



Annwyl Gyd-Liferiŵyr • Dear Fellow Liverymen

AN UPDATE FROM MASTER JANE CROAD • JULY 2026

Bore da,

What a marvellous, and rather hot, month July has been. I hope you have found a shady corner and a cool drink, and have enjoyed this glorious run of Welsh sunshine as much as I have. It has been a full and very happy month, taking our Company to Henley, to Sheffield, to the Royal Welsh Show and to London, and each occasion brought new friends, wider interest in what we do and more opportunities for supporting the young people we exist to support.

It has also been a month of hard work behind the scenes, with our committees meeting, our awards processes being sharpened and the final touches being made to the North Wales weekend. My warmest thanks to every Liveryman who gave their time, their expertise and their good humour along the way.

So, let me take you through the highlights.



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A Warm Welcome at Henley-on-Thames Regatta

David and I travelled to Henley-on-Thames regatta as guests of Master Jacqueline Burrows of the Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders, who is a most generous host and a great friend to our Company. Christine Anderson, Master Nurse, also joined us. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day on the river, watching the incredible athletes compete in various rowing categories.

It was a splendid chance to meet a great many people and tell them about the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales and the work we do at home. I never tire of seeing how much genuine interest there is in our Livery company and the talented young people of Wales we support.

The Welsh were represented at the regatta, and I am going to propose an award specifically aimed at the rowing clubs in Wales for next year. If anyone has some comments or experience and expertise in this field please contact me.



SUNDAY 5 JULY

Our Summer Garden Party at Strathaven



Over sixty of us gathered at Strathaven in Risca for our Summer Garden Party, the weather was glorious. An accomplished string quartet, members of the Wales Philharmonic Orchestra, played; Liverymen, their families and guests enjoyed the afternoon of lovely, unhurried, friendly charm.

There was croquet on the lawn and boules. We are very grateful indeed to Geoff and Jenny Barton-Greenwood, who provided the croquet expertise and equipment.

Poached salmon and all manner of delicious food were served, accompanied by a good deal of Pimm's and great conversation, fellowship and laughter, all of it framed by the green slopes of Mynydd Machen. It was quite idyllic.



The Summer Garden Party, continued

Thank you to Father Sebastian who raised £400 for the Livery in a raffle. My thanks to everyone who joined us and made the afternoon such a happy one. I have thanked my parents for hosting the Garden Party and especially my mother who catered for the event.



The Summer Garden Party in Pictures

My parents especially enjoyed meeting their friend Liveryman David Salway and Sue, his wife; they were in Round Table together many moons ago, so it was lovely to renew their friendship.



MONDAY 6 JULY

Trinity Saint David and a Court Meeting in Cardiff

The week began with a Teams meeting alongside Dr Bronwen Williams of the University of Wales Trinity Saint David and Freeman Ryan Green, to move forward our Trinity Saint David award. These partnerships with Welsh universities matter enormously, because they put our support directly into the hands of talented young people at exactly the moment it makes the greatest difference.



Later that day we held a Court meeting at the Cardiff and County

Club, a productive session in very agreeable surroundings. Our new Treasurer Dr Meirion Morgan was appointed, and I look forward to working with Meirion who will be a great asset to the Livery as our new Treasurer. I have thanked Colin Morris for his tremendous work as Treasurer and send him and his family kindest wishes and thanks.

WEDNESDAY 8 JULY

Sharpening Our Awards Process

A subgroup of the Awards Committee met to review the processes and procedures of our awards. We are working hard to make the whole process as accessible for applicants and as straightforward to administer as possible. A particular word of praise and thanks for Kate Housley, our Acting Clerk, whose skill in building the financial reporting spreadsheet has transformed that side of things. If we can make the awards process as clear and as easy as Kate has made the reporting, we shall be super-efficient and that will encourage more Liverymen to be part of the Award Committee which is at the heart of our Livery.

THURSDAY 9 JULY

Interviewing Young Farmers at Builth Wells

I drove up to the Royal Welsh Showground at Builth Wells to join Andrew Richards of our North Wales Committee and interview five young farmers for the Royal Welsh Show Young Farmers Award. Andrew has led the reinstatement of this award after many years, and it is a wonderful demonstration of our commitment to young people in agriculture and the many skills and businesses that sit alongside it.

The interviews were a joy. I learned a great deal about the entrepreneurial spirit alive in young farming today and came away genuinely impressed by all five candidates.

We were warmly welcomed by Angharad Davies, Rural Affairs Officer for Wales Young Farmers, who had promoted the award on our behalf to Young Farmers Clubs across Wales. That has done a great deal to raise awareness of the Livery Company within the rural community, and we are most grateful to her.



SATURDAY 11 AND SUNDAY 12 JULY

The Unsquared Masters Weekend in Sheffield

David and I set off for Sheffield for the first weekend of our Masters group. The group has taken the name Unsquared, after the Lady Master's ambition this year to 'unsquare' the Square Mile and make it more diverse and more inclusive. The Masters of this year will continue to meet and to collaborate on inter Livery events for years to come, which is a splendid thing to be part of. I intend to use this connection to recruit Masters with Welsh heritage from other companies to our Livery.

Our first gathering was at the Cutlers' Hall in Sheffield, which is quite magnificent and very much worth a visit. We were given a tour of the Hall, followed by dinner, and then the evening was extended unexpectedly: the World Cup match between England and Norway was shown. England won, so the evening ended on a high note all round.



The Unsquared Masters Weekend, continued

Forty-two Masters from London Liveries attended, which made it an excellent opportunity to raise the profile of the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales and to strengthen our links both with the London Liveries and with the regional guilds such as the Sheffield Cutlers.

The following day we visited the Kelham Island Museum, providing an insight into Sheffield's Industrial History and then in contrast we looked around Sheffield's advanced manufacturing district, which has brought highly skilled, well paid jobs and cutting-edge research and development opportunities to the city. I came away thinking how much good something of that kind would do for Wales. Altogether it was great fun and a very worthwhile weekend, where I engaged with many people to promote our Company.



MONDAY 13 JULY

A Rooftop Summer Party Above the Thames

Kate Housley, our Acting Clerk, Angela Parry MBE, our Assistant Clerk, and I travelled up to London by train to meet Misha Hebel, Clerk of the Worshipful Company of Scientific Instrument Makers, who invited us to the London Ward summer party. We were given the warmest of welcomes at a magnificent garden party on the roof of Nomura Bank, thirty-five floors above the Thames, in a beautifully manicured garden looking straight out over Tower Bridge.

A champagne reception on a perfect summer evening with that view is not something one forgets in a hurry. Beyond the sheer pleasure of it, we made a great many contacts that will be genuinely useful to the Livery Company of Wales.



TUESDAY 21 JULY

Installation of the Tin Plate Workers at Mansion House



I attended the installation of Master Elizabeth Bonfield of the Worshipful



Company of Tin Plate Workers at Mansion House. We were very pleased to meet Past Master Keith Williams and Janet there. It was a most enjoyable dinner in

splendid surroundings.

We also had the pleasure of seeing Past Master Captain Chris Groves RN, who has been so supportive of the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales throughout his year in office, and I was greeted with tremendous warmth by the new Master, Elizabeth Bonfield. A thoroughly enjoyable evening among friends and a great honour to represent the WLCow as one of the principal guests at this magnificent event attended by the Lady Mayor of London.



WEDNESDAY 22 JULY

A Look Around Glaziers' Hall

I met Misha Hebel, Clerk of the Scientific Instrument Makers, again, this time at Glaziers' Hall, which she manages for the Company, to view it with our London Weekend in mind and to consider its potential for a dinner. It is a fascinating and historic building, shared between the Glaziers, the Scientific Instrument Makers and the Launderers, and built into the fabric of London Bridge itself.

It has been beautifully refurbished and has some lovely rooms that would suit us very well. In the Glaziers Hall is a chair donated by our Founder Clerk and Past Master Dr David Townsley-Hughes who was also a Past Master of Worshipful Livery Company of the Scientific Instrument Makers in 1992. Sadly, David passed away in January this year. It was a reminder of the close connections between the Liveries that we need to maintain and strengthen.



THURSDAY 23 JULY

Presenting the Awards at the Royal Welsh Show



Back to Builth Wells, to the Royal Welsh Show this time to present the awards to our young farmers on behalf of the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales. Sadly, Andrew Richards, who has been the driving force behind reigniting this collaboration with the Royal Welsh Show and the Young Farmers, was unable to be there on the day, though it was entirely thanks to his work with the Wales Young Farmers that the applications came in and the interviews took place on 9 July.

The Royal Welsh Show Awards, continued

It was a pleasure to meet the awardees, Rowan Gear from Bridgend with his family; Lewis Dylan Thomas from Llanelli and Iwan Rhys Davies from Brecon and to make the presentations on the Wales YFC stage at the Royal Welsh Show. It was a real pleasure to meet their families and to make these thoroughly well-deserved awards to such enthusiastic, innovative and hard-working young farmers on behalf of our Livery Company. Moments like these are precisely why our Company exists. The Royal Welsh organisers and the Wales Young Farmers welcomed us and are very positive about continuing our reignited collaboration to support and encourage these young farmers.



FRIDAY 24 AND SATURDAY 25 JULY

On the Road in North Wales

Straight from the Royal Welsh Show, David and I headed north to Wrexham to do some final arrangements for our North Wales Weekend in September. I met Geraint Parry, former Secretary and now Club Historian of Wrexham Football Club, and I am delighted to say we have agreed to hold a small reception at the club when we arrive on Friday September 25th.

From there we raced around the other highlights on our list, including Erddig, the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, Llangollen and the Gladstone Library at Hawarden, and we looked over a number of hotels along the way. Two very full days, a great deal of ground covered, and a growing certainty that this is going to be a wonderful weekend.



A Very Productive Day at Old St Mellons

We held an evening of hybrid meetings at my home in Old St Mellons, to round up things for the Summer in preparation for a hectic start in September. We began with the North Wales Committee working through the September weekend, followed by an Events Committee meeting chaired by Father Sebastian, which was extremely useful for planning the Senedd Awards on September 17th and plans for the Country and Western Night fund raising evening on October 2nd at Cornerstone, Cardiff. The Awards Committee then met to update on the Senedd Awards on 17 September and on the progress of the awards themselves. Then those Liverymen who had come along stayed on for supper outside in the evening sunshine.

With Heartfelt Thanks

It has been a hectic month, and a hot one, but another thoroughly enjoyable one in which I have done my very best to engage with our Freeman and Liverymen, with the Masters and Liverymen of other companies and with a great many other people besides, promoting the good work of the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales.

Thank you to everyone who has supported an event or contributed to a committee this month or contributed in any other way. It all adds up, and it all helps us maintain a dynamic outlook and attract more enthusiastic and accomplished Welsh people to join us in supporting young people in Wales.

My thanks go to Kate Housley, our Acting Clerk, for her steady support and for that excellent spreadsheet for Awards. My thanks to Father Sebastian Jones for chairing the Events Committee and for raising a very welcome £400 at the garden party. My thanks to Andrew Richards for bringing the Royal Welsh Show Young Farmers Award back to life, and to Angharad Davies of the Young Farmers for spreading the word across Wales. Thanks to Dr Claude Evans who gave his support for the Royal Welsh Awards by providing our access materials. Thanks to the North Wales Committee for their support in organising the North Wales Weekend.

Thank you to Norma Jarboe OBE who is a constant support as my Steward, giving me support, advice, perspective and laughter. And my very special thanks, as always, go to Angela Parry MBE, our Assistant Clerk, whose tireless organisation keeps the whole Livery running so beautifully. Thank you, Angela.

Looking Ahead

THE NORTH WALES WEEKEND, 25 TO 27 SEPTEMBER

The calling notice for our North Wales Weekend on 25, 26 and 27 September will be sent out in early August. I do hope a great many of you will be able to join us.

The North Wales Committee have been extraordinarily helpful in planning it, and we intend to make it an enjoyable and genuinely interesting weekend, showing off the great things happening in Wrexham and the surrounding area and strengthening our presence in North Wales. Do please put the dates in your diary now.

17 SEPTEMBER

17 September, 12.00 to 2.00pm WLCofW Awards at the Senedd will be one of the highlights for the year and plans for that are coming along well.

2 OCTOBER

2nd October, 6pm — Country and Western Fund Raiser at Cornerstone Cardiff, Garth Brooks and Dolly Parton Tribute.

7 OCTOBER

October 7th, 6pm — Rhondda Heritage Park. Joint event with High Sherriff PM Major John Charles.

Jeff Edwards OBE, the last surviving child brought out of the Aberfan disaster and lifelong campaigner for successful investment and development for Aberfan and the surrounding area, will speak about Aberfan.

A Note on August

I plan to take some time with my family during August and to come back in September refreshed. I shall not be on email for most of the month, as the laptop is staying firmly at home, but if you would like to speak to me please do simply pick up the telephone. I will be delighted to hear from you.

I hope you are all having a wonderful summer and enjoying this beautiful weather. I very much look forward to seeing you all in September.

Hwyl Fawr.

With my warmest wishes,

Dr Jane Croad

MASTER, THE WORSHIPFUL LIVERY COMPANY OF WALES

