

North Wales Weekend: 19th – 21st September 2025



Our weekend began with arrivals at the Celtic Royal Hotel and Spa. Those travelling from South Wales had a long a journey in time, it seems as those travelling from London or Midlands ... the new 20 miles an hour speed limit adding to the journey, but we all got there in time to enjoy tea before our walk to Caernarfon Castle. It was very wet though but our guide, Julie (seen here with the Master) looked after us well!



She led us through the town explaining different positions from inside the Castle walls including the Royal Balcony...



Once inside the Castle, we were able to see where the Investiture of the Prince of Wales (now our King Chales III) took place and marvel at our own memories of that time.



These two pictures show the top (we are looking at where the platform was situated) to the bottom of the Castle, but as was pointed out, although on a slope the towers are all the same height. Some of us stayed outside as there were lots of steps, but were able to visit the café for warm tea (much needed) and watch the video of the 1969 Investiture itself ... everyone looked so young!



Our walk home took us passed a Pub whose notices outside make us all smile! Not sure it is very equitable though, and we wondered what the wives would pay to keep him there or even let him 'sleep it off'.



Back at the Hotel, we got ready for the first evening meal and enjoyed a pre-dinner reception together. Such good opportunities to get to catch up on news and meet new Liverymen, even recruiting them to our Committees!



The dinner was excellent as we had our own room and were able to chat and enjoy the opportunity to get to know each other better, even though some were far better known to each other! The top table included more senior members of the Company joining the Master, including Past Masters and the Senior Court Assistant and guests.



Kim was carrying out her first duties as the Master's Steward and was asked to lead the Grace, and surprised the Master and Liverymen by singing the Grace. This is part of her legacy of growing up in Wales ... the wonderful music teaching that was part of her schooling.



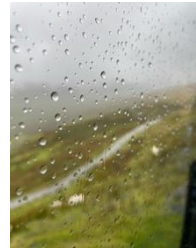
Two of the Master's guests are members of the Llanberis Mountain Rescue Team who shared slides of some of their adventures at the end of the

meal. You would need to keep very fit to do this and we were hugely impressed with the work they do as volunteers.

The following day was even wetter, but we Liverymen (and our guests!) are sturdy folk, so we got on the coach to go to the train station. Caernarfon does not have its own station but the small station of Llanberis is dedicated to the track up Yr Wyddfa ... the proper name for Mount Snowdon. At the station the Master gave us instructions and handed out our tickets.



We crowded into three carriages, and the front of the new Bulletin shows us squashed in! It was wet and even the inside was damp with dripping windows (condensation) which found its way onto many seats. The view from the windows was therefore very limited as moving up the mountain meant the rain was stronger and opening



windows was not an option! But it was a good trip up, passing a number of trains coming down. Some hardy folk even walked the last part to the actual summit, but very little could be seen! There were huge numbers of people in the café at the top many of them having walked up ... we were impressed! The Master impresses us further giving up our 'posh lunch' on the way down. He had been to the supermarket that morning, having sourced lunch bags previously and we all enjoyed sandwiches, pickles, cheese and crackers, crisps, fruit and chocolate, all washed down with wine, water and juices. An excellent lunch – probably the best packed lunch ever had!



We got off the train at Llanberis but just in time ... as it pulled out of the station it derailed! Past Master John Charles kept his head down though as the guards and others stood looking at it!

His engineering skills would have come in handy, but of course he was on holiday.



We clambered back on the coach and were taken to our afternoon destination on the island of Ynys Môn (Anglesey) where we visited Plas Newydd a grade-1 listed house and garden. It was the home of the Marquis of Anglesey ... the 5th Marquis being known as “the dancing Marquis”. We didn’t see any dancing and chose to avoid the gardens as the rain continued.



Our second evening meal included the representative of the High Sheriff of Gwynedd as the Master’s guests. This was in the same private area as the first, and again much enjoyed. The hotel had a wedding on that day and Kim was mistaken as ‘hotel staff’ as she waited to direct guests to our room as the Bride asked her to direct her guests! We were glad we were far enough away though as there was a lot of noise!

We said our goodbyes in the morning as everyone travelled back across the country. Another fantastic North Wales Weekend ... looking forward to next year’s plans, Senior Warden!

Court Assistant Kim Insley *(with thanks to Liveryman Stephen Ley for some photos!)*