



Dear Liverymen,

The sudden death of Past Master Bryan Marsh has shocked and saddened us all.

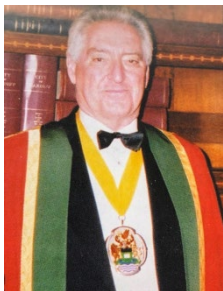
In recognition of his immense contribution to our Livery, I have asked that an article be written. I am very grateful to the authors of the wonderful account below. They were PM Graeme Morgan, PM Stuart Fletcher, Derek Morgan Chair of the Charitable Trust, and former Treasurer Tim Knowles.

It is a fitting tribute to Bryan, acknowledging all that he has done for the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales and our Charitable Trust.

He will be greatly missed

Dr Kathy Seddon Master

BRYAN MARSH AND THE WORSHIPFUL LIVERY COMPANY OF WALES



At the embryonic stage of our Livery, Bryan Marsh was there (Livery number 7), and ever since he has been a constant influence on the way we go about things. Indeed, it was only three days before he died on the 14th October 2021, that he contributed to an Awards meeting via Zoom.

Being a Liveryman of the Tinsplate Workers Alias Wire Workers Livery Company (and subsequently a well-regarded Master) Bryan was a natural choice to serve on the Steering Committee formed in January 1991, to investigate how to establish our Livery. He was the Clerk for the second and third meeting of the Steering Committee before handing over to David Townsley-Hughes. This left him free when the Welsh Livery Guild formally came into being in January, 1993, to become the Treasurer – a post he held for seven years. This was another natural appointment; Bryan had qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1965, the year he married Sandra. Somehow, he was able to combine being our Treasurer with being a partner in Deloitte's in London. He claimed that most of his Livery work was accomplished on the Cardiff to Paddington train. (His other claim that this work involved the back of numerous used envelopes must surely be discounted.)

Despite all his responsibilities, Bryan teamed up with Tom Owen (Chairman of the Charity Committee) to investigate setting up the Livery's charitable arm. Bryan was instrumental in taking things forward, and the Charitable Trust came into being on the 25th May, 1995 with, of course, Bryan being one of its original (and long serving) Trustees and its Treasurer.

Bryan became Master in 2002, and many of us still recall with gratitude and pleasure his social programme which, amongst other delights, involved a sparkling visit to Reims. Bryan had previous form on such a visit and was able to lead us into not only prestige champagne houses but also good though lesser known (and cheaper) ones.



It was because of the latter that there was a minor traffic jam in Westgate Street on our return as Liverymen transferred cases of champagne from coach to car.

As the Treasurer of the Charity, Bryan had prudently limited the Charity's expenditure on awards to the income from its investments. Appreciating the limitation of this, as Master, Bryan initiated the £10-a-month scheme with the specific intention that the income from this source should be used for in-year distribution for awards. This enabled the budget for awards immediately to double.

Having joined the Awards Committee as Junior Warden, Bryan became something of a permanent fixture. It was he who promoted the idea of using the increased funding available through his £10-a-month club to establish travel scholarships which have become the flagship awards for the Company. More important, it was his good offices that made substantial sums available from the Simon Gibson Charitable Trust. It thus became possible for awards to be made in areas which previously we had been unable to contemplate. Bryan was particularly anxious to establish links with military units, and it is entirely due to him that we are now associated with HMS Dragon and HMS Astute as well as linking for awards with the Welsh Guards, the Wales Universities Royal Navy Units, and the Wales Universities Officer Training Corps.

It is the Simon Gibson Charitable Trust, too, which underwrites our £5,000 Gold Award and enables us to support the Welsh Young Farmers and an award at the National Eisteddfod.

It was Bryan who was responsible for the book celebrating the grant of the Royal Charter, and it was his editorship that ensured that that book is such a fine record of the event. It was only a few years later that Bryan swung into action again on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee Appeal when he used his many contacts to arrange for the contribution of many tens of thousands of pounds. There is no doubt that Bryan above everybody else is responsible for the strength of the Charitable Trust's finances. Since its establishment the Trust has made grants of well over a million pounds to the young people of Wales and has funds of over £400,000. This simply would not have been possible without Bryan.

Bryan's commitment and overall contribution to the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales and its Charitable Trust has been significant and vastly beneficial. Just as it is impossible to imagine the now mature Company flourishing as it has done without Bryan's inputs, so it will be difficult to accept that we will no longer benefit from his wise and knowledgeable guidance.

The Company's loss cannot, of course, compare with that of those dear to him, and, in acknowledging Bryan's influence on our affairs, all Liverymen will want to offer sympathy to Sandra and her family.