which has been circulated to the Officers for consideration.

WELSH LIVERY BULLETIN:

Despite the Company’s lower activity, a consequence of the Covid-19 restrictions, the ‘Welsh Livery Bulletin’ continues to be published on its regular basis and is always warmly received. There was, in fact, too much

information for the last edition and that material has been reserved for the next issue due at the end of August.

The Chair wishes to recognise the invaluable administrative support provided by committee member, Angela Parry, who together with the Chair forms a small tight editorial team.



PM Keith Arnold after many years of service on various committees, felt it was time for him to retire from the Livery Committees which includes Awards and PRC.

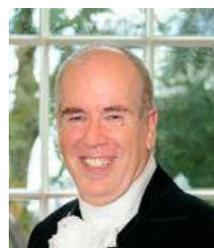
The Chair expressed her sadness that he would be leaving the committee and thanked him most sincerely for the support and contribution that he has given over the years.

Apart from the above mentioned major projects, the PRC continues to work hard on behalf of the Company and the Chair takes this opportunity to thank the Committee for their ongoing support.

The Chair’s adopted motto is “***Cynhwysiant a Chydweithrediad***” and, for the Welsh scholars amongst us, you will immediately recognise this to mean “***Inclusiveness and in Collaboration***”. The PRC is only a servant of the Company and its members, we need your input through constructive feedback and assistance with implementation if we are to be successful in this quest.

Agnes Xavier-Phillips JP DL
Chair - Public Relations Committee

PRC Deputy Chair Appointed



Recently, the Master had requested that all service committees should appoint a Deputy Chair as part of succession planning. The Chair of the PRC is delighted

to announce the appointment of Court Assistant, Henry Gilbert, as the new PRC Deputy Chair. Henry's appointment was unanimously approved by the Committee and he will continue to serve as PRC Secretary.

An exuberant Henry Gilbert was delighted to be appointed and in an emotional impromptu speech of acceptance stated that he wanted to thank the Chair, the Committee, his agent, and his mother for their confidence in him.

..... we may still have time to shape his expectations in this new role!

REPORT OF THE NORTH WALES COMMITTEE



Since the beginning of this year, The North Wales Committee has met three times – 5th February (before lockdown) and then on 28th April and 2nd June via Zoom.

Our next meeting is scheduled for 15th September when hopefully (subject to restrictions) we will meet again in person.

Regrettably Covid 19 has resulted in our budgeted awards programme for the year being temporarily suspended although we did manage to complete the 2020 awards before 'lock down' to Ysgol David Hughes at Menai Bridge and to the Gwynedd Lord Lieutenant's Cadets. Sadly our social and fund raising programme has also been suspended including the long planned weekend programme based on the Gladstone Library at Hawarden that should have taken place in early May.

Dr Karen Jones has been awarded the Professorship in Business Studies at Bangor University. We wish her every success in the post.

Our congratulations also go to Dr Rosemary Solbé on being presented with the Queen's Maundy Money. Sadly this year it could not be presented to her by the Queen in person.



Rosie received the Maundy Money (photos above) by post and with it a lovely letter signed by Her Majesty. She said she still felt very honoured despite receiving the Maundy Pence in her kitchen whilst wearing jeans and wellies as she had just come in from the garden

Throughout the 'Lock Down', the committee have kept in close contact through Zoom and e-mail. We have responded positively to the request to trim our budget and awards programme for 2020 to meet the new financial constraints.

Looking forward, we hope (subject to restrictions), to be able to hold our annual lunch and Advent Carols at St Asaph Cathedral on 29th November. In the past, this event has enabled us to raise a small sum towards Company funds.

Andrew Richards
Chair - North Wales Committee

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE



Court has approved the Senior Warden's initiative to set up a new Membership Committee (MC) which will be responsible for recruiting, retaining and involving Liveryman.

The Committee will consist of a Chair, Deputy Chair, Secretary, Membership Support, Senior

and Junior Wardens and committee members to be appointed in due course.

The Committee will be developing and keeping up to date, a recruitment and support strategy on behalf of Court. It will organise events aimed at potential members

The MC will work with the Chair and Members of PRC to help provide content for the Members Area of the website with a view to furthering Members engagement.

Dr Kathy Seddon
Senior Warden

CLERK'S CORNER



Again, may I say a big thank you to all Liverymen who have now paid their Quarterage to date. Over 89% of the Company have now paid their Quarterage. If, however, you are one of the recalcitrant members and have still failed to pay your Quarterage, then I urge you to do so now.

Full details on how to pay are found under the Members Area (Password) Section of the Website, under the newly created "**Quarterage Payments**" area.

Thank you,

Christopher Dale

Clerk, 07879-852-853

JOURNALISM TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Chelsea Davies' Journalism Travel Scholarship Award allowed her to fulfil a lifelong dream of driving until the road runs out. Chelsea used the funds to hire a campervan and drive from South to North Wales on the Wales Way.

This collection of three self-drive touring routes – the Cambrian Way at 185 miles, the Coastal Way at 180 miles and the North Wales Way at 75 miles – act as a starting point to navigating the best visitor experiences of the country from dramatic coastlines to mountain peaks.

Wales remains underrepresented as a tourist destination, both in international and domestic markets. She wanted to bring attention to how truly epic, wild and wonderful her country is by writing an evocative, long-form feature on what travellers can expect from a journey following its mountainous spine.



The Llanberis Pass, Snowdonia National Park. The hairpin bends of the road were a little scary to navigate in a campervan but the views were spectacular.

Chelsea has dreams of being a travel writer and says the award was incredibly beneficial to her future career and her postgraduate dissertation where her feature will be published alongside a collection of travel pieces on Wales. "I would never have been able to do a trip like this without the bursary," she says. "It's allowed me to see and write about an amazing part of my country never visited by me before."

She started her five-day road trip in the Brecon Beacons National Park. She then drove north to explore Snowdonia National Park and Anglesey. She stopped frequently along the way to stretch her legs, hike and take in the view. She even tried wild camping at the base of Fan Brycheiniog. She jokes that the sheep were her alarm clock.



Chelsea at the base of Fan Brycheiniog, Brecon Beacons National Park.

Chelsea says, “I think the highlight for me was the people. I met some characters on the way who really shaped my trip and fueled these epic, serendipitous detours. The scenery was also spectacular. I absolutely loved walking Cwm Idwal in Snowdonia National Park. It looked like the setting of an epic fantasy. I half expected to see a kingdom of legend rise from the mist gathered on the surface of Llyn Idwal.”



Cwm Idwal was a highlight of her trip and visiting was incredibly inspiring for her writing.

Wales has a lack of action-inspiring content in travel media. Chelsea says it was hard to find examples straying from dry, over-reported round-ups on the best things to do, see and eat and felt it was time to contribute a narrative that transported readers from their armchairs and actively encouraged tourism. She’s looking forward to finishing her feature and submitting it along with the rest of her dissertation this Autumn. Chelsea has posted her article and conveyed her thanks to WLCOW on [Linkedin*](#)

CONGRATULATIONS TO WAYNE AND EVE WARLOW WHO CELEBRATED THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY ON 26TH AUGUST 2020



OBITUARY



BRIAN WATKINS

It is with regret that the Master has been informed of the death of Liveryman Brian Watkins on 23rd August 2020. A private funeral will take place, followed by a Memorial Service when circumstances permit.

EDITORIAL TEAM

If you have any articles you wish to be included in future editions of the Welsh Livery Bulletin, please contact the Editorial Team, Agnes Xavier-Phillips (PRC Chair) and Angela Parry, MBE (Assistant Clerk).